

GASTROSCOPE FASTING PROTOCOL

FAST for 14 hours prior to scope
NO hay, grain, grass, or treats!

PULL WATER BUCKETS from stall
4 hours prior to scope

**Some horses may attempt to eat their bedding –
if this is the case, please remove straw and/or
shavings until after appointment is completed.**

*Please contact the office if you have any
questions or concerns about these instructions.*





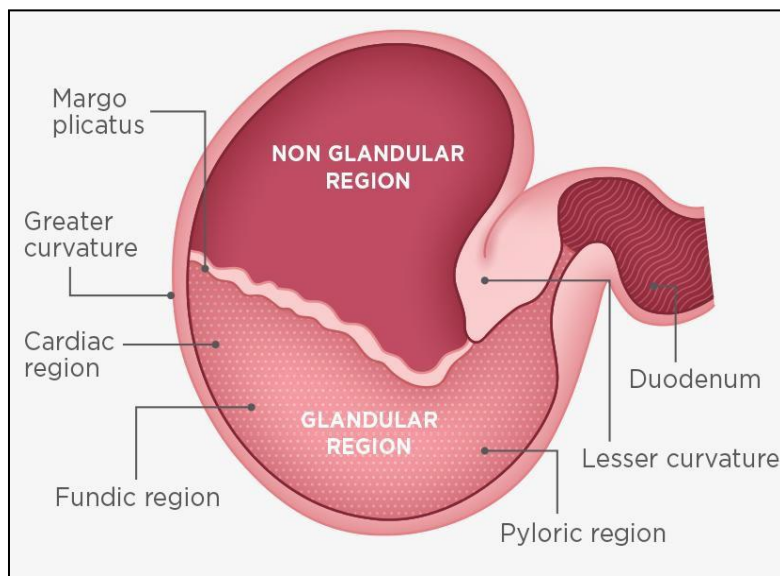
Equine Gastric Ulcer Syndrome

Anatomy:

The equine stomach is comprised of two parts:

- **Squamous** (Non-glandular) - Top portion; similar to our skin; responsible for grinding food; sensitive to gastric acid.
- **Glandular** - Bottom portion; similar to our stomach; secretes acid.
- The equine stomach constantly secretes gastric acid, as they were designed to graze most of the day. This is unlike people who secrete acid in response to a meal.

Both portions of the stomach are susceptible to ulceration and are treated differently.



Feeding Horses to Gastric Ulcers:

Treat or Reduce Risk of

Roughage - grass, hay, alfalfa cubes/pellets

- Feed roughage throughout the day/night in multiple, smaller amounts rather than bulk feeding in 1-2 meals. The idea is to have some roughage in the stomach at all times to prevent periods of fasting. You may consider using a slow-feeder hay net to make the forage last longer.
- Turnout as much as possible. Grazing helps reduce stress, prevent boredom, and ensure that there is always roughage in the stomach.
- Grain meals increase the acidity in the stomach. Feed roughage (especially alfalfa) before grain meals to minimize this phenomenon.
- Feed your horse hay/forage before racing/training/exercising. This ensures that there is roughage in the stomach which decreases the "sloshing" effect that might occur in an empty stomach.

Grain

- Minimize feeding of sweet feeds, grains, and sugars (e.g. treats) A low starch/sugar feed is recommended. Foods higher in fat or ration balancers are better for the stomach.
- Consider increasing fat (i.e. corn oil), especially if the horse needs more calories. Please discontinue supplementation or decrease the amount if you notice loose feces, inappetence, or excessive weight



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gain.

Treatments for EGUS:

Omeprazole – TREATMENT of squamous ulcers

- Omeprazole is a proton-pump inhibitor that works by blocking the acid pump directly.
- Ulcer treatment is usually 30 days of a full dose (1 tube/1250 lbs). GastroGard once daily; this medication is best absorbed on an empty stomach, so it is recommended to administer *1 hour prior to any feed*.

Omeprazole – PREVENTION of squamous ulcers

- Once treated, you may consider 1 dose of UlcerGard ($\frac{1}{4}$ of a tube) or 250 lb dose of GastroGard ($\frac{1}{5}$ of a tube) every day when traveling or competing. You may also consider administering the preventative dose of GastroGard/UlcerGard every day or every 2-3 days while training.

Misoprostol – Used to treat glandular and/or pyloric ulcers.

- Misoprostol is a prostaglandin analog that may stimulate blood flow and mucus production.
- Treatment course is usually 30 days but some horses may take 2-3 months for complete resolution.
- *Please wear gloves when handling this drug. Avoid contact with this medication if you are pregnant.*

Sucralfate – Used in combination with the above medications to treat ulcers.

- Sucralfate is a mucosal binding agent which may provide physical protection as well as stimulate healing of ulcerated tissue.

Acid Buffers

- Purina Outlast is a supplement clinically shown to buffer acid in the stomach and also promote a healthy gastric environment. It may be fed as a top dressing on feed or as a treat/snack up to 6 times per day.
- Calcium in supplements like U gard, Neigh-Lox and other preventative supplements help decrease the acidity in the stomach.
- Hyaluronic acid supplements like Gut X or RelyneGI can be beneficial as well.

Follow-up/Recheck Gastroscopy:

- Horses should be rescoped at 28-30 days of therapy PRIOR to stopping medications to ensure that the ulcerations have healed if not resolved, additional or different treatments may be necessary.
- If your horse is treated with omeprazole, it is recommended to administer a dose of GastroGard ~16 hours prior to the recheck gastroscopy. This is so that pH testing can be performed should imagine reveal persistence of ulcers through the proper treatment.

Horse: _____

Owner: _____

Date: _____

Gastroscope Questionnaire

Relevant History Questions

Please answer the following questions prior to your upcoming appointment and return to the office.

1. Common Symptoms (check all that apply):

☐ Poor or Reduced Appetite/Hunger – ex. horse will start eating their grain and then become disinterested before finishing.

☐ Weight Loss – either acute/sudden or chronic/long term

☐ Attitude Changes – ex. grumpiness, dullness, anxiety (weaving, pacing, pawing, cribbing), or other vices. *Please list in more detail:*

☐ Colic – may be singular events OR repeated episodes in a short period of time.

☐ Girthiness (sensitivity when being girthed/cinched up, while brushing, or when riding).

☐ Poor haircoat and/or poor body condition

☐ Reluctance to train

☐ Decreased performance

2. Has your horse previously had a gastroscopy? Yes or No

If 'Yes', what were the findings? Please elaborate in more detail:



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3. Does your horse routinely receive NSAIDs (ex. Equioxx, Bute, Banamine)? Yes or No
If 'Yes', at what dosage and frequency?

4. Does your horse receive any other PRESCRIPTION medications? Yes or No
(note this does not include supplements)

If 'Yes', at what dosage and frequency?

5. What is your horse's current diet? Please list brand/product names (if applicable), amount by weight or by volume/container, and frequency (ex. 1 coffee can scoop twice per day, 2 flakes twice per day, etc.)

Grain, Pelleted Feeds, Ration Balancers, etc.:

Hay or Forage Products (ex. cubes, pellets):

Supplements:

6. What is your horse's current living arrangement (stall time vs turnout time)?



7. What is your horse's riding or exercise routine? Type/intensity of work, average length of time per ride or session, average number of times per week, etc.

8. Do you show routinely? Yes or No

9. How frequently do you travel with your horse? Please elaborate in more detail:

10. Are there any other concerns or symptoms that made you decide to have your horse scoped for ulcers? Is there any other additional information that you wish to provide that isn't covered in the above questions?

Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health (Boehringer) is committed to working with veterinarians and promoting diagnosis, treatment and prevention of disease in horses. That's why we are proud to offer the Gastrogard® (omeprazole) Paste Customer Satisfaction Program, supporting the safe and efficacious treatment of equine gastric ulcer syndrome (EGUS) with products approved by the FDA and the strength of the company that brought the pioneer product to market.

Through the GASTROGARD Customer Satisfaction Program, certain cases of EGUS that have not responded to treatment according to both label claims and reasonable expectations may be eligible for additional support from Boehringer.* Support for qualifying cases **may include**:



- Consultations with veterinary experts



- Reimbursement for gastroscopic exam(s) performed in direct pursuit of the lack of expected treatment response (the initial diagnostic exam and first rescope are not reimbursable)



- Assistance with gastric pH evaluation
- Additional prescription(s) of GASTROGARD, as deemed appropriate by the Boehringer Veterinary Technical Solutions (VeTS) team
- Product will be shipped to clinic. Boehringer will not reimburse for product already dispensed

NOTE: Support for squamous ulcers and glandular ulcers may vary based on history, diagnosis and recommendations of the VeTS team.

Terms and Conditions of the GASTROGARD Customer Satisfaction Program

To participate in the program, the following materials should be provided to Boehringer:

- Report of initial gastroscopic exam, including history, clinical signs, and all gastroscopy findings including representative images
- Proof of purchase of 28 days of treatment with GASTROGARD, prescribed by a licensed veterinarian per the label recommendations (4 mg/kg once a day for 28 days)
- Proof of client payment for initial and first rescope gastroscopic exam
- Full description of feeding, management, and stabling/husbandry practices, as well as any other treatments or supplements being administered
- Documentation of follow up rescope exam(s), including representative images, pH measurements, and associated treatment records
 - Preferably while horse is still receiving GASTROGARD, but at bare minimum within 48 hours of cessation of GASTROGARD treatment
 - Results need to be showing less improvement in gastric ulcers than expected according to label claims
- Claim must be received by Boehringer within 30 days of the examination determining lack of expected response
- We cannot reimburse for a product already dispensed or prescribed, but we are committed to providing a replacement or alternative product as needed

To learn more about the GASTROGARD Customer Satisfaction Program or to make a claim, contact a Boehringer VeTS representative by calling **888-637-4251** or via e-mail at **USTechSolutions@boehringer-ingelheim.com**.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION: The safety of GASTROGARD paste has not been determined in pregnant or lactating mares. For use in horses and foals four weeks of age and older. Keep this and all drugs out of the reach of children. In case of ingestion, contact a physician. Caution: Federal (USA) law restricts this drug to use by or on the order of a licensed veterinarian.

*Participants may be eligible for up to \$5000 in services and product.

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