

# WATER INTAKE FOR HORSES IN WINTER

Less pasture and more dry forages result in horses consuming less water in the winter

AIM FOR 5-15 GALLONS OF WATER PER DAY IN WINTER MONTHS



SNOW OR ICE IS NOT AN ADEQUATE SOURCE OF WATER

If using a tank heater to warm water, inspect it carefully for worn wires or other damage, and check the water for electrical sensations or shocks

**HORSES WILL DRINK 40% MORE WATER WHEN IT IS HEATED**

**MOST WATER IS CONSUMED WITHIN 2 HRS OF EATING HAY/GRAIN**

Make sure buckets are full and easy to access during meal time

No difference in water intake between heated buckets vs heated water tank as long as water is clean

**IDEAL WATER DRINKING TEMP. IS 45-65°F**

There are two common complications resulting from inadequate water consumption during cold weather

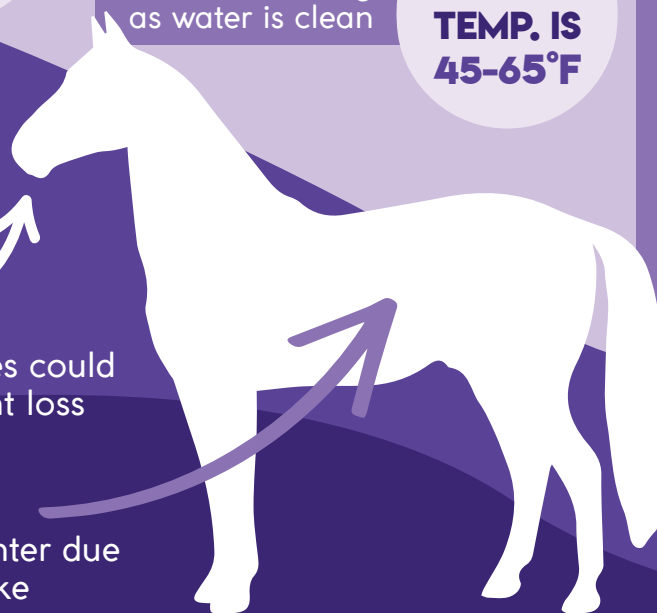
## STAY ALERT FOR:

### 1. DECREASED FEED INTAKE

Consuming lower calories could result in unwanted weight loss

### 2. SIGNS OF IMPACTION COLIC/CONSTIPATION

This is more likely in winter due to decreased water intake



## TIPS FOR INCREASING HYDRATION IN WINTER

**WET FEED AT EACH MEAL**

**FEED A DAILY MASH WITH BEET PULP OR FORAGE EXTENDER**

**PROVIDE CONSTANT ACCESS TO PLAIN WHITE IODIZED SALT**

## FEEDING PRACTICES TO AVOID

### WHEAT BRAN

It is high in phosphorus and can unbalance your horse's diet

### FEEDING MASHES INCONSISTENTLY

Feed a mash daily, as only once per week can upset gut microbes and cause gastrointestinal issues

**SENIOR HORSES MAY HAVE MORE SENSITIVE TEETH AND A LOWER TOLERANCE OF COLD WATER**

Nutritional expertise provided by



**POULIN GRAIN**

