



COASTAL
AGRICULTURAL
SUPPLY, INC.

1-800-856-6000

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Now that we have had good rains throughout the state we will have a rush of new grass coming up. If your customers have horses you need to make them aware that this is a good time to check for sand in their horse. Most folks think sand colic is a problem in the late Summer when grass is short, but it can be a problem right after rain following a dry spell. Horses will pull young tender grass up roots and all, including small bits of dirt attached to the roots.

TESTING FOR SAND IN YOUR HORSES STOMACH

Eating of sand can cause weight loss, depression, decreased performance, diarrhea and colic. Sand can be a contributing factor in occasional episodes of colic and can be the cause of recurrent colic pain. Abnormal amounts of ingested sand settle out in the ventral large colon. Generally, horses that are enthusiastic eaters take in more sand than finicky eaters, as they "vacuum" up everylast bit of hay or grass on sandy soil.

THE SAND TEST

1. Fill a 8-quart plastic container 1/2 full with water. Mark the water level on the outside of the container.
2. Add 6 large fecal (manure) balls from your horse and mark the new water level on the container.

Now you have a system to add the same amount of manure every time you do the test: fill the container with water to the first mark and add enough manure to have the water rise to the secondmark.

3. Mix the manure and water into a slurry, allowing any sand to settle to the bottom. Gently pour off the slurry of manure and water. Any sand will remain at the bottom.
4. If you find 1/4 teaspoonful or more sand on the bottom of the container, the test is positive.
5. Test your horse's manure every other day for 2 weeks and record the results.

IMPORTANT POINTS

Make sand tests a routine part of your horse's care. To initially evaluate your horse, do a sand test every other day for 2 weeks. One negative test does not prove that sand is not present in the large colon.

Treatment & Prevention

Treat for one week with Sand Rid from Durvet or Sand Clear from Farnam. This can be done monthly if you continue to find too much sand in the manure.