

SPRING PADDOCKS EQUINE
VETERINARY SURGEONS

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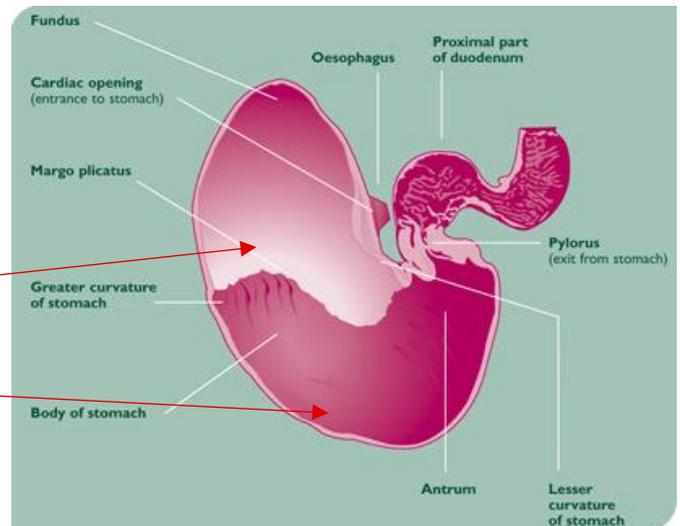
EQUINE GASTRIC ULCER FACTSHEET

What are gastric ulcers?

A Gastric Ulcer is a description of an area of the stomach lining which has been eroded or damaged.

There are two main areas of the equine stomach;

- 1) Non- Glandular
- 2) Glandular



1. Non- Glandular Ulcers

This area of the stomach is poorly protected against the acid which normally sits in the lower Glandular region. It is therefore prone to acid damage, especially when this acid level builds up as a result of;

- Inadequate fibre intake
- High concentrate diet
- Stressy behaviour

These ulcers usually respond well to treatment with Omeprazole ('Peptizole') and management changes.

Other management tips;

- Increase long fibre intake and ensure evenly spread throughout the day
- Reduce stress by ensuring horses have company etc (magnesium calmers can also be useful in certain horses)

2. Glandular Ulcers

This area of the stomach is very well protected against acid damage as it is where the stomach acid normally collects. Ulcers in this region remain relatively poorly understood, but are thought to be caused by a restriction in blood flow to the area. It is suggested that these ulcers can be linked to the following;

- Intense exercise (as the blood flow to the stomach is reduced)
- Illness (as blood flow is often reduced in the stomach)
- Medication
- However, some horses presenting with glandular ulcers do not fit this pattern

Treatment is more difficult for these glandular ulcers but usually consists of a combination of omeprazole ('Peptizole'), sucralfate or misoprostal ('Cytotec')

Supplements containing Seabuckthorn Berry extract and a Pectin-Lecithin complex may also help these glandular ulcers eg SmartGut® Ultra Pellets.