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HAPPY HOLIDAYS

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our loyal customers for your support during 2019

In 2019 leadership in equine feed reached a new level as trusted brands Epol and Equus come together to raise the performance bar in equine nutrition.

Working as a team really does make big dreams work. That's one of the reasons we are proud to grow trusted brands Epol Equine and Equus. Together we work hard to ensure that we are sustainably equipped to be better and stronger in form and performance. Every bag of every brand in our business matters.

We stand together united in our passion for excellence enabling us to be the trusted brand for all horses.

We wish you and your family all the very best for 2020

FREE DIET CONSULTATIONS Start your 2020 with a bang and get your horses diet in tip top shape. Don't forget our at home consultations are totally free of charge with no obligation to buy. Book today with one of our consultants: **Helen:** Helen.Gilfillan@rclfoods.com, **Debbie Dick:** Debbie.dick@rclfoods.com, or **Hannah:** Hannah.botha@rclfoods.com

EQUINE INTESTINAL MICROBIOME:

Contrasts in Good and Bad Doers

When discussing diets for different horses they are often described as Good doers, Bad doers and those that fit somewhere in the middle. Good doers generally maintain their weight without difficulty, whereas bad doers struggle to keep appropriate condition.

“Could the key that unlocks the mystery of metabolism lie in the horse’s hindgut?”

According to veterinary researchers, the intestinal microbiome—the population of beneficial microorganisms in the hindgut—may play a sizeable role in how different horses digest nutrients.

In their study*, Johnson and Biddle collected faecal samples from 97 horses and studied the microbiomes using DNA analysis.

“The researchers found significant differences in the microbiome populations of good and bad doers, and these variations could alter or modify nutrient availability in horses,” explained Kathleen Crandell, Ph.D., a Kentucky Equine Research nutritionist.

For example, bad doers had a reduced abundance of Bacilli (producers of lactic acid), Gammaproteobacteria and Verrucomicrobiae (both utilizers of amino acids. Amino acids aid with muscle building). Horses with smaller populations of those bacteria may therefore be less efficient at accessing nutrients in the hindgut, which explains why they are harder to keep in optimal condition.

Additional analyses revealed differences in microbial populations involved in starch and sucrose metabolism, as well as nutrient transporter proteins between easy and hard keepers. Overall, horses with moderate metabolisms (“average doers”) appeared to be most efficient at nutrient digestion and host absorption.

The researchers concluded that “reduced bacterial abundance and functionality in hard keepers leads to insufficient nutrient levels to support a healthy microbiome and maintain horse condition.”

Crandell added, “Maintaining healthy microbial populations in the digestive tract can benefit horses in many ways and can easily be achieved by offering various dietary supplements.”

Equine Intestinal Microbiome: Contrasts in Good and Bad Doers

Article taken from <https://ker.com/equine/equine-intestinal-microbiome-contrasts-in-easy-and-hard-keepers/> October 2019, Kentucky Equine Research Staff.

References

*Johnson, A.C.B., and A.S. Biddle. Microbiome effects on metabolic efficiencies in easy and hard keepers. Journal of Equine Veterinary Science. 76:40.



For an absolutely free consultation with no further obligation contact our professional consultants to schedule a visit to your yard.

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