



Horse Breather

Equine Breathing ezine March 2010 issue 49



Equine Polysaccharide Storage Myopathy or EPSM

Three years ago muscle biopsy and blood enzyme tests showed that Doobie, Jackie's draft horse had Equine Polysaccharide Storage Myopathy or EPSM. Her vet's prognosis was that the painful disease would progress, with increasing muscle wasting until a sudden deterioration very quickly to death.

However Doobie immediately responded well to Equine Breathing and Jackie was excited to find that after two months Doobie was back to being a normal horse.

EPSM is a newly recognised disease which appears to be particularly common and severe in draft breeds according to Dr Beth Valentine of Cornell University. It has been identified as a cause of severe muscle wasting, tying up, poor performance, abnormal hind limb gaits and colic. She says that more than one in every 2 draft horses is affected.

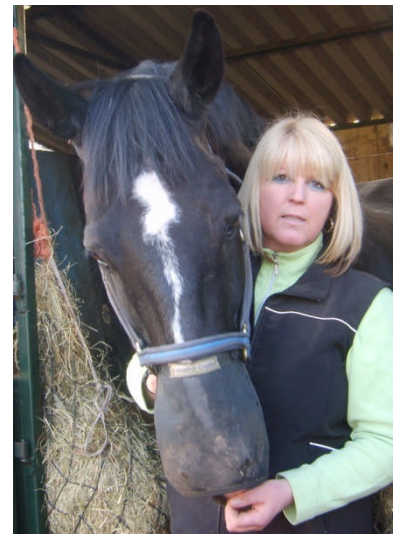
Jackie said she had watched Doobie deteriorate over 5 years of owning him to the point where the EPSM symptoms were very advanced and it was extremely distressing for him. He was difficult and sometimes dangerous to handle.

The change to a high fat, low carbohydrate feed prescribed by the vet (and recommended for EPSM) made Doobie's symptoms much worse, and none of the other treatments helped.

When Jackie started Equine Breathing, Doobie had the following symptoms;

- Tendency to colic requiring vet treatment
- Severe muscle tension in hamstrings, shoulders and neck (like concrete, with high ridges and deep troughs)
- Head carriage high in all gaits
- Not tracking up by 12 inches
- Gait looks like he has 2 straight wooden legs in walk
- Cannot circle on 22ft line
- If ridden, muscles cramp about 10 minutes into work
- Hind legs very cold with poor circulation
- Skin hypersensitive to flies and sun
- Droppings liquid
- Extreme spookiness and or freezing rigid to the tiniest stimulus (eg a bird fart as Jackie puts it!)
- Bolting
- Aggression - vicious bullying of the other members of the herd

Jackie used an All Weather Breather and recorded Doobie's symptoms daily to provide data for a trial. She defined scores for the symptoms on a scale of 0 to 5, with 5 being the most severe, and did this for the metabolic symptoms as a group and the behavioural symptoms as a group so that they could be tracked separately.



After 3 weeks most of the symptoms had either disappeared or reduced to a negligible level, as summarised in the chart.

Doobie's EPSM symptom severity over the first 2 months of Equine Breathing

