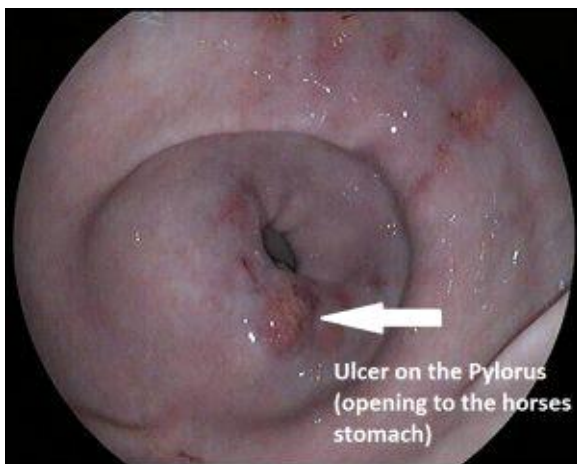


GASTRIC SCOPING HORSES

Gastric ulceration is a very common condition for horses of various age, breed and discipline. The prevalence of the disease is very high, with up to 90% of racehorses, 75% of sport horses and 60% of show and pleasure horses suffering the condition.

Clinical signs of gastric ulceration can be vague and variable, making it difficult to diagnose but can include:



- Failure to thrive, gain weight
- Recurrent or intermittent colic
- Poor performance
- Behavioural problems, irritability, nervousness and aggression
- Dull, rough coat
- Reluctance or resistance to work, jump etc
- Windsucking/Cribbing

Does your horse exhibit any of these symptoms? The only way to definitively diagnose gastric ulcers is by passing an endoscope into your horse's stomach.



What is involved?

In order to properly assess the gastric mucosa, the horse must be fasted from food for 12 hours, and water for 6 hours. This usually requires the horse to be stabled or put into a bare yard overnight. If this is not possible a grazing muzzle can be used. You will also be asked to complete a short questionnaire regarding your horse's history relevant to the gastroscope including diet, exercise and previous treatment.

On the day of the gastroscope your horse will be given a brief clinical exam before being sedated. A stomach tube will be passed via one of the nostrils, down the oesophagus, into the stomach which is used to guide the gastroscope.

The entire stomach is examined, and images taken. A dental gag will also be placed to perform a full dental examination if appropriate. A treatment plan will then be discussed if required based on the findings and your horses history. All horses will be followed up 90 days later, and if necessary a follow-up gastroscope performed.

Rarely, but on occasion, some horses may experience some colic symptoms after the procedure as gas is used to inflate the stomach. If this occurs your horse will be assessed and treated for these symptoms.

Further Information

For further information about this procedure or to enquire about having your horse scoped please contact Urunga Veterinary Clinic [\(02\) 6655 5299](tel:0266555299)

