



Landmark

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Exhibitionist to Expeditionist

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More than just hot air...



Former RAC masters student, Becky James who now works for Haygain, at home with her dressage horse Tyfoon-E (alongside her steamer)

One in six horses in the UK suffers from breathing problems and 80% of horses stabled part of the time have a degree of airway inflammation, even if they are asymptomatic. Dr Meriel Moore-Colyer, Senior Lecturer in Equine Science, has been researching and testing a revolutionary new concept, the Haygain steamer, designed to alleviate these problems.

It is well known that hay is a major source of potentially allergenic respirable particles in the stable environment. These particles can quickly initiate the debilitating condition Recurrent Airways Obstruction (RAO) that causes respiratory distress, coughing and nasal discharge and is of economic importance in terms of loss of performance and lost training days in the racing industry. Blackman and Moore-Colyer (1998) reported positive results (95% reduction in respirable particle numbers) when steaming 5kg hay nets in a home-made steamer but, to date, no further work has been published on steaming hay. A series of four experiments were carried out at the Royal Agricultural College to determine the efficacy of steaming hay in a commercial steamer that treats a complete strung bale of hay by injecting steam into the bale

through a specifically-designed manifold in a thermally-insulated container. Steaming a wide range of different hays for 50 minutes in the Haygain steamer had highly positive effects on the hygienic and nutritional aspects of the fodder. The microbial contamination was reduced to zero (fungi and yeasts) and by 86% for bacteria; the respirable particle numbers were reduced by 94% and the nutrient content conserved or increased for all nutrients except water-soluble carbohydrates (WSC) which decreased by only 2%. Steaming therefore eliminates the potentially allergenic aspect of hay whilst maintaining its nutritional content and degradability, making it a safe and suitable fodder for all categories of horses.

www.haygain.com