

Coat care from the inside!

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The shedding is high performance sport for the metabolism! Brush! Brush! Brush! Every horse owner knows this during the shedding. In addition to external skin and coat care, the horse should also be supported "from the inside out" during the shedding. Brewers' yeast is a popular feed supplement in the process. And for good reason, because it is a true all-round talent!



Sun out, coat down

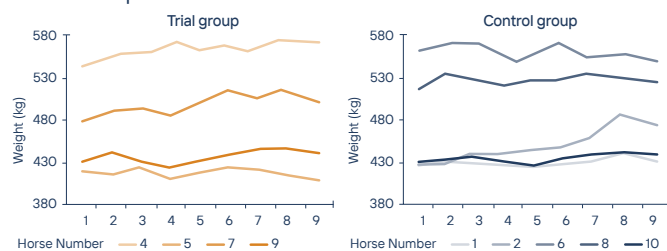
Decreasing temperatures are not the trigger for the shedding. Much more decisive is the length of the day. It gives the starting signal, because the sun controls the hormone balance and thus the hair growth. The intensity and duration of the shedding depend, among other things, on the breed, husbandry, health of the horse, and the feeding. Old horses in particular are often affected by a delayed shedding. The metabolism works more slowly and there is often a lack of energy reserves, for example in the form of fat deposits in the subcutis. As a result, old horses often have a thicker coat even in summer, possibly because they feel cold.

Danger! Gradual weight loss in old horses

A nine-month practical trial at the Osnabrueck University of Applied Sciences showed how stressful the shedding is, especially for older horses. Here, the horses in the control group showed a gradual weight loss. Presumably, due to the higher energy consumption during the change of coat, body reserves were mobilized.

Older horses fed with Leiber YeaFi® BT, on the other hand, showed hardly any weight loss or a steady recovery of body weight. Compared to the control group (BCS: 4.9), the body condition score (BCS) in the Leiber YeaFi® BT group was 5.5 (see figure).

Fig.: Live mass (scale) of the trial and control group over the entire trial period



Brewers' yeast: the protein booster!

Hair consists largely of keratin – a structural protein. If the horse does not consume enough protein in its feed, this inhibits hair

growth, reduces hair quality, and delays the change of coat. In order for the horse to produce keratin, it needs essential amino acids. Brewers' yeast is natural, rich in protein and essential amino acids. In addition, brewers' yeast has a high content of bioavailable vitamins (B vitamins) and trace elements (including selenium and zinc), which also have a positive effect on hair growth.

Brittle and dull coat – often a sign of biotin deficiency!

Biotin assumes a key function as a coenzyme for the metabolism of carbohydrates, fatty and amino acids. A horse with a balanced intestinal flora produces sufficient amounts of biotin itself. In older horses or horses with metabolic disorders or after the use of worming treatments or antibiotics, the intestinal microbiome can become "sluggish" and out of balance (dysbiosis). Dietary and prebiotic feeds such as brewers' yeast, spent grains, or apple pomace serve as a nutrient substrate for the intestinal microbiome. This not only promotes the body's own production of water-soluble vitamins such as biotin, but also the production of short-chain fatty acids (SCFA). These serve the horse, among other things, for energy supply (propionate) and promote intestinal health (butyrate).

Do not support the shedding first when the hair flies

In autumn and spring, horses change their coat. Unnoticed, the metabolism is already running at full speed shortly after the summer or from the beginning of the year and prepares the shedding. The horse now has a higher nutritional requirement, but this is often taken into account too late or not at all. The consequences are:

- | slowed shedding
- | irregular density of the coat, bald spots
- | scaling, barky and chapped skin
- | thin and shineless coat
- | dull and shaggy coat



In the nine-month practical trial with old horses, almost all participants described a poor coat quality of their horses in the preliminary report. After the end of the trial, the horses in the test group (Leiber YeaFi® BT) not only showed a faster shedding. 75% also showed a significantly better coat quality, a shinier or smoother coat, and a better overall impression than horses without brewers' yeast supplement (see figure).

Fig.: Improved coat shine; 1 = dull, 2 = normal, 3 = shiny

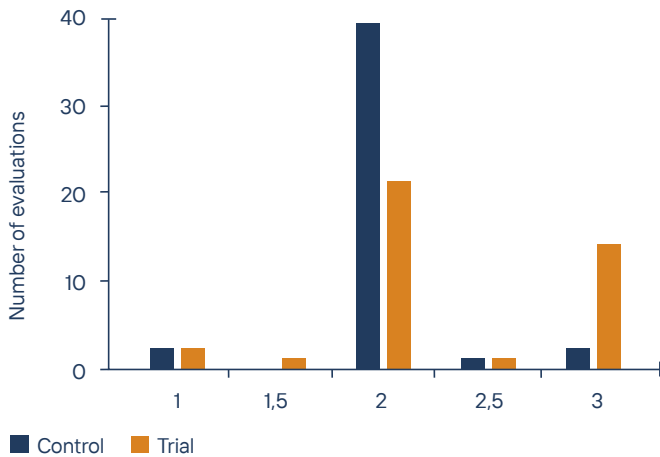
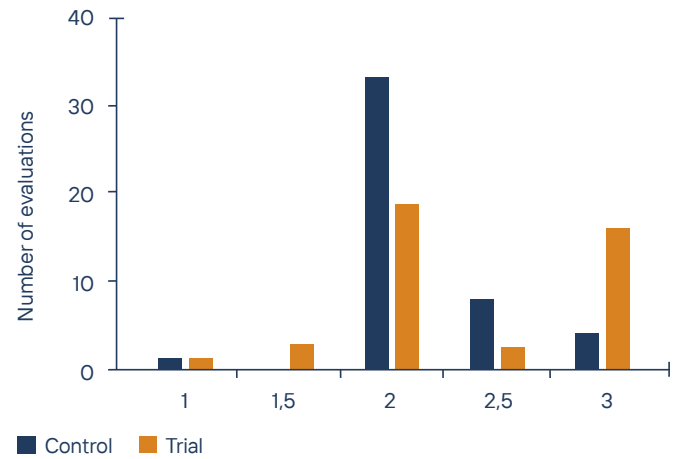


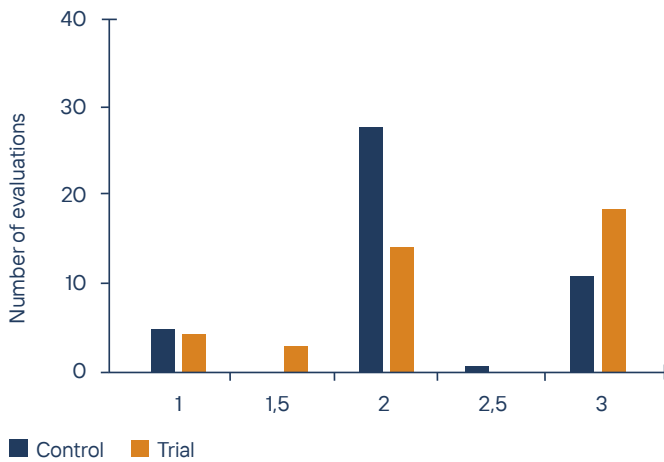
Fig.: Overall impression; 1 = poor, 2 = normal, 3 = good



Brewers' yeast "inside" – shine "outside"!

A balanced and needs-based diet, supported by dietetic and prebiotic feeds such as brewers' yeast and spent grains, can strengthen the skin and thus the coat from the inside out through feeding. In a practical trial with Leiber YeaFi® BT, the seasonal weight fluctuations during the shedding in old horses could be reduced, the shedding shortened, and the coat quality improved.

Fig.: Improved coat quality; 1 = shaggy, 2 = normal, 3 = smooth



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