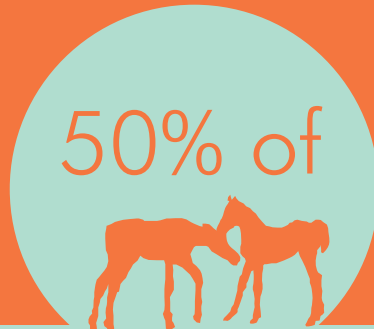


Does my horse have GASTRIC ULCERS?

— CAUSES, SIGNS, TREATMENT & PREVENTION —

Brought to you by  **HYGAIN**



...have gastric **ulcers!**

HOW DO GASTRIC ULCERS DEVELOP?

Horses secrete...



30ltr

...of gastric acid /day

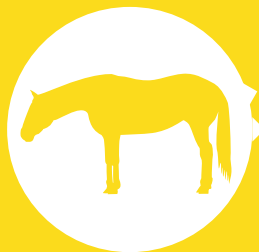


When horses are **unable to access food** on a continual basis, such as when grazing, the pH balance of the stomach changes drastically and **gastric juices begin to attack the stomach mucosa.**

1kg HAY	1kg GRAIN
CHEWING MOVEMENT 3000	1000
SALIVA PRODUCTION 4ltr	2ltr

Acid produced in the stomach is generally **buffered by saliva**, if access to feed is reduced the saliva production is greatly reduced. As a result the horse's stomach lacks the **buffer coating to protect the stomach** lining from acid.

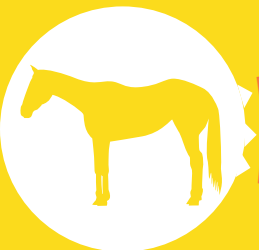
CLINICAL SIGNS OF ULCERS



Decreased performance
Just doesn't "look right"



Discomfort
Attitude Change



Poor Appetite
Weight Loss
Poor Body Condition

CAUSES OF ULCERS

HIGH GRAIN
little roughage

EXERCISE
ON EMPTY STOMACH

PHYSICAL AND
BEHAVIOURAL
STRESS

LONG TERM
NON-STEROIDAL
ANTI-INFLAMMATORY
ADMINISTRATION

There is only

one way to **confirm ulcers:**

ESOPHAGOGASTROSCOPY

“Stomach scoping”



Possible **Treatment** Options

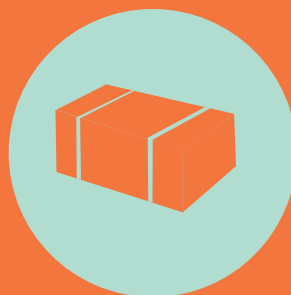
H2 Blockers

Proton-Pump
INHIBITORS

ULCER PREVENTION



Avoid long periods without food and **feed frequent small meals.**



Feed ad lib hay - if feed is withheld the pH in the stomach drops to 2 in 21hrs



Place **feed bins on the ground** to simulate the horse's normal grazing position as it helps his chewing action, stimulating the production of more saliva.



Allow the horse to walk around and **self-exercise** and **graze** as if he would in the wild, this way he always has feed in his stomach.



Avoid physical/behavioural **stress** and long treatments with **non-steroidal anti-inflammatory** drugs such as Phenylbutazone.



Do not exercise on an empty stomach as this allows acid to attack the stomach wall when it is



Feed a small amount of **lucerne chaff or HYGAIN FIBRESENTIAL** prior to work as both fibres help in two ways by acting as a physical barrier and secondly the calcium may neutralize the acid.