

# Equine Gastric Ulcer Syndrome



## What is equine gastric ulcer syndrome?

- Sores that form on the stomach lining
- Common in performance horses
- Diets low in roughage and high in grain, and chronic administration of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), can contribute to the development of ulcers.
- Physical and environmental stressors, such as transport and stall confinement, are additional risk factors.

## What you can do to keep your horse healthy:

- Feed horses frequently or on a free choice basis (pasture)
- Reduce amount of grain and concentrates and/or add alfalfa
- Avoid or decrease use of NSAIDs
- Limit stressful situations such as intense training and frequent transporting
- If horses must be stalled, allow them to see and socialize with other horses and have access to forage.

### Signs

Poor appetite  
Dullness  
Attitude changes  
Decreased performance  
Poor body condition  
Weight loss  
Girthiness

### Causes

- Diets low in roughage and high in grain
- Physical and environmental stressors
- Chronic administration of NSAIDs such as bute or banamine

### Treatment

- Omeprazole (FDA-approved)
- Reduce training intensity
- Increase turnout on pasture
- Minimize NSAIDs

*\*If your horse needs medical care, contact the Large Animal Clinic at (530) 752-1393.*



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