

Horse Digestive System Question

Explain the difference between a monogastric and a ruminant's digestive system.

What is a pseudo-ruminant?

- **A monogastric digestive system has one simple stomach. The stomach secretes acid, resulting in a low pH of 1.5 to 2.5. The low pH destroys most bacteria and begins to break down the feed materials. Animals with this type of digestive system are better adapted to eat rations high in concentrates. Examples of monogastric animals are hogs, cats, dogs, and humans**
- **The ruminant digestive system has a large stomach divided into four compartments—the rumen, the reticulum, the omasum, and the abomasum. The ruminant digestive system is found in cattle, sheep, goats, and deer. Ruminant animals eat feed rations that are high in roughages and low in concentrates.**
- **A pseudo-ruminant is an animal that eats large amounts of roughage but does not have a stomach with several compartments. The digestive system does some of the same functions as those of ruminants. For example, in the horse, the cecum ferments forages. An animal with a pseudo-ruminant digestive system can utilize large amounts of roughages because of the greatly enlarged cecum and large intestine, which provide areas for microbial digestion of fiber. Pseudo-ruminants often eat forages as well as grains and other concentrated feeds**