

Common Diseases of Horses---Causes, Symptoms, Treatment

WHAT TO DO AND HOW TO DO IT

| Disease and Cause. | Symptoms. | Treatment. |
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| SPASMODIC COLIC. Improper food, changes of food, over-feeding, water when over-heated, etc. Weak digestive powers predispose. | Uneasiness, stamping, pawing, throwing himself down, rolling, getting up, etc. The attacks are spasmodic, and during the intervals patient is normal, may appear to want to urinate. | Drench with 1½ oz. each of laudanum, sweet spirits of nitre and tincture of belladonna in a pint of water. Repeat in 2 hours if necessary. |
| FLATULENT COLIC. Change in food, too much succulent and easily fermented food, as green clover, frosted food, etc. | Much the same as spasmodic colic, but not so violent and the pain is continuous but of varying intensity. Bloating soon occurs, more noticeable on right side. | Drench with 2 to 3 oz. oil of turpentine in a pint of raw linseed oil, and if necessary repeat in 2 hours. Give rectal injections of warm, soapy water. If pain be excessive give drench as for spasmodic colic. |
| CONSTIPATION. Change from hay to straw, over-ripe hay, absence of succulent feed, a torpidity of the muscular coats of intestines. | Uneasiness, pawing a little, looking around to the flank, irregular appetite, evacuation of small quantities of dry faeces, or little or no motion of the bowels. | Administer a moderate purgative as 7 drams aloes and 2 drams ginger. Feed on bran only until bowels act freely. Give 2 drams nux vomica 3 times daily, and give rectal injections of warm, soapy water every 5 or 6 hours. |
| INFLAMMATION OF BOWELS. Changes in food, exposure to cold, as a sequel to other diseases. | General depression, rigors, anxious expression, quickened breathing, infection of mucous membranes, mouth dry and hot, pulse frequent and full in early stages, false attempts to lie down, then lying down very carefully, wandering aimlessly around stall, pain is continuous. | Administer 2 drams of powdered opium every 4 or 5 hours, apply cloths rung out of hot water to the abdomen. |
| DIARRHŒA. Too much succulent food, frozen food, food of poor quality, too many raw roots, water of poor quality, etc. | Frequent evacuation of liquid or semi-liquid faeces, impaired appetite, excessive thirst followed by weakness. | In early stage give laxative of pint raw linseed oil (if animal be weak omit this). If diarrhœa continue for 18 to 24 hours, give 2 oz. laudanum and 4 drams each of chatechu and prepared chalk every 4 hours until diarrhœa ceases, also add to drinking water ¼ of its bulk of lime water. |
| AZOTURIA. High feeding during a few days' rest. | After going a variable distance, shows pain and lameness, sweats, falls or lies down, may or may not be able to rise, urine becomes thick and very dark in color. | Prevention consists in giving daily exercise or materially reducing grain ration. Curative—Give purgative, make comfortable, give 2 drs. iodide of potassium 3 times daily. Draw urine off with catheter. |
| LYMPHANGITIS OR WEED. Same as azoturia, but may occur after 1 day's rest. | Rigors followed by an increase of temperature, lameness, urine scanty and high colored. Swelling of the glands of the affected leg, inside thigh if hind leg, inside forearm if fore leg, swelling increases rapidly. | Prevention—Same as for azoturia. Curative—Give purgative followed by 3 drams nitrate of potash 3 times daily. Long-continued bathing limb with hot water; exclusion of drafts and application of a liniment; as soon as acute lameness disappears give daily exercise. |
| CHRONIC INDIGESTION. Imperfect mastication, improper food, debility of the digestive glands. | Unthriftiness, capricious appetite, increased thirst, irregularity of the bowels, dry, staring coat, hide bound, sometimes slight, colicky pains. | If due to imperfect mastication have teeth attended to. Give purgative followed by a dram each ginger, gentian, nux vomica and bicarbonate of soda 3 times daily, and food of first-class quality. |
| ACUTE INDIGESTION. Change of food, food too greedily swallowed and imperfectly masticated, feeding immediately after severe exercise, or severe exercise immediately after a hearty meal. Sudden changes in either quantity or quality of food. | Uneasiness, lying down and rising, oppressed breathing, eructations of gases or attempts to vomit, pain usually continuous but varying in intensity. | Give 2 to 3 oz. oil of turpentine in a pint of raw linseed oil as a drench. Foment the abdomen. If pain be severe give 2 drams of the solid extract of belladonna. Repeat if necessary in 2 hours. Give rectal injections. |
| IMPACTION OF THE COLON. Innutritious food, a weakness of the digestive organs, inactivity of the digestive glands, want of exercise, change of food. | May be present for some time without marked symptoms, then slight, colicky pains. Sitting on haunches, pressing croup against any solid object, little or no passages of faeces, a general fullness of the right side of the abdomen. | Give a purgative, follow by 2-dram doses of nux vomica 3 times daily, feed bran only. Give rectal injections. If pain be well marked give 2 drams solid extract of belladonna. |
| CATARRH OR COMMON COLD. Exposure, ill ventilation, sudden changes of temperature, housing in warm stables after being accustomed to exposure. | Dullness, slight discharge from nostrils, cough, impaired appetite. | Keep comfortable in well-ventilated quarters, exclude drafts, feed a laxative diet, steam nostrils, give nitrate of potash in 2-dram doses 3 times daily. |
| ACUTE LARYNGITIS. Usually occurs as an epidemic due to a specific virus. | Dry cough, difficulty in swallowing, soreness to pressure on throat, watery nasal discharge soon becoming prevalent, inability to swallow, high temperature, often general stiffness and swelling of legs, difficult respiration. | Keep in well-ventilated, comfortable quarters, excluded from drafts. Give 2 drams chlorate of potassium and 20 grains quinine by placing well back on the tongue out of a spoon 3 times daily, do not drench. Apply hot poultices to the throat or poultice with antiphlogistine. If breathing becomes very labored send for veterinarian. |
| BRONCHITIS. Exposure to cold, ill-ventilated quarters, drafts, foreign matters as smoke or liquids into the tubes, (it is then called mechanical bronchitis). | Hoarse, loud, dry cough, becoming moist later on, respirations loud and frequent, dullness, ropy saliva falls from mouth, bowels costive and urine high colored, patient stands continuously. | Comfortable, well-ventilated quarters, excluded from draft. Apply mustard to breast and sides. Steam nostrils, holding head over boiling water with a little carbolic acid. Give cold water with 3 or 4 drams nitrate of potassium in it. When inflammation subsides give dram doses each of gentian, ginger and sulphate of iron 3 times daily. |
| CONGESTION OF LUNGS. Over-exertion in animal not in condition, exposure to cold. | Stands with legs outstretched and apparently fights for breath, flanks heave, body trembles, cold sweats, heart's action tumultuous. | Allow fresh air, clothe body, give 3 to 4 oz. sweet spirits of nitre in pint water as a drench; repeat every 3 hours, bandage legs. |