

Did you know?

A short walk for a bite is essential!

MAAAX™ LONGfibe™ cubes *promote natural chewing behavior!*

Different to dogs, horses do not show the pavlovian response. Therefore the body reacts differently in preparation for digestion than in other species. Horses have a considerably small stomach, but a long small intestine and a huge caecum and large intestine, which is made for fermentation. Fermentation takes place by the microbial flora, which lives off the feedstuff the horses eat. The microbes in return produce important nutrients for the horse. Because of that, chewing and grazing is essential to horses, to secure a permanent and adequate level of forage in the hind gut to ensure a healthy microbial flora. In the wild, horses graze up to 16 hours per day, which includes chewing and slow motion walking (Duncan et al, 1980, Boyd et al, 1988). The slow-motion walking is needed to help the horse's gut to be moved slightly for a better transport of the feedstuff through the horse. Horses do have a strong peristaltic musculature around the guts – but it is easier and better if they can move all day on a field or paddock.

We recommend further reading:

BOYD, L./CARBONARO, D.A./Haupt, K.A.: The 24-hour time budget of Przewalski horses. Applied Animal Behaviour Science, Aug. 21, 1988, S. 5-17.

DUNCAN, P.: Time budgets of Camargue horses I, EEC Recommendations, Farm Animal Welfare. 1980, Aug. 72, S. 26-47

DUNCAN, P.: Time budgets of Camargue horses II. Time budgets of adult horses and weaned sub-adults. Behaviour, Aug. 72, 1980, S. 26-49.

Ellis, A./Hill, J.: Nutritional physiology of the horse, Nottingham, 2005.

Frape, D.: Equine Nutrition and Feeding, 4. Edition. Oxford 2011

NRC National Nutrition Council: Nutrient requirements for horses, 5th Edition, 2007.

Geor, R.J., Harris, P.A., Coenen, M. : Equine Applied and Clinical Nutrition, Saunders, 2013