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Why is my horse slobbering so much?

During the spring and fall you may observe your horse salivating excessively with no other symptoms. "Slobbers", also known as Slaframine Toxicosis, is caused by ingestion of white or red clover in the pastures. Often times the clover grows a fungus called "black patch" or *Rhizoctonia leguminicola*. The fungus produces a mycotoxin which irritates the horse's mouth causing excessive salivation.

Some horses with slobbers will also have diarrhea. If you choose to remove your horse from the pasture to remedy the problem, you should notice a decrease in the slobbering within two days' time. If you suspect the drooling is not just clover related, but something more serious, you should check your horse's mouth for lesions or sores and note if any fluid is coming from the nose as well as the mouth. If there is any question as to the cause of the drooling, it's best to err on the side of caution and contact your vet.

Answered By: Karen Reynolds, DVM