

ULCERS

EQUINE GASTRIC ULCER SYNDROME (EGUS)

Industry Review...

Gastric Ulcers are a condition created by “excess” acid leading to lesions and sores in the protective lining of the stomach and/or gastro-intestinal tract.

How do Ulcers start?

Grain based rations typically offered in two large meals (high starch), competition stress, and little turn out time, lack of adequate hay or forage 24/7 in the diet, play key roles in the onset of (EGUS).

Common signs of Ulcers:

Change in eating/drinking behavior, change in attitude, weight loss, cinchiness, recurrent colic, poor hair coat, poor performance and general grumpiness!

Facts:

- **Horses produce up to 16 gallons of acid “daily”** for the purpose of anticipating the intake of hay or forage (grass) as the acid is needed for digestion to break down fiber in the diet.
- This acid is produced whether or not there is an intake of hay or forage.
- A horse’s digestive system is that of a “grazer”, to eat or nibble 24 hours per day, 7 days a week (24/7).
- When a horse has free choice hay available 24/7, the saliva produced from chewing is by nature designed to aid in neutralizing or buffering the gastric juices produced (up to 16 gallons daily) that cause the ulcer condition! This explains why a horse that is out grazing good grass, would most likely never experience (EGUS)!

Treatment:

Gastrogard (Rx) - paste – omeprazole – daily for 4 weeks is used for treatment.



Prevention/Maintenance:

Ulcergard (non-Rx) – paste – Omeprazole – as needed for prevention.

Note: both products are FDA approved to inhibit the enzymes that produce gastric acid.



Gastric Health Maintenance:

Basic management to aid in prevention of gastric upset – free choice hay 24/7, plenty of water, feeding 1 oz of salt twice daily, avoid high intake of starchy concentrated grains. **Gastro-Plex™** (pellets) provide high level probiotics, prebiotics and herbals to help restore microbial balance and can be used in conjunction with treatments (Gastrogard/Ulcergard) to support healthy gut function.

Gastric Support!



GASTRO-PLEX™
(Pellets)



GASTRO-PLEX™
(Pre-Race Paste)



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