

TESTING YOUR HORSES' URINE PH



We have observed that there is a correlation between the horse's urine pH and their overall health and behaviour. The pH scale goes from 0 which is extremely acidic to 14 which is extremely alkaline. Neutral is 7.

The horses with the best health and (calm) behaviour have a pH the same as ours - around 7 which is neutral. The higher the number, the more alkaline and the lower the number the more acidic.

The pH in the horse's hindgut is generally 6.5 to 7, where good microorganisms can thrive. These bacteria are essential to aid digestion. However, if the pH drops below this it can cause hind-gut acidosis.

Testing the pH of your horse's manure with pH strips may help to diagnose hindgut acidosis. This can in turn enable treatment before severe disorders develop.

Your horse's urine pH is indicative of his blood and body fluid pH.

Horses suspected of suffering from Hind Gut Acidosis meaning their system is too acidic (from eating high grain/carbohydrate/sugar diets), often exhibit symptoms and the urine pH of those with the exact opposite – alkalosis.

In our experience, horses with the following issues tend to have a urine pH over 8 (alkalosis)

1. Head flicking
2. Twitchy
3. Over-Reactive and seriously spooky
4. Tight Behind
5. High Headed

How to test your horse's urine -

Carry the pH test strips around in your pocket when around your horse and when you happen to see your horse urinate, press the strip into the wet grass or puddle.

Do not try to get it mid-stream as this will often cause them to shut off!

Compare the colour with the chart. Ideally it should be close to 7.

Checking results -

If the urine pH is over 8, then some dietary adjustments are required. Try to reduce the potassium and nitrogen load on the horse's system.

- Drastically reducing green grass intake and upping the hay'. If this is a problem, then steps 2 and 3 are more important.
- Checking to see if there is much clover in the paddock. Making sure there is no lucerne, soy-bean meal, kelp, or added potassium in feeds you are currently feeding. This means checking the back of the bag, looking down the list and seeing if there is potassium added.
- Then make sure you are adding salt to the feeds and if it is still too high then up the GrazeEzy as this is what it is designed for, it contains multiple 'buffers' which help the pH come down and you will find that they return to normal.

If the urine pH is below 6 (too acidic) then the horse is liable to be dull, lethargic, nappy, and have 'no go'. Ensure you are feeding salt and modify the diet to help prevent or correct possible hind-gut issues.

TESTING YOUR DOG AND CATS' URINE PH



The pH scale goes from 0 which is extremely acidic to 14 which is extremely alkaline. Neutral is 7.

How to test your dog or cats' urine -

To test your animal's urine pH. As soon as you see your dog or cat urinating, take out your pH test strip and dip into the wet grass where they have urinated.

You don't need to dip the strip mid flow as this will often stop them from peeing.

For dogs, you can often dip test strip while they are peeing on a walk.

Cats are a little more difficult. But try placing some paper in litter tray to catch some urine before it all absorbs into the kitty litter.

Checking results -

It is recommended to maintain a urine pH between 6.0 – 6.5 to prevent crystal formation.

Animals diagnosed with Struvite crystals have been found to have a high or alkaline urine pH (6.6 or higher).

Calcium Oxalate Crystals are mostly found in males and in animals with an acid urine pH (below 6.0)

Carnivores that eat a balanced fresh raw meat-based diet naturally produce acidic urine which prevents this crystal formation. Feeding fresh food rather than processed food has a natural water content of 60-70% which assists in preventing dehydration and excessive concentration of urine.

Cats & dogs living on natural foods generally produce urine with a pH between 6.0 and 7.0.

At a urine pH below 6.6, struvite remains largely soluble, whereas in a urinary pH above 7.0, crystallisation may occur.