



DOES YOUR HORSE HAVE A HEALTHY HIND GUT?

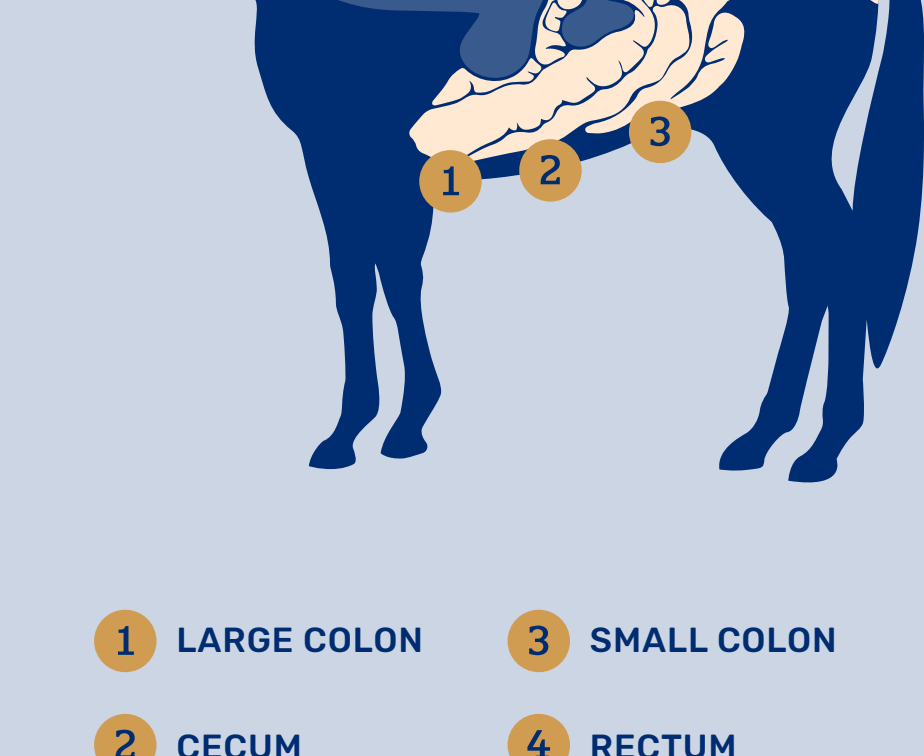
The importance of the hind gut

Your horse's body relies on a complex metabolic fermentation process that occurs in their hind gut.

Animals like cattle and sheep have multiple stomachs to manage these processes – but horses only have their hind gut to ferment fiber, absorb nutrients and create energy. Proper hind gut care is vital to your horse's overall health.

WHAT IS THE HIND GUT?

A horse's hind gut is the largest part of the gastrointestinal tract, accounting for 62% of the total volume. In a 1,000 pound horse, the hind gut is about 25 gallons.



1 LARGE COLON

3 SMALL COLON

2 CECUM

4 RECTUM

FUNCTION OF THE HIND GUT



The hind gut is responsible for absorbing short-chain fatty acids. These fatty acids make up almost half of a horse's stored energy.



Fiber passes directly to the hind gut where bacteria break down the structural carbohydrates into energy.



Feed and forage spends as much as 48 hours being digested in the hind gut.

POOR HIND GUT INDICATORS

There are a wide variety of symptoms that may indicate hind gut issues. Keep an eye out for these common issues.



HOW TO USE FORAGE TO MAINTAIN A HEALTHY HIND GUT

Prioritize forage

Provide a simple diet that is high in forage and low in grain.



Keep it fresh

Fresh grass and high-quality forage keeps good bacteria happy.



Spread meals out

Providing multiple smaller meals per day aids in gastric buffering and nutrient utilization.



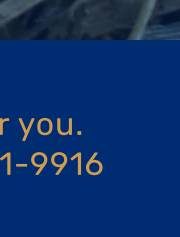
Monitor manure

Hard manure indicates a lack of water which decreases gut mobility. Monitor manure for compositional changes.



Make changes slowly

Change feeds and forages slowly to avoid shocking the gut microbiome.



If you have any questions we are here for you. Call a Triple Crown Feed expert: 1-800-451-9916

