

# What about . . . UVEITIS (MOON BLINDNESS)?

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**U**veitis, or moon blindness, can be an absolutely devastating diagnosis for many individuals whose favorite and dear horse gets that milky white glaze to their eyes. It is especially common in horses with Appaloosa ancestry but is certainly not limited to them. When you realize that the equine ocular tissue itself is super sensitive to physiological toxins, in fact acting rather like lymph node, certain possibilities begin to come clear about possible courses of action owners can take.

In our desire to do the best possible things for our horses, we do everything the most popular Journals and our own Veterinarians tell us to do and take the advise of well-meaning feed store clerks and friends. The result is that we actually pour toxins into our cherished equine companions, sometimes daily in the form of daily chemical dewormers. Even though leptospirosis has been implicated, we have observed a direct correlation in uveitis flare-up when such chemicals are fed. Other flare-ups occur following “routine” multi-valent vaccinations. Somehow the body has to deal with all these potent chemicals so the liver goes to work as does the lymph system. In fact, in Chinese medicine, there is a direct corollary between the liver and the eyes. It is one of our beliefs, born out in over 40 years of breeding, that you simply cannot poison an animal to health. We think a more sane approach is to build the immune system to the maximum for that particular animal’s genetic ability.

One of the first things to do is to remove ALL ingested toxins possible from the animal. This includes vaccines, chemical dewormers, popular sweet feed fed mixes, chemicals in water and salt and mineral blocks and sometimes even medications. In other words, feed what we recommend throughout our articles: plenty of pure (filtered) water, essentially free choice good grass hay, organically grown grain or **PGR** if grain is an option for this animal, **DYNAMITE® Regular** supplement, the four Free Choice mineral powders (**NTM Salt, 1 to 1, 2 to 1, and Izmine**), and **DynaPro** to ensure full and proper digestion. And then we go from there.

Depending on the severity of the situation, some horses may require immediate detoxifying while others can detox slowly just following the above program. If a faster liver detox is determined by the owner to be the appropriate way to go, we have found that giving **Excel** daily at the rate of 1 teaspoon per day for 30 days and pulling the **Regular** from the diet (you cannot detox and build at the same time) to be an excellent way to go. We give all of our horses and boarders a daily 1/2 teaspoon dose of **Excel** in their feed mix.

For those choosing support first, we suggest daily **Hiscorbadyne** for its **Ester C** and flavanoid content. Some horses, especially Appys or dark-skinned horses, may also require added **SOD** with its “chelazoned” minerals for the immune system. Others have found the addition of **Breeder’s Pac** to the Basics to be the answer for their horse; it’s extra beta-carotene and zinc seem to do the trick. To increase circulation to the eye, many owners have chosen to also add **MSM**, given according to label directions, to the daily diet.

As for topical support for the pain and discomfort associated with uveitis, **Release** is always our first choice for ANY “owie.” I personally spray it directly in my eyes 2-3 times daily when working hard at the computer to rid myself, almost instantly, of computer red-eye. If your horse will not allow direct spraying (and certainly most won’t!), soak a cotton ball and stroke gently all around the eye letting some drip into the corners; as the horse blinks, it will dissipate throughout. Amazing what this little trick can do! We also have had excellent results with dropping 1-2 drops of **Solace** directly into the eye daily for a while. Others have found that dissolving 1 teaspoon of **MSM** per cup of activated **Catalyst Water** and using that as an eye drop, alternating days with **Solace**, is best for their horse.

With care, we *can* control, and even overcome, most uveitis. In fact, one cutting horse owner reports “... *the really interesting thing is that since I got her on the basic DYNAMITE® program she hasn’t had a flare up in about three years.*” ■