



animals



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Horse Husbandry-Nutrition, Management and Welfare

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Message from the Guest Editor

eating behaviour, nutrition, and welfare are. The locomotory aspects of eating should not be ignored with horses constantly moving while grazing and browsing. Horses kept intensively also develop locomotor-based stereotypies such as box walking and weaving. All are indicators of poor welfare.

Adequate nutrition is fundamental to maintaining good health and performance in all classes of horse. This means not only the provision of energy, protein, minerals and vitamins, but also the appropriate selection of feedstuffs for an animal who evolved a digestive system based on the consumption of large amounts of low-quality forage. This can be particularly challenging when feeding horses with high energy requirements. Equine digestive physiology also evolved to accommodate periods of feast and famine. However, current horse husbandry practices provide an endless period of feast with no famine. This leads to a host of health issues due to overnutrition, such as obesity, insulin resistance, carbohydrate overload and laminitis. All compromise horse health and welfare.



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Special Issue



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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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