

Checklist: Feeding management

Answer the question and find out how well your (feeding) management is. If you can answer the question with yes, you are doing well. If the answer is no, then there might be room for improvement.

Feed Management

Forage

- □ Is the hay/pasture of good quality, free from mold, dust, and toxins?
- □ Is enough roughage provided? Horses need at least 1,5 2 kg of roughage per 100 kg of body weight per day.

Feeding Schedule:

- □ Are changes in the diet gradually performed? (optimal is 7-10 days)
- \Box Is the horse fed on a regular schedule?
- □ Is roughage always being fed before concentrates?

Overfeeding/Underfeeding:

- □ Is the horse receiving the right amount of feed for their age, weight, and activity level?
- Is the concentrate gift spread out over the day and never more than 1 kg per meal?
- □ Is the horse taking in a responsible amount of sugar and starch?
- The maximum sugar and starch intake per meal is 1 g / kg of body weight

Water Access:

- □ Is the horse always provided clean, fresh water?
- \Box Is water free of contamination or scarcity?



Husbandry

Stress Levels:

□ Is the horse free from excessive stress, such as social isolation, frequent traveling, or changes in routine?

Parasites:

□ Has the horse been dewormed regularly and is the deworming program effective?

Dental Health:

Is the horse free from any dental issues, such as sharp points or dental problems?

Exercise and Turnout:

□ Is the horse receiving adequate exercise and turnout time?

Environmental Factors:

Is the horse housed in a clean and well-ventilated environment?
Is the living environment of the horse free from toxins or irritants?

Training

Training Intensity:

- Does the training have a suitable intensity (not too intensive and without sudden increases in workload)?
- Is the horse allowed sufficient time for rest and recovery between training sessions?

Tack and Equipment:

- □ Is the tack / equipment properly fitted to the horse?
- \Box Is the horse free from discomfort during training?

Behavioral Issues:

□ Is the horse free from behavioral problems during training that may be related to discomfort or stress?

It's important to remember that digestive problems in horses can have multiple underlying causes, and a veterinarian should be consulted if the issues persist or worsen. Regular monitoring of a horse's overall health and well-being, along with attention to these factors, can help prevent and address digestive problems effectively.