REDUCE YOUR COLIC RISK

EQUINE GUELPH
helping horses for life™

"I promise to do my best to manage my horse in a way that best mimics life in the wild."

INCREASE FORAGE IN DIET

1

- Make forage the foundation of your horse's diet
- Provide a minimum of 2% of body weight in forage to keep things moving properly through the gut

FEED SMALL MEALS FREQUENTLY

2

- The horse has a small stomach and did not evolve to digest large amounts of concentrates
- Large 'grain' meals may cause digestive disturbances (i.e. feed 3 smaller meals vs. 1 large meal)

MAXIMIZE TURNOUT & EXEXERCISE

3

- Match natural activity pattern by allowing horses to graze/eat hay continuously
- A horse in the wild will graze for 16-20 hours/day and may travel over 8 km/day (helping intestinal motility)

PROVIDE CLEAN, FRESH WATER

4

- Dehydrated horses are at a higher risk of impaction colic
- Pay attention to water intake, particularly during weather changes

HAVE A PARASITE PREVENTION PROGRAM

5

- Parasites can cause lesions or obstructions in our horse's gut
- Talk to your veterinarian about developing an effective prevention program

PROVIDE ROUTINE DENTAL CARE

6

- Digestion is impacted if a horse is unable to grind food properly
- Schedule regular dental check-ups to make sure teeth are aligned with no jagged edges

BE CONSISTENT, MAKE CHANGES SLOWLY!

7

- Avoid upsetting the 'bugs'
- Make changes to diet/feeding routines very slowly to allow gut bacteria and enzymes a chance to adapt

Equine Guelph would like to thank our Education Patron

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For more Colic Prevention Resources visit EquineGuelph.ca or TheHorsePortal.ca

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