

General Concepts Regarding Fluid Needs in Dehydrated Horses

Determining Factor	Formula Used	Amount for a 500-kg Horse
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Fluid deficit	% dehydration × body weight (kg)	4%–10% × 500 = 20–50 L
Maintenance	50 mL/kg/24 hr	50 × 500 = 25 L/24 hr
Fluid losses	Estimate reflux or diarrhea volume	
Rate of administration	50% in 1–2 hr; 50% throughout rest of day	20–35 L in first 1–2 hr; remainder distributed throughout next 23 hr

Adapted, with permission, from Zimmel DN, Management of pain and dehydration in horses with colic. In *Current Therapy in Equine Medicine*, 5, 2003, Robinson, NE, (ed), Elsevier.

