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SAFETY ALERT – DO NOT FEED PILES OF GRASS CLIPPINGS

Summer mowing – a never-ending chore. Such a pity to waste those soft, fragrant, tasty piles of clippings! Why not rake them and feed them to your horses? It's recycling at its best, no? No! This should be the last thing you encourage your horse to eat. It has to do with that extra step: raking. Leave them to dry on the pasture after mowing, and they are generally not a problem. But *never gather them into piles to feed them to your horse.*

Partly because clippings are too easy to over-consume, and eating large amounts at one time can lead spikes in insulin levels or to excess fermentation of sugars and starches in the hind gut, potentially causing colic and laminitis. Secondly, piles of clippings can rapidly invite mold to form (especially prevalent in hot, humid environments), which can lead to colic. Finally, because there is no air inside a dense pile, botulism can develop, which turns this “treat” absolutely deadly.

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