
6 Things I Learned From Feeding 12 Times a Day

by Donald Gribble, PE

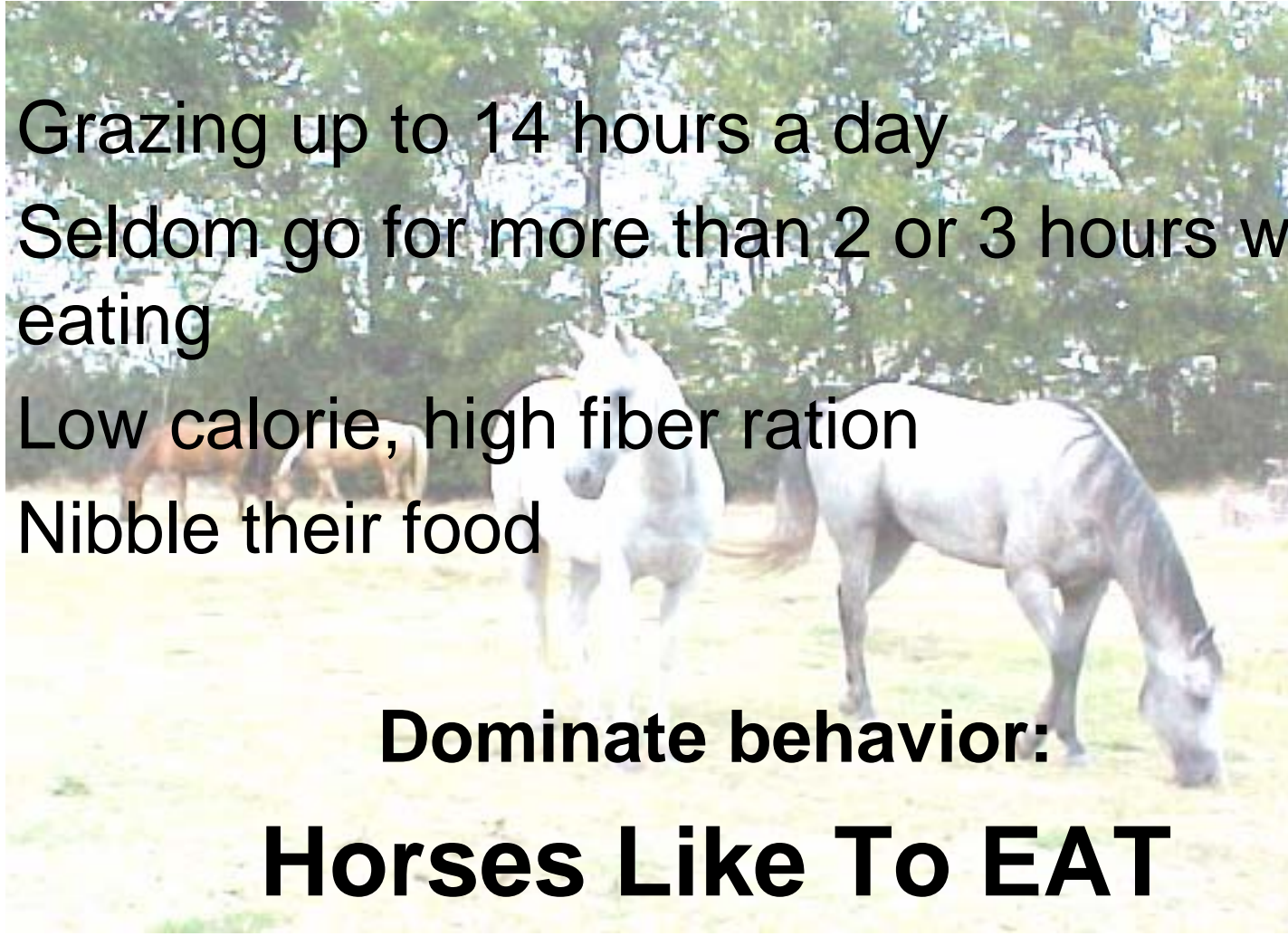
Agpro **PRO**
Feeder

What Behavior is Natural For a Horse?

- Grazing up to 14 hours a day
- Seldom go for more than 2 or 3 hours without eating
- Low calorie, high fiber ration
- Nibble their food

Dominate behavior:

Horses Like To EAT

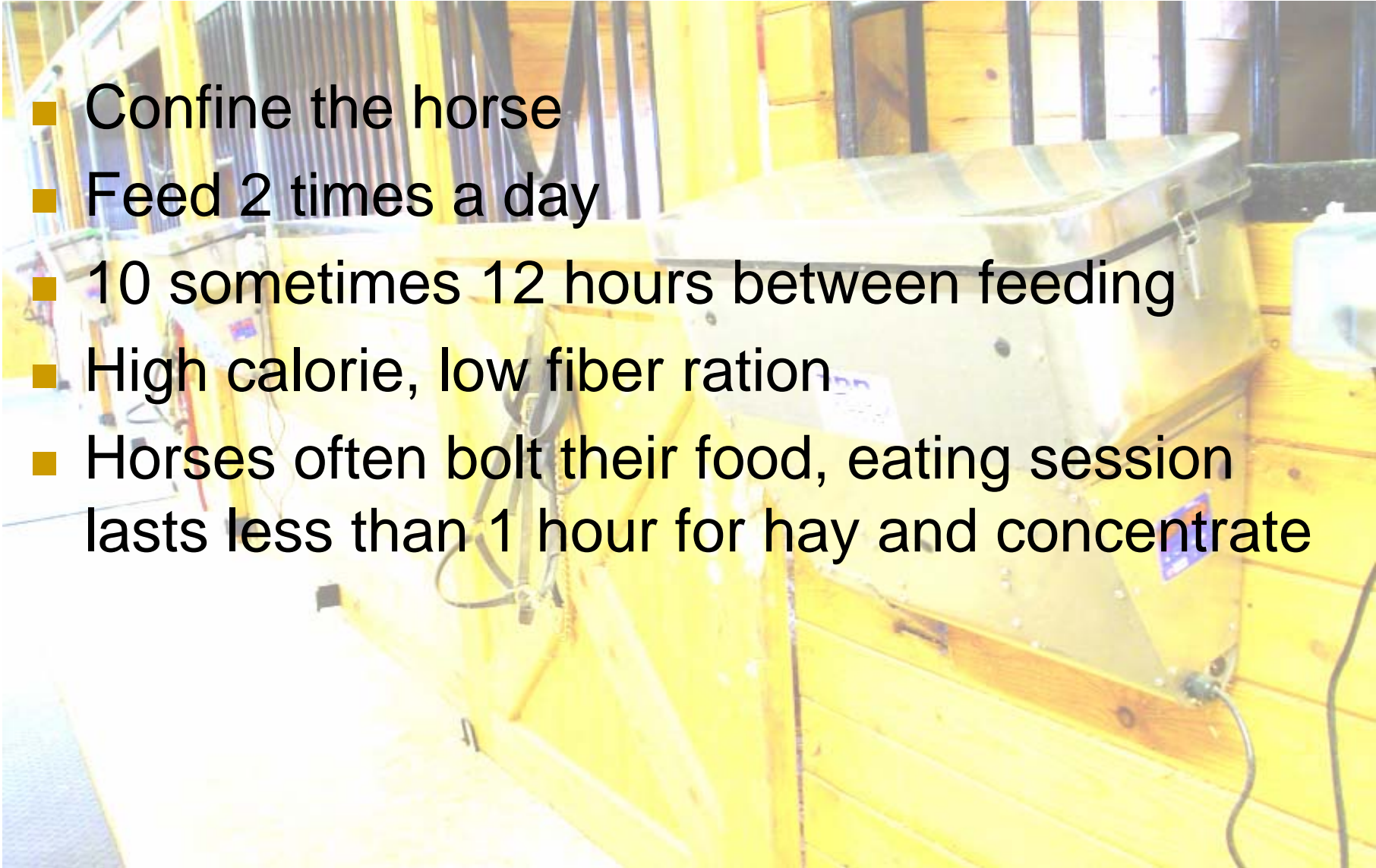


We Keep Horses For Pleasure or Competition



What Is Practical For the Owner?

- Confine the horse
- Feed 2 times a day
- 10 sometimes 12 hours between feeding
- High calorie, low fiber ration
- Horses often bolt their food, eating session lasts less than 1 hour for hay and concentrate



We Often Stall Our Horses



Results

- Horses very hungry, aggressive, anxious at feeding time
- Stall vices, cribbing, pacing, etc.
- Digestive track problems, ulcers, colic, etc.



The Simple Solution:

Feed “Confined Horses”
More Often!!



Lesson 1 ~ My Horses are More Content

- Horses are now more content being fed multiple small meals per day
- Easier to work with
- Less aggressive
- Healthier



Lesson 2 ~ My Schedule Remains About the Same

- I am in the barn a minimum of twice a day
 - Feed hay
 - Check water
 - Groom horses

 - Now I spend more time with horses, less time in the feed bag
-

Lesson 3 ~ Being On Time is Not as Important, My Schedule is More Flexible

- The feeder works regardless if I am late
- Being exactly on time is not as important as when I feed 2 times a day



Lesson 4 ~ My Feeding Strategy Has Changed

- I now feed a lower calorie, high fiber pellet in addition to the traditional 'sweet feed' fed by horse owners in East Texas
- Many small feedings of less potent feed is healthier for the horse
- Hay, grass pellet and less dependence on sweet feed



Lesson 5 ~ Horses are Nocturnal

- Horses eat both day and night, they are not like us. We sleep 8 hours at once and do not eat for a 12 hour period.
- I feed all night



Lesson 6 ~ A Horse Feeding Machine Must be Durable and Reliable

- Stainless steel construction
- Horse safe rounded edges
- Positive feed shutoff
- Specialty controller
- Powerful motor
- Rodent proof
- 50 lb capacity
- 2 Yr Warrantee



Happy Trails

