



Pop Quiz:

Is it okay to let a horse eat snow as a water source?

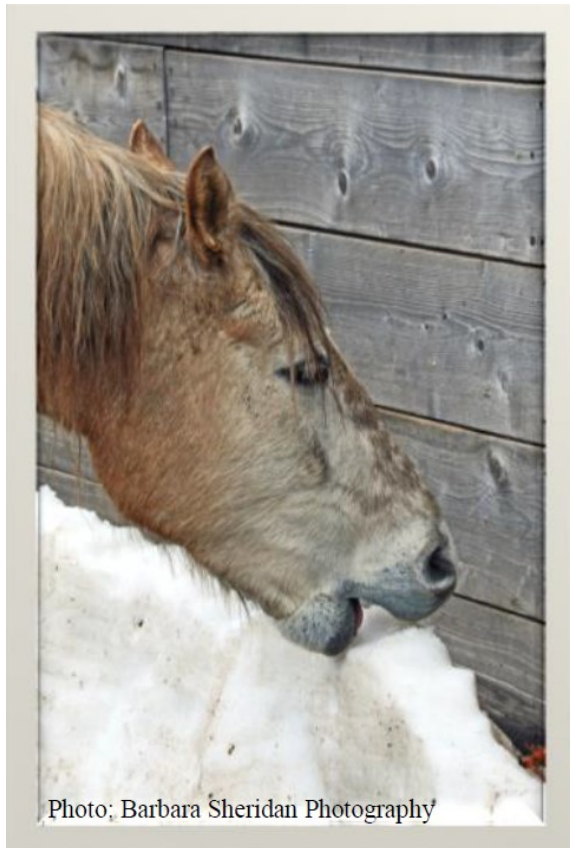


Photo: Barbara Sheridan Photography

Answer:

From the [Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Equines](#)

Snow as a Water Source

There is limited research on snow as a sole water source for horses. Given the scientific research on the water needs of horses in general, snow alone will not meet their water requirements. Some research shows that limiting liquid water intake can lead to reduced feed intake, a particular concern in the winter months given the increased energy needs of horses in cold temperatures. Water requirements may even increase in cold temperatures because water intake increases as feed intake increases.

Visit the Equine Guelph [Colic Risk Rater](#) to learn more about colic risk factors and ways to reduce the risk to your horse.

Visit Equine Guelph's [dehydration information sheet](#).

Download [The Horse Health Tracker App](#) by Equine Guelph.

For more information on maintaining a healthy nutritional program for your horse with Equine Guelph's 12 week online course on [Equine Nutrition](#).