

## FACTSHEET: OWNERS

# SAFE TREATS AND TEMPTERS

*This factsheet helps to identify safe foods that can be used as treats for the donkey, but also to tempt those with a loss of appetite or in the recovery period following illness.*

*Be aware that it is important to limit treats where they may cause too much weight gain.*

### Treats that may be fed in moderation

#### GIVE 1-2 LEAVES OR 1 SMALL HANDFUL SIZED PORTION MAXIMUM PER DAY:

- Swede
- Turnips
- Bananas (including the skin)
- Pears
- Parsnips
- Fresh carrots - chopped (not into rounds) or freshly grated, not dried
- Fresh apples - chopped (depending on size) or freshly grated, not dried or cooking apples
- Fresh mint leaves
- Peppermint cordial - a capful added to normal feed may encourage eating
- Bramble/wild strawberry/hedgerow - grazing on these will often tempt a sick donkey as the natural behaviour of foraging stimulates the appetite



### Treats that that should be fed with caution

#### GIVE ONLY WHEN A GENUINE NEED IS IDENTIFIED

- Polos - high sugar levels, never feed sugar - free Polos
- Ginger biscuits - high sugar levels, check that they don't contain animal products, these can also be ground and sprinkled over food.
- Bread/jam sandwich - may be useful for giving medications
- Apple puree - may be useful to put on top of a feed to help tempt an inappetant or fussy eater



**Treats that should not be fed under any circumstances**

- Potatoes
- Brassicas (cabbage, brussel sprouts, broccoli, cauliflower)
- Any member of the allium family (onions, garlic, leeks, etc)
- Any product containing animal products - eg. biscuits with animal fats or dairy products
- Cod liver oil or other oils of animal origin
- Chocolate/sugar lumps/sweets
- Lick-it style hanging treats - these are very high in sugar due to the molasses and donkeys can bite off chunks that can cause choke/colic
- Human food ie. breakfast cereals or cakes
- Drinks containing caffeine or alcohol, or carbonated drinks
- Other animal feed ie. goat/sheep feeds
- Mouldy products due to possible mycotoxins
- Poisonous plants - see factsheet: *Poisonous Plants for more information*



**It is valuable to test the attractiveness of the various foods to determine those most favoured by your donkey. That allows you to offer the favourites as tempters when it is important to persuade the donkey to eat or to stand for a procedure.**

Always introduce new feeds gradually; if you are at all unsure please check with our nutrition team.

Caution must be given when feeding a donkey with dental problems.

Generally as a rule we do not recommend feeding treats from the hand unless for training purposes as it can encourage the animal to bite.

None of the above lists are exhaustive, please contact us if you are in doubt about the safety of any other food type.