

DID YOU KNOW THE HORSE'S GUT IS...

- A ONE-WAY street...once it goes in, it has to come out (horses are unable to vomit)
- Mobile (it is only attached by a thin tissue called mesentery in 3 locations)
- Long and winding with changes in diameter

Mouth/Teeth Stomach

proper chewing is key for digestion

- small (only holds 8-10L of fluid)
- food is mixed here with gastric acid and enzymes

Cecum (Right Side)

sac-like structure that houses lots of bacteria that breakdown fibre through fermentation

Small Intestine (50-70ft)

site of major digestion of carbohydrates, protein and fat

Esophagus

linked to the stomach via the cardiac sphincter (prevents backflow)

Large Colon (11ft)

- site of further microbial breakdown of fibre
- absorption of fluids and volatile fatty acids (fluid reservoir is 80L)

Rectum

excretion of fecal balls

Small Colon (10ft)

fecal ball formation