

Enterolithiasis



What are enteroliths?

- Intestinal stones that form within the colon as the result of factors including diet, breed predisposition, and management practices
- They can obstruct the intestine, resulting in colic and requiring surgery.
- It is unknown why some horses develop enteroliths and others do not.
- They are more common in certain geographic regions, particularly California and Florida.

What you can do to keep your horse healthy:

- Limit alfalfa to <50% of your horse's diet
- Reduce or eliminate bran, add apple cider vinegar to feed daily, increase grain ratio to decrease pH level in the colon
- Increase number of feedings and/or time grazing, provide frequent, consistent exercise to keep food material moving through the colon
- Supplement with psyllium, soften hard water, avoid mineral-rich feeds

Signs

Variable
Colic
Anorexia
Lethargy
Weight loss
Loose manure
Girthiness

Causes

Why some horses develop enteroliths and others do not, as well as why some develop many stones and others develop only one or two, is not well understood.

Treatment

The only successful treatment for horses with colic due to enteroliths is surgical removal.

**If your horse needs medical care, contact the Large Animal Clinic at (530) 752-1393.*



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