

Agricultural Adventures for Families



HORSE TALES

LITTLE BITES, LITTLE BITES

Horses have evolved to eat forage-based diets, and natural behavior dictates they consume small amounts consistently throughout the day. Consequently, their stomachs can only hold between eight and 16 liters at one time (for the average 500kg horse), and food passes through the stomach within 30 minutes to two hours following ingestion.



High fat feeds, or those with added oil or fat, pass through more slowly than high grain feeds without added oil. The horse's stomach cannot stretch in response to a meal as ours does, and food cannot be regurgitated once it enters the stomach.



To train a young horse you must first have patience. To train it to saddle and tack you must let your horse smell and look over the tack. Then very slowly try putting the tack on the horse, if it throws a fit take it off and rub the tack all over the horse's body. Then try putting the tack on again. Don't think this will all happen in one day because it probably will not. Sometimes it will take a up to a couple of weeks before a young horse will cooperate with the tack.

TRY A LITTLE TENDERNESS!



Saddle and pet your horse on a daily basis. Talk to him or her in a gentle voice, and once you think the horse is calm you are set to put one foot in the stirrup. Then swing your other leg over the horse and sit down very quietly. It is usually a good idea to let someone hold your horse while you're doing this.

