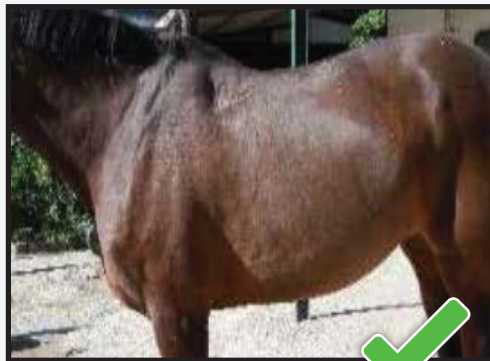


Horses should be fed a wholesome diet of a sufficient quantity to maintain them in good condition (normal weight) and to avoid malnutrition, poor condition or obesity. Regular dental care is recommended, as dental problems may be the cause of weight loss. Grass is an essential feed source for horses and grazing should be offered to all horses on a daily basis whenever possible.

### Body Condition



### What do you need to know...

- Under natural conditions, horses spend most of the day seeking feed. The period when they don't eat is normally not more than 3 – 4 hours.
- As a guideline, daily supply of roughage should be at least 1.2 kg of hay per 100 kg horse or 2 kg dry wrap hay per 100 kg horse, although this may need to be modified in the case of those prone to weight gain and/or laminitis.
- Consuming roughage should resemble the natural feeding pattern of a grazing horse as far as possible. If the horse has prolonged time without access to roughage (longer than 3-4 h), it may affect the overall health of the horse negatively (e.g. disposition for colic, stomach ulcers) and can cause the horse to develop abnormal and unwanted behavioural patterns (e.g. crib biting, eating sand).
- Many horses can live on grass or roughage alone, supplemented with vitamins and minerals if necessary.

### Feeding concentrates

Some groups such as sport horses, young, growing horses or horses meant for breeding purposes may have a need for a higher energy consumption due to their level of exercise or basic needs. Therefore, they may need to be supplemented with a high energy feed (concentrate).