

EXAMPLE DIETS: FOR THE MATURE, PREGNANT AND LACTATING DONKEY



**THE DONKEY
SANCTUARY**

Mature donkeys fed on fibrous forages:

Donkey weight	MJ, DE/day	Daily DMI requirement	Suggested diet
180 kg donkey maintenance (summer)	14.4	2.4 kg	2.1 kg barley straw (5 MJ DE/kg DM) + limited grazing or + 0.5 kg moderate hay (8 MJ DE/kg DM)
180 kg donkey maintenance (winter)	17.1	3.1 kg	3 kg barley straw (5 MJ DE/kg DM) + 0.4 kg moderate hay (8 MJ DE/kg DM)
Dieting donkey goal weight 180 kg (summer)	13	2.4 kg	2.2 kg barley straw (5 MJ DE/kg DM) + very limited grazing or + 0.2 kg moderate hay (8 MJ DE/kg DM) + forage balancer
Dieting donkey goal weight 180 kg (winter)	15.5	3.1 kg	3.1 kg barley straw (5 MJ DE/kg DM) + very limited grazing or + forage balancer
180 kg donkey (aged) with dental disease (summer)	14.4–15	2.4 kg	2.4 kg short chop hay replacer (7.3 MJ DE/kg DM assuming 85% DM) e.g. forage balancer
180 kg donkey (aged) with dental disease (winter)	17.1–18	3.1 kg	2.9 kg short chop hay replacer (7.3 MJ DE/kg DM assuming 85% DM) e.g. forage balancer

Pregnant donkeys in the final 3 months of pregnancy:

Donkey weight	MJ, DE/day	Daily DMI requirement	Suggested diet
180 kg - 9 months gestation (summer)	16.7	2–2.4 kg	1.1 kg barley straw (5 MJ DE/kg DM) + grazing and high protein balancer or + 1.3 kg moderate hay (8.5 MJ DE/kg DM) and high protein balancer
180 kg - 10 months gestation (summer)	17.4	2–2.4 kg	0.4 kg barley straw (5 MJ DE/kg DM) + 1.8 kg moderate hay (8.5 MJ DE/kg DM) + high protein balancer
180 kg - 11 months gestation (summer)	18.6	2–2.4 kg	2.2 kg moderate hay (8.5 MJ DE/kg DM) + high protein balancer + grazing If hay is not managed supplement with high fibre cubes, alfalfa chop or unmolassed sugar beet
180 kg - 9 months gestation (winter)	19.8	2.5–3.1 kg	1 kg barley straw (5 MJ DE/kg DM) 1.7 kg moderate hay (8.5 MJ DE/kg DM) + high protein balancer
180 kg - 10 months gestation (winter)	20.7	2.5–3.1 kg	2.2 kg moderate hay (8.5 MJ DE/kg DM) 0.4 kg barley straw (5 MJ DE/kg DM) + high protein balancer
180 kg - 11 months gestation (winter)	22.1	2.5–3 kg	2.5 kg moderate hay (8.5 MJ DE/kg DM) + 200 g alfalfa chop (9 MJ DE/kg DM) + high protein balancer

Lactating donkeys:

Donkey weight	MJ, DE/day	Daily DMI requirement	Suggested diet
180 kg lactation 1st month (summer)	27.5	2.4–3 kg	2.4 kg good hay (9 MJ DE/kg DM) + grazing and high protein balancer or 0.3 kg alfalfa oil chop (11.2 MJ DE/kg DM) and high protein balancer
180 kg lactation 2nd month (summer)	27.3	2.4–3 kg	2.6 kg good hay (9 MJ DE/kg DM) + grazing and high protein balancer or 0.2 kg alfalfa oil chop (11.2 MJ DE/kg DM) and high protein balancer
180 kg lactation 3rd month (summer)	26.5	2.4–3 kg	2.6 kg good hay (9 MJ DE/kg DM) + grazing and high protein balancer or 0.15 kg alfalfa oil chop (11.2 MJ DE/kg DM) and high protein balancer
180 kg lactation 4th month (summer)	25.5	2.4–3 kg	2.6 kg good hay (9 MJ DE/kg DM) + grazing and high protein balancer or 0.1 kg alfalfa oil chop (11.2 MJ DE/kg DM) and high protein balancer
180 kg lactation 5th month (summer)	24.5	2.4–3 kg	2.5 kg good hay (9 MJ DE/kg DM) + grazing and high protein balancer or 0.1 kg alfalfa oil chop (11.2 MJ DE/kg DM) and high protein balancer
180 kg lactation 6th month (summer)	23.6	2.4–3 kg	2.4 kg good hay (9 MJ DE/kg DM) + grazing and high protein balancer
180 kg lactation 1st month (winter)	30.2	2.7–3.1 kg	3 kg good hay (9 MJ DE/kg DM) + grazing and high protein balancer or 0.3 kg alfalfa oil chop (11.2 MJ DE/kg DM) and high protein balancer
180 kg lactation 2nd month (winter)	30	2.7–3.1 kg	3 kg good hay (9 MJ DE/kg DM) + grazing and high protein balancer or 0.2 kg alfalfa oil chop (11.2 MJ DE/kg DM) and high protein balancer
180 kg lactation 3rd month (winter)	29.2	2.7–3.1 kg	3 kg good hay (9 MJ DE/kg DM) + grazing and high protein balancer or 0.15 kg alfalfa oil chop (11.2 MJ DE/kg DM) and high protein balancer
180 kg lactation 4th month (winter)	28.2	2.7–3.1 kg	3 kg good hay (9 MJ DE/kg DM) + grazing and high protein balancer or 0.1 kg alfalfa oil chop (11.2 MJ DE/kg DM) and high protein balancer
180 kg lactation 5th month (winter)	27.2	2.7–3.1 kg	2.8 kg good hay (9 MJ DE/kg DM) + grazing and high protein balancer or 0.1 kg alfalfa oil chop (11.2 MJ DE/kg DM) and high protein balancer
180 kg lactation 6th month (winter)	26.3	2.4–3 kg	2.6 kg good hay (9 MJ DE/kg DM) grazing + high protein balancer

The table includes estimated dry matter intakes and practical dietary recommendations. DE values assume a dry matter content of 90% unless otherwise stated, foodstuffs such as haylage should be evaluated for DE levels per kg as fed and if unsure forage analysis is recommended.

Forage balancer refers to a concentrated pellet vitamin, mineral and protein supplement which does not act as a significant source of energy and which is designed to balance a forage only diet.

High protein balancer – as above but with a higher protein specification which is more suited to pregnant/lactating/growing donkeys.