



Electrolytes

Electrolytes occur naturally in a horse's diet, and are also found in mineral supplements and salt blocks. Under normal conditions, those sources are sufficient. Horses will drink more than enough water to keep them from getting dehydrated, and mild to moderate activity should not warrant the use of other sources of electrolytes.

There are times, however, when water isn't enough. Horses can sweat 10-15 quarts per hour in extreme heat or under heavy exertion. Sodium, chloride, potassium and trace amounts of magnesium and calcium are lost in the sweating process. Muscular problems such as "tying up" syndrome and lactic acid buildup in the legs can also occur. Heat stress could be the outcome when horses become dehydrated enough and electrolytes are in low supply.

In these cases, other sources of electrolytes may be recommended. These products are often used by endurance riders or in any other activity where the horse will be under extreme exertion in hot conditions over lengthy periods.

Be cautious with customers asking for electrolytes. Make certain that they are buying these products on the advice of a veterinarian. You may even want to go so far as to call and talk to the vet to verify that the product you carry can, in good conscience, be administered.

Electrolytes can be extremely effective when used correctly, but they can also do more harm than good in the wrong hands.



Pro-Lyte Electrolyte Supplement for performance horses is a low-sugar, highly concentrated formula containing sodium, chloride, potassium, magnesium, calcium and vitamin C, and can be used in feed or water. From Uckele Health Nutrition. www.uckele.com

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MSRP \$379*



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