

GASTROSCOPY



The symptoms of gastric ulceration can be wide ranging and the only way to be sure if ulcers are present is by performing a gastroscopic examination. We have a portable gastroscope which enables us to fully evaluate your horse's stomach for the presence of gastric ulcers either out on your yard or at the hospital.

Gastrosocopy is usually performed to investigate the presence of gastric ulcers. There are two types of gastric ulceration in horses.

- Ulceration to the non glandular epithelium
- Ulceration to the glandular epithelium (pyloric ulceration)

The symptoms of gastric ulceration can be wide ranging but can include:

- Loss of condition
- Poor coat quality
- Resentment in being tacked up
- Pain on the right hand side girth region, noticed when grooming
- Recurrent low grade colic

Some horses can have both types of gastric ulceration at the same time. We have found gastric ulcers in all types of horses and ponies from racehorses through to forest grazed New Forest ponies.

Both types of ulceration are graded from 0-4 in severity with grade 0 indicating that no ulceration is present and 4 being the most severe grade.

The only way to be sure which type of ulcers (if any) your horse has and subsequently the best way to treat them is to have a gastroscopic examination performed. This procedure is also used to monitor the response to treatment of gastric ulceration.

We require horses/ponies to be starved for 18 hours prior to the examination, this can be done at home or sometimes clients feel happier for their horse to come in the night before the procedure so the food can be withheld under our supervision.

The gastroscopy is usually performed under sedation in stocks at our hospital.

Our equipment is portable so if the horse is unable to come to our hospital we can perform the gastroscopy out at your yard.

There are various treatment options when it comes to treating equine gastric ulcers but these all depend on the type and the extent of the ulceration in your horse.



Delivering first-class veterinary care to the New Forest since 1923