



# WENSUM VALLEY VETS NEWSLETTER



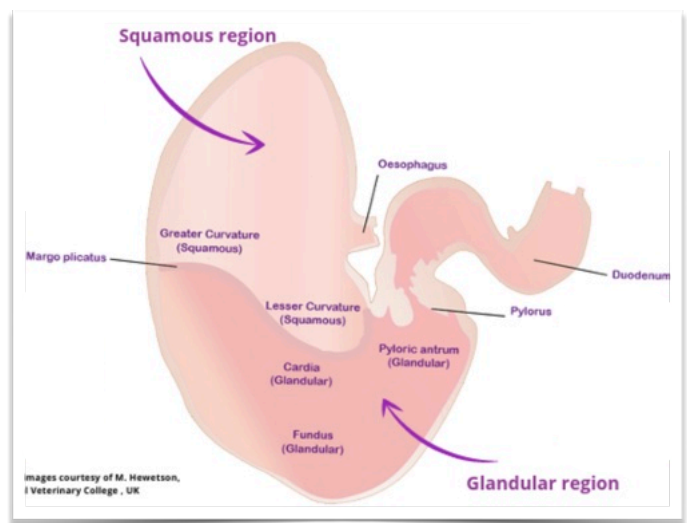
## Equine Gastric Ulcer Syndrome (EGUS) Part 1: The signs and types of disease

Equine Gastric Ulcer Syndrome (EGUS) is a common condition affecting horses of all ages, disciplines and lifestyles. Gastric ulcers can impact performance, behaviour and overall health, so it is important that you can recognise the signs of gastric ulcers so that we can diagnose and treat them.

### Signs of Gastric Ulcers

Horses with gastric ulcers may show a variety of signs, including (but not limited to):

- “Girthiness” or sensitivity when being saddled or rugged
- Changes in behaviour, including irritability
- Poor performance or ridden issues
- Poor appetite or reluctance to eat



- Weight loss or failure to maintain condition
- Dull coat
- Mild, recurrent colic episodes
- Teeth grinding or excessive salivation

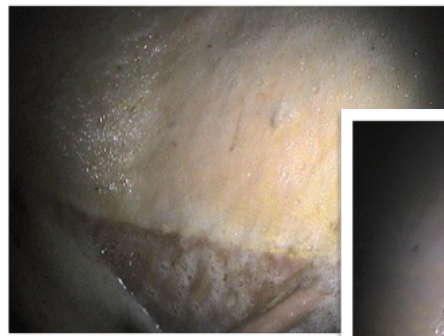
*If your horse exhibits any of these signs it is essential to consult your vet for a thorough examination.*

## Types of Equine Gastric Ulcers

EGUS is divided into two main types, which affect the two differing parts of the stomach.

### *Equine Squamous Gastric Disease (ESGD)*

This affects the upper, non-glandular portion of the stomach and is caused by prolonged exposure of the 'squamous' (non-acid producing) part of the stomach to stomach acid which it has no protection against. It is often linked to diet/exercise/lifestyle, and common in horses that are stabled for long periods of time with low volumes of forage (hay/haylage), such as racehorse/performance horses.



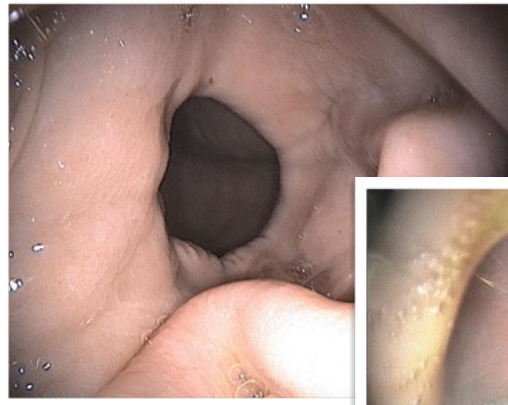
Healthy squamous tissue



Squamous ulcers

### *Equine Glandular Gastric Disease (EGGD)*

EGGD affects the lower, glandular/acid-producing portion of the stomach. These ulcers are usually focused around the pylorus, the exit of the stomach. It is less well understood and can sometimes be found in horses of all management systems, lifestyles, feeding and training regimes. EGGD is primarily linked to impaired mucosal (stomach lining) defence mechanisms, which allow the mucosa that is normally protected to be ulcerated by stomach acid. These impaired mucosal defence mechanisms can also be exacerbated by stress, diet, and exercise intensity.



Healthy glandular tissue at the pylorus



Glandular ulcers at the pylorus

*If you suspect your horse has ulcers, please contact us on 01328 864444 for further advice. Look out for part 2 in May which will cover the diagnosis and treatment of EGUS.*

