Having a balanced gut flora is important for everyone, but especially important from birth to give the infant the best possible start in life. The trillions of microorganisms in the gut (including many types of bacteria) play an essential role in supporting strong immune and digestive systems in new born infants.


**The Infant Gut Microflora**

At birth the infant’s gut flora is obtained from the mother and environment around them. During birth, infants born vaginally are exposed mainly to microbes that originate from the mother, whereas those delivered by caesarean section appear to acquire intestinal flora mainly from the environment. Breast milk is a natural source of continuous bacteria, with bifidobacteria understood to be the predominant species in a breast fed infant’s gut. The two most predominant species appear to be *Bifidobacterium breve* and *Bifidobacterium infantis*. Breast milk also naturally contains a prebiotic, which is essentially a food source for beneficial bacteria.

**The Gut Flora and Immunity**

Particularly in early life, the composition of the gut flora profoundly influences the development of the immune system and the gut mucosal lining. This is not surprising, as up to 70% of immune cells are located within the gut. A strong protective gut flora and immune system is imperative to protect the infant against the common cold, respiratory infections, infectious diarrhoea and other stomach bugs. The incidence of allergic diseases such as eczema, asthma and hay fever are ever increasing in early life and are associated with an altered or less diverse gut microflora, an impaired gut lining and a malfunction of the immune system.
Probiotics have been shown to positively influence the infant’s gut flora balance and developing immune system, showing promising results in the prevention and management of infectious diarrhea and allergies in particular. Probiotics given to infants from birth seem to increase resistance to common coughs and colds and reduce the need for antibiotic use.

References
More News

Protxein Veterinary launch in the UAE!

In May 2014 Protexin Veterinary was launched in the UAE. Alongside our distributors Percy General Trading Limited UAE and The Saint Vincent Group, a seminar was held for veterinary professionals in the UAE to attend. Our Veterinary Technical Manager, James Kyffin and European specialist in small animal medicine, Sheila Wills, spoke at the evening. James started the evening by discussing “The Role of Probiotics in Veterinary Medicine.” Sheila then gave two talks, “A Practical Diagnostic Approach to Small Intestinal Diarrhoea in Dogs and Cats” and then “An Update on the Management of Feline Idiopathic Cystitis.” James then finished the evening of seminars by providing an overview of the Protexin range available in the UAE.

The evening concluded with dinner and drinks and gave the delegates the opportunity to quiz the speakers further in a friendly and informal atmosphere. We hope everyone enjoyed the evening and gained lots of useful knowledge to use in their practices!

* Sheila Wills Bsc BVetMed CertSAM DipECVIM MRCVS is a Lecturer in Feline Medicine at the University of Bristol, European specialist in small animal internal medicine, RCVS recognised specialist in feline medicine.

* James Kyffin BVSc (Hons) MRCVS, Veterinary Technical Manager for Protexin Veterinary

NEW! Bio-Kult Infantis

Bio-Kult are pleased to announce the launch of Bio-Kult Infantis into the popular Bio-Kult range. Bio-Kult Infantis is a scientifically developed, advanced formula for babies, toddlers and young children.

Bio-Kult Infantis contains 7 strains of live bacteria, Vitamin D₃ to contribute to the normal function of the immune system, as well as regulating a healthy inflammatory response, Preplex® (FOS and gum acacia) to selectively stimulate the growth of microorganisms and is high in Omega 3.

Furthermore it comes in an easy to use sachet form and contains no sugar, artificial colours, flavours or preservatives. Like the rest of the Bio-Kult range, Bio-Kult Infantis does not need to be refrigerated and is suitable to be taken alongside antibiotics, when travelling and as part of a healthy diet. For more information visit www.bio-kult.com.

Bio-Kult sponsor The CAM Awards 2014

Bio-Kult are proud to be the sponsor of The CAM Awards 2014, the industry’s award ceremony for practitioners and students of complementary and alternative medicine. For more information visit www.cam-awards.com.

Educating Piggy

Jonathan Nelson and Anna Flynn travel all over Britain educating people on our equine range of probiotics. Recently they re-visited one of our top supported riders Piggy French at her yard to give a ‘Lunch and Learn’ talk on gastric ulcers, plus update her team on the full Equine Premium range. After lunch Piggy gave Jonathan and Anna a tour around her new yard where they were lucky enough to meet the 4* horses.

Here’s Jonathan, Anna and Piggy with Harold Megahey sat on Chuckelberry.

Columbia set to welcome Protexin Concentrate

Novartis Columbia have recently registered Protexin Concentrate for sale in their market. We are thrilled to be constantly expanding our distribution network.
Keep up to date
Following us on social media is a great way to keep up to date with all our latest news, events and research.

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Our Bio-Kult stand at The Baby Show
The Protexin Veterinary team at BSAVA
Our winner of our Protexin Equine Premium Easter competition, Blueberry Muffin
Emily Wallace won an iPad Air at BSAVA
Jonathan speaking about the Protexin Equine Premium range
Retailer of the Year winners Archie Browns looking very pleased with their Bio-Kult prize
Team Bio-Kult were treated to a foraging session by a local expert
We love this Bio-Kult window display!
Our winner of our Protexin Equine Premium Easter competition, Blueberry Muffin
Sally Newsham – winner of a Protexin Equine Premium hamper!
Emily Wallace won an iPad Air at BSAVA