

Your Shur-Gain Equine Team



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Colic in Horses

The drought conditions in 2012 resulted in poor quality forage and a shortage of forage in several regions across Ontario. Ontario has been dealing with extreme temperature fluctuation this winter. Feeding poor quality forage, lower levels of forage due to shortage and temperature fluctuations are causing an increase in the number of colic cases across Ontario this winter.

With years of experience in feeding our equine partners, Shur-Gain Equiline® Horse Feed offers today's horse owner the solution to all their feeding requirements. No matter what discipline or stage of life your horse is in, we provide the perfect mix: precise nutritional formulation balanced with wholesome, top quality ingredients.

Our Equiline® Feeds contain high quality yeast cultures comprised of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*. Research has shown that this product optimizes feed digestibility, fibre digestion, feed efficiency and overall health. The use of this yeast culture has shown to reduce lactic acid build-up in exercising horses and is also a great source of B vitamins. Yeast supplementation is most beneficial when forage quality is less than optimum.

Tips to help prevent colic:

- Ω When forage is of poor quality top-dress your horse's feed with Equine Choice® Probiotics & Prebiotics. Equine Choice treats digestive upsets and maintains healthy and balanced levels of digestive bacteria. It is a great feed supplement for horses that are prone to or have a history of colic.
- Ω Feed forage daily at a rate of a minimum of 1% of body weight. Adequate fibre intake is important in the prevention of colic, behavioral issues and is very important in maintaining gut health.
- Ω Supplement poor quality forage with alternative high quality fibre sources, such as Equiline® Fibre Nuggets or hay cubes.
- Ω Always supply a constant source of clean, fresh water that is not too cold. Add 1 to 2 ounces salt to the concentrate ration to trigger the horse's thirst response, especially in colder weather.
- Ω Snow and ice are poor substitutes for water as warming them to body temperature is a major drain on energy reserves. Snow consumption does result in lower water intake, which increases the risk of impaction, colic and choke.
- Ω Divide daily concentrate rations into two or more smaller feedings to avoid overloading your horse's digestive system.
- Ω Provide exercise and/or turnout on a daily basis.
- Ω Make dietary changes over a period of 7 to 10 days to allow your horse's digestive system to slowly acclimate to the changes.
- Ω Reduce stress. Horses experiencing changes in the environment or workloads are at high risk of intestinal upsets.

