

Transform Your Horse with Hair Testing!

Of course, if horses could talk, our lives would be much easier . . . they could tell us that the feed we gave them didn't agree with them, they didn't like their stable or paddock, or they had a bad back, sore knees or feet. But they can't. We are left guessing what the problem is, why they are not performing to their full potential, why they behave in certain ways, why they won't do things that we see as simple or why they are moody, spooky or just plain mean.

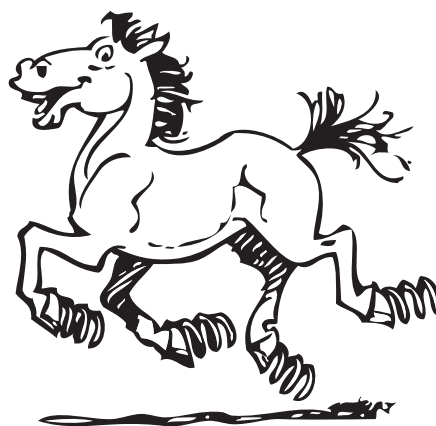
Angela Davison created a completely natural and holistic hair testing service for horses when she retired from the racing world and retrained as a Herbalist in 1986 (Angela was one of Australia's first female jockeys, working for some of the greats, like trainer T J Smith, and N Begg, riding horses such as Kingston Town, Mighty Kingdom and Emancipation). Angela was always dismayed by the huge wastage in the horse industry. Even with terrific veterinary care, so often the right key could not be found. She was determined to broaden the toolbox with herbal medicine and nutrition, muscle testing and kinesiology. After many years of working with both humans and horses she recognised the need for a way to assess and treat horses without actually seeing them. For 8 years she hair tested horses for free while she refined her methods, until finally, in 1997 she was ready to release her specialist service to the equine world. (Not to be confused with Hair Analysis which is a chemical process using Mass Spectrometry to gain an insight of mineral levels and heavy metal toxicity.)

Unlike any other, the Horse Herbalist's pioneering system creates a complete picture of the horse – mind, body and spirit. A small sample of hair pulled from the mane or tail can give a comprehensive and detailed overview of every aspect of the horse's health. The testing itself takes between 1.5 and 2 hours per horse, which indicates just how thorough and in-depth it is. All organs and body systems plus muscular skeletal are thoroughly investigated, looking for any area and cause of imbalance. And, once completed you are given a verbal report on the horse as well as a Nutritional Ratings Guide – explaining what foods are optimum for the individual horse, which he tolerates or can utilise, and any that are detrimental to his health.

So many horse owners and trainers feed the whole stable the same feeds and supplements – for financial and practical reasons, but all horses are different and just like humans, what is nutritious for some is literally poison to others, and only by understanding each horse's unique dietary requirements can you feed for optimum performance.

A 10 year old Thoroughbred showjumping mare presented for a hair test after her current owners had had her for 4 years. They complained that she was really horse shy (worse when in season); that she was stressy, hot and sensitive; accident prone because of her frenzied activity; impossible to stable because of her weaving, pacing, getting cast, and the owner and trainer found it very difficult to get her to produce her best work. She had been treated both by vets and natural therapists for hormone imbalances in the past but with little or no effect. The owners said that she was not a nasty horse, just really difficult. Angela found longstanding imbalances in the liver, gut and nervous system, together with short term adrenal imbalance. Significant dietary findings included the discovery of her complete wheat intolerance and The Horse Herbalist gave diet and supplement advice. The mare had two bottles of individually tailored herbal treatments, with a hair re-assessment in between, and the changes in the horse have been phenomenal. The previous owners have tried to buy her back, the trainer is astounded at the changes in the horse and every time the mare goes out, fellow competitors ask the owner who her new horse is!

Hair Testing is not an alternative to veterinary treatment or diagnosis. In fact, the team at The Horse Herbalist often collaborate with vets around the country for a swifter, more positive outcome for the horse.



And that's what Angela Davison and The Horse Herbalist are passionate about – positive results.

For example, the Trainer of a Pacing mare sent a hair to the Horse Herbalist after receiving a poor prognosis from the University Veterinary Teaching Hospital in NSW's Camden. The mare exhibited chronic hind limb lameness, diagnostic tests showed ligament and muscular tearing, chips and osteo arthritis in both knees and hocks with active bone remodelling. The chips were surgically removed and the owner/trainer instructed to give her a 6 month spell and take her back for a thorough assessment at the end of that period. Due to the multiple joint involvement there was concern that a return to race training may not be successful. The Horse Herbalist supplied an individualised formula to speed and facilitate the healing process. When she presented at the teaching hospital at the 6 month mark the staff were amazed at the extent of her recovery she was given the all clear to begin active work again. She has since made a full and successful return to the track.

The Horse Herbalist creates an individual formula for each horse at the conclusion of the Hair Test in order to address the issues and problems raised during the test. These mixtures are a combination of the very finest (normally organic) medical strength herbs, together with appropriate flower remedies to address not only the physical conditions but any psychological issues over a 6 week period. At week 5 re-assessment with another hair sample is crucial, as 50-75% of the rebalancing of the horse will be achieved with the first formula but the second (different) formula will complete the process. All symptoms, behavioural problems etc therefore gradually dissipate over a 12 week program.

Hair testing is a financial investment in the long-term health and performance of your horse, and can literally transform your horse, so if you are pulling your hair out over your horse, consider pulling theirs instead!

Angela says 'Hair Testing is only as good as the operator and their knowledge. Hair Testing on its own is a pointless exercise. Our testing gives you somewhere to go – information which will immediately improve the horse's health, vitality and enthusiasm for life.' Certainly it would be hard to find anyone with Angela's extensive practical knowledge and experience of horses, and combining that with her exhaustive training and research in Anatomy & Physiology, Herbal Medicine, Mineral Therapy, Differential Diagnosis and Flower Remedies and Nutrition, has resulted in a technique which is both unique and immensely practical. Angela has had an apprentice in training for the past five years, in order to ensure the system lives on into perpetuity. Accept no imitations, talk to the people who invented non-invasive, natural hair testing techniques and watch the transformation in your horse!

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