

Equine Gastric Ulceration Syndrome (EGUS)

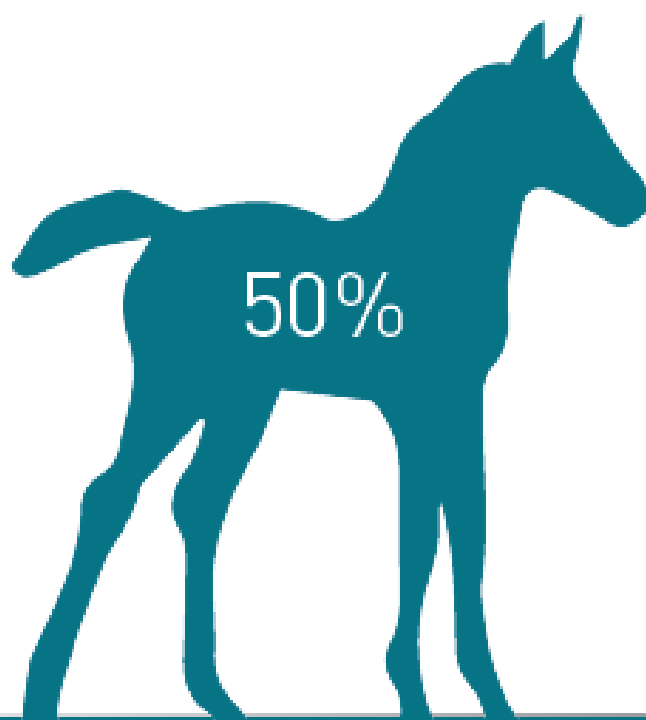
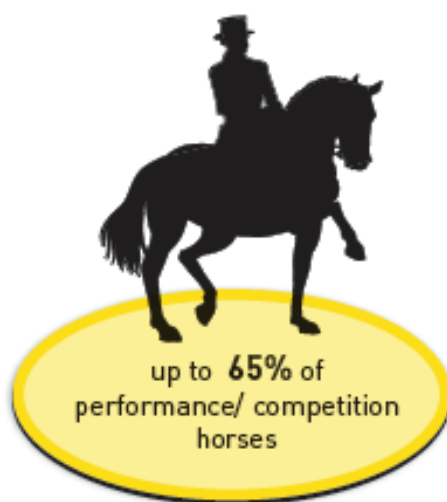
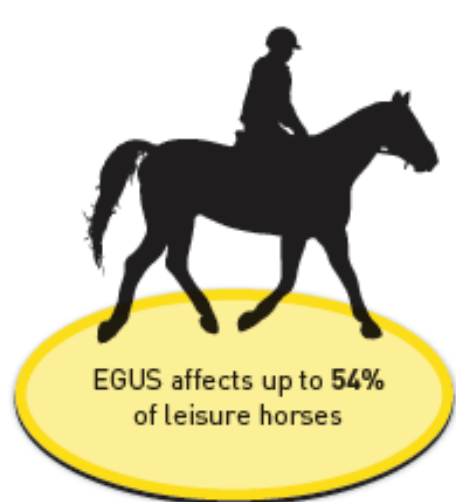
A serious and common condition that could be affecting your horse or foal^{1,2}



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EGUS is a serious and common condition that could affect your horse or foal^{1,2}

How common is EGUS? ^{1,3,4}



Approximately **50%** of foals develop gastric ulcers, particularly during the first few months of their life⁵

What is EGUS?

What is a gastric ulcer?



Prolonged exposure to gastric acid is thought to be the primary cause of EGUS²

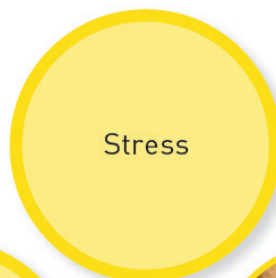
- EGUS is a disease associated with injury to the inner lining of the oesophagus, stomach and the upper part of the intestine²
- Your horse produces a steady flow of stomach acid to aid in digestion¹
- Their naturally acidic stomach contents are buffered by saliva produced in response to regular eating and by the food itself²
- Domestication (e.g. stabling, restricted grazing) has reduced the time our horses spend eating
 - resulting in prolonged periods when the stomach is empty and reduced production of saliva.
- In addition feeding grain (rather than roughage) can produce types of acid which contribute to the already acidic environment of the stomach¹

What causes EGUS?

There are many risk factors that may cause your horse or foal to suffer from gastric ulcers. These include:^{1,2}



Transportation



Stress



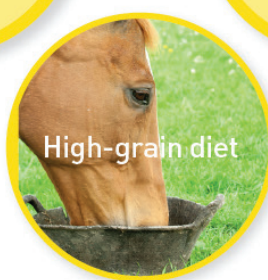
Other illnesses



Intense exercise



Intermittent feeding & water



High-grain diet



Inappropriate management

Does your horse or foal have any of the following clinical signs?

Horse²

- Poor appetite
- Poor body condition
- Changes in attitude
- Acute and recurrent colic
- Poor performance

In adult horses, clinical signs may appear, and or progress, as training intensity, speed and workload increase.²

Foal^{2,4}

- Poor appetite
- Poor body condition
- Changes in attitude
- Acute and recurrent colic
- Regurgitation of milk
- Diarrhoea

Clinical signs in foals can initially be very subtle and progress rapidly therefore it is important to contact your vet immediately if you have any concerns²

The only accurate way to definitively diagnose or monitor EGUS is by a process known as gastroscopy,¹ which involves a vet visualising and examining your horse's oesophagus, stomach and intestine using a gastroscope.

References:

1 Bell RJ, et al. Equine gastric ulcer syndrome in adult horses: a review. NZ Vet J 2007; 55 (1): 1-12.

2 Picavet M-Th. EQUINE GASTRIC ULCER SYNDROME. Proceedings of the First European Equine Nutrition & Health Congress. February 9 2002. Antwerp Zoo, Belgium.

3 Murray MJ, et al. Gastric ulcers in horses: A comparison of endoscopic findings in horses with and without clinical signs. Equine Vet J 1989; 7(Suppl): 68-72.

4 Sykes BW, et. al. (2015) ECEIM consensus statement- Equine Gastric Ulcer Syndrome in Adult Horses. JVIM; 29:1288-1299.

5 Murray MJ, et al. Prevalence of gastric lesions in foals without signs of gastric disease: an endoscopic survey. Equine Vet J 1990; 22(1): 6-8.

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If you recognise any of these signs, contact your vet immediately to discuss EGUS



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