



Today your horse was evaluated for the presence of gastric ulcers. Below is some information on feeding horses that are prone to gastric ulcers, or those that have been diagnosed with gastric ulcers.

### **Medications**

Your horse may have been placed on a course of medications to prevent or treat ulceration. Please follow the instructions on the dispensed medication closely.

### **Recheck**

A recheck appointment may have been recommended. If a follow up scope has been recommended, but a date has not been set, please let us know and we can get that booked to make sure you get the optimal time for that recheck. If you concerns please give us a call.

Sincerely,

The AEVS team

### **Information on Equine Gastric Ulcer Syndrome (EGUS)**

This is a link to a page at the college in Saskatoon that has a (long) video about equine gastric ulcer syndrome (EGUS). <https://vmc.usask.ca/care/equine-health/resources/gastric-ulcers.php#Generalinformation>

EGUS comes in two different forms and it is possible for a horse to have one or the other, or both. EGUS can be responsible for many clinical signs, including attitude changes, colic, cinchiness, bucking, kicking, grinding teeth and increased gas production.

As a general rule here are some things that can be done to help prevent ulcers in all horses:

1. Allow free-choice access to grass or hay. Horses are designed to be grazers with a constant intake of roughage.
2. Allow horses to be in a herd situation where possible.
3. If a horse must be stalled, arrange for the horse to see the horses they normally socialize with. Consider offering a ball or other object that the horse can enjoy in their stall. Slow feeder hay nets and balls are available.
4. Feed your horse more frequently to aid with buffering stomach acid.
5. In high stress situations you can administer supplements (such as AFX and sucralfate) to protect the lining of the stomach
6. Avoid high grain/concentrate meals and focus on high fibre meals. Fiber comes from many sources, the most common one for horses is hay. It can also come from straw, alfalfa cubes and beet pulp.



7. Feed a horse about an ice cream pail full of fibre (hay or other material) about 30 minutes before a ride. This helps reduce the contact of the acid of the stomach with the sensitive lining in the stomach.

There are some supplements that can be provided to horses to help prevent ulcers. It is important to remember that, while the supplements are a great start at preventing ulcers, they will not heal ulcers that are present and are not a substitute for proper management (as noted above). This is also not an exhaustive list of supplements available, but they are the ones that we have seen work on a variety of horses.

- **Visceral+ (MadBarn):** formulated with the highest quality natural ingredients including probiotics, yeast, herbs, minerals and amino acids to support your horse's gut health and immune system. It was developed in conjunction with veterinarians and is clinically tested in horses to help maintain stomach and hindgut health. Provides nutritional support for your horse's entire digestive tract from stomach to colon.
- **Secure Guard (Arenus):** Secure Guard provides gastric support without shutting down acid production. It works to stabilize and condition the entire digestive tract for a long term, balanced approach. Antacids, enzymes, and probiotics work to support the stomach, small intestines, and colon while psyllium adds extra stabilization of the hindgut. Secure Guard can break the cycle of digestive disturbances that lead to recurrent gastric and hind gut imbalances.
- **Secure Guard Gold (Arenus):** It helps maintain a healthy digestive system for all types of horses, including performance. With no added sugars, Secure Guard Gold is the digestive and equine ulcer supplement of choice for horses with Equine Metabolic Syndrome. Secure Guard Gold packs a powerful punch and delivers fast digestive relief. Having a calm and happy digestive system keeps your horse at the top of their game. Secure Guard Gold works to support the entire digestive tract from the stomach through the hindgut. You can trust that your horse's total digestive health is being supported for optimal function. A single ingredient won't fix a horse's digestive system. It takes the right combination to ensure proper digestive health.
- **AFX:** neutralizes stomach acid and helps prevent ulcers in horses and has a naturally calming affect. You will immediately see a more comfortable and calmer horse during work that responds quickly and willingly, rides calmly and comfortably in the trailer and eats well after performing. This liquid mineral supplement with L-Glutamine amino acid supports a healthy mucous lining through the digestive tract.
- **Equitop Pronutrin:** a unique combination of pectin fibres, lecithin, and glycerol, which work to reinforce the lining of the stomach wall.