

# EQUISTRO®



## Function:

Iron (Fe) is contained in hemoglobin, myoglobin, cytochromes, and many enzyme systems essential for the horse's organism to function normally. Fe plays a critical role in oxygen transport and cellular respiration.

## Sources:

Forage and by-product ingredients commonly contain 100-250 mg Fe/kg dry matter (DM). Grains usually contain less than 100 mg/kg DM. Some milled concentrates can have greater than

500 to 1 400 mg/kg DM. Calcium and phosphorus supplements often contain 2-3% iron.

## Daily requirements (NRC, 2007):

Growing foals, pregnant & lactating mares: 50 mg/kg DM.

Mature horses : 40 mg/kg DM (0.03 mg/kg body weight).

N.B. 500 kg horse eats approximately 2% of its body weight per day.  
i.e. 10kg dietary DM/day.

**Deficiency:** Anaemia, reduced performance.

**Excess (>500 mg/kg ration):** Decreased absorption of copper, serum and liver zinc depression. Reduced bacterial resistance. Foals: diarrhoea, icterus (jaundice), dehydration, coma and death in very extreme cases, with pulmonary haemorrhage and liver degeneration.

## When problems may occur?

Iron utilization diminishes with higher than normal intakes of cadmium, cobalt, copper, manganese and zinc.

Young, milk-fed foals with no access to soil can develop anaemia. Iron injections are dangerous to horses, often resulting in severe reactions or death.



## IRON



**Vétoquinol**  
 *Signe de Passion*