Weight-gain tips that won't cause digestive upset

Horses that have demanding training or competition schedules, broodmares raising foals, and growing horses can expend a huge number of calories doing their jobs.



of it, but they need the kind of energy that won't cause digestive upset or improper growth patterns.



The source of calories is important

If your horse is simply thin but otherwise healthy, you want to be careful not to create a problem by feeding more grains.

Tip 1: Provide free-choice high-quality forage 24/7, when possible.

The quality of the forage matters.







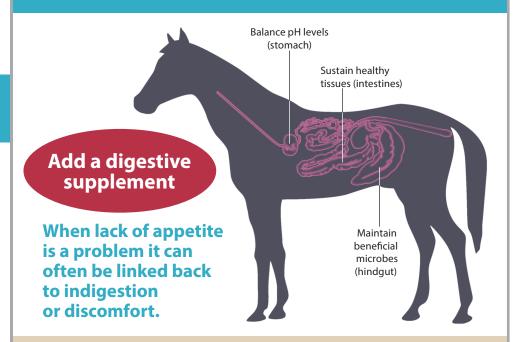
Mature hay that contains more stem than leaf is not a good source of energy.

Tip 2: Add high-quality fat to the diet.

Fat is a safe, calorie-dense source of energy. Avoid feeding large amounts of concentrates high in starch and sugar, as they increase the risk of colic and laminitis.

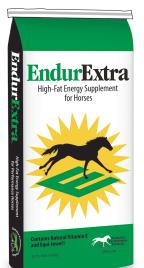


Tip 3: Ensure digestive tract health.





If the digestive tract is out of balance, feedstuffs are not being efficiently digested and absorbed.



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info@KPPusa.com KPPusa.com 859-873-2974

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