

THE 3 STEP WEIGHT GAIN STRATEGY FOR YOUR HORSE

Brought to you by  **HYGAIN**[®]



BCS* OF 3 OR LESS

Neck: visible bone structure

Ribs: easily seen and felt

Loin: ridge down the back,
projecting back bone

Tail head: prominent and easily seen

*Body condition score

1. SIGNS OF AN UNDERWEIGHT HORSE

2. WHY IS MY HORSE UNDERWEIGHT?



DENTAL ISSUES

SIGNS: dropping feed while chewing, foul smelling breath, facial swellings, weight loss, poor feed utilization

TREATMENT: Oral Exam at least once a year by an Equine Dentist

SIGNS: dull coat, weight loss, reduced appetite, itchy tail head
TREATMENT: Appropriate pasture management and faecal egg count to determine de-worming medication need

PARASITES



STRESS

SIGNS: weaving, fence or stable walking, pawing, cribbing
TREATMENT: Increase social contact and turnout time to pasture, feed more roughage, small, frequent feed through the day

Disease or illness can also interfere with weight gain either by decreasing the horse's appetite or by directly affecting nutrient absorption within the digestive tract.

DISEASE/ILLNESS



GASTRIC ULCERS

SIGNS: poor appetite, discomfort, attitude change, weight loss
TREATMENT: Pasture and free access to hay, frequent small meals, add small amount of lucerne 30 min before exercise, vet treatment

Horses with a fast metabolism need a higher caloric intake to maintain weight and function properly. **Poor doers** may have difficulty to keep weight on and may easily lose weight.

NOT ENOUGH FEED



3. MAIN CALORIE SOURCES

FIBRE

Roughage (pasture/hay) is the most important component of a horse's diet!

HOW MUCH?

Minimum 1.5% and up to 3% of your horse's body weight in roughage.

7.5 - 15kg/day for a 500kg horse

HIGH CALORIE

- Lucerne hay
- Super Fibres (e.g. Beet Pulp, Soybean hulls, Lupin hulls)

TOP TIP

The addition of probiotics (live yeast) improves fibre digestibility.

FAT

Adding oil is the easiest & safest way to increase the energy density of the diet.

WHY OIL?

Has **2.5 times more** calories than grain on an equal weight basis. When adding oil, **less grain** is required for weight gain.

WHICH OIL?

- Rice Bran Oil:**
- Essential fatty acids
 - Natural antioxidants
 - Improved muscle to fat ratio

ADDED BONUS

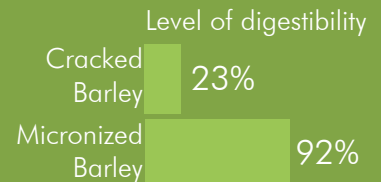
- Improves skin and coat condition
- Decreases excitability

CARBS

Carbohydrates (**sugar & starch**) found in grains increase the energy density of a horse's diet.

WHICH GRAIN?

Feed micronized or extruded grains as they have a higher digestibility (allows more nutrients to be absorbed!)



CAUTION

Feed **no more** than 2kg of grains per meal to avoid digestive upsets.

Do not exceed a **grain to roughage** ratio of **30:70**

SLOW RELEASE ENERGY

QUICK RELEASE ENERGY

HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE?

To Change 1 Body Condition Score → 16-20kg → 2 months

