

cats should always contain milk to provide the necessary calcium. Cats when young can be taught to eat many foods, though later when eating habits are well established, they may starve rather than change. In these cases, when milk is refused, calcium tablets should be provided.

In the early stages of the disease addition of a calcium supplement to the diet often produces a dramatic cure, however, later in the course of the disease, the condition is incurable.

Trichostrongylus axei—

Some specimens of *T. axei* were found in the stomach of a horse at Lae during a routine post-mortem examination.

The adults of this nematode are very small and slender, measuring up to 8 mm. in length. The same species is found in the abomasum of cattle. The life cycle of *T. axei* in horses is uncertain but is known that the larvae penetrate the mucosa of the stomach.

The worms cause a chronic inflammation of the stomach and can cause a loss of condition in infested horses. Carbon disulphide and phenothiazine have both been recommended for treatment of *T. axei* infestation in the horse.

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THE PREPARATION AND GERMINATION OF BESOEKI COFFEE SEED.

Besoeki strain of Robusta Coffee beans realize premium prices, and consequently the policy of the Department of Agriculture is to supply seed of only this strain to Extension Centres and private growers.

Preparation of Seed—

After harvesting, the berries are pulped mechanically to remove the skin, and the beans are allowed to dry in the shade for a few days, during which time damaged and broken beans are removed. The seed is then mixed with powdered charcoal or woodash to dry off the remaining moisture and to prevent the beans from sticking. Seed is then ready for packing and distribution by air-freight. There are approximately 1,100 Besoeki coffee seeds to the pound.

Germination—

A study has been made on the effect of age on the germination of Besoeki seed. Results have shown that a very poor strike is achieved from seed which has been held for more than two months. It is preferable for the seed to be planted within a month of the date shown on the back of the Certificate of Inspection which accompanies the package. Germination should commence about a month after planting.

A trial was carried out on one month old Besoeki seed to compare depths of planting of one inch and half inch. Results showed that slightly earlier germination resulted from half inch planting, but by forty days after planting, one inch planted seed germinated faster than half inch. By the end of the trial, one inch planting resulted in 70 per cent. germination, against 60 per cent. for the half inch planting.

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