

Name \_\_\_\_\_



## What Does a Horse Eat?

Horses are herbivores, which means they eat plants. They do not eat meat like carnivores or a mix of plants and meat like omnivores. Horses mainly eat grasses, hay, and other plant-based foods to stay healthy and strong.

In the wild, horses spend most of their day grazing on grasses. They have flat teeth that are perfect for chewing tough plant material. Their large stomachs and long intestines help them digest grass properly. Wild horses can often be seen in open fields or grasslands where food is abundant.

Domesticated horses, or horses that live with people, are often fed hay, which is dried grass. Hay is given when fresh grass is not available, especially during winter months. Horses also eat grains like oats and barley, which give them extra energy, especially if they are working or competing in sports.

Horses do not need to hunt for food since plants are easy to find. However, they need to eat large amounts every day. An average horse can eat about 15 to 20 pounds of hay or grass daily! They also need clean water to drink throughout the day to stay hydrated.

Caring for a horse means providing the right balance of food. Too much grain can make a horse sick, while too little grass might leave them without enough nutrients. Horse owners often work with veterinarians to create the best diets for their animals.

Horses are gentle animals with simple diets. They rely on plants to keep them strong, making them one of the many amazing herbivores in nature.