

Wright & Morten Equine Newsletter



www.wmvets.co.uk

April 2022

Charity News

Ukraine

We are all very aware of the terrible situation in Ukraine at the moment and the need for everyone to pull together to support in many ways. As a business, IVC Evidensia are offering support in a variety of areas including direct veterinary care for displaced animals, both in terms of time and costs; financially we have donated £100,000 directly to the International Red Cross to support their vital humanitarian work in the Ukraine; in terms of People we are committed to supporting Ukrainian veterinary surgeons who have left Ukraine with employment opportunities within our practices and professional development needs.



Sudan

Refugees – on another different, but similar theme, Wright and Morten as part of IVC are providing work experience for refugees from Sudan who are looking to gain experience of veterinary practice in the UK. This group of ladies, who are all qualified vets, will be seeking practice experience so they can sit the RCVS board exam which will enable them to work as Veterinary surgeons in the U.K. Most of the ladies are from a small animal background or have been working in the food industry or lecturing at University in Sudan but will still require some Equine Experience. They will be joining our teams across the UK, including here at Somerford and we will be provided them with accommodation for the period they are with us. So if you see them whilst here at The Equine Clinic, I'm sure they would love to chat to you all about their stay in Cheshire.



W&M AI package for the 2022 stud season:

If you are thinking of breeding from your mare, we are pleased to be able to offer our AI packages once more this year. They are:

- £360 Fresh Semen
- £510 Frozen Semen

These prices are per cycle, inclusive of VAT and there is no further "in foal fee";

What's included

- Pre-breeding clinical examination
- Ultrasound scans associated with insemination and up to 3 pregnancy scans at days 14, 27/28 and 42/45 post insemination (all taking place at Somerford clinic)
- 1 ovulating agent
- 1 oxytocin injection if required
- 1 post insemination uterine lavage with sterile saline
- 1 injection of prostaglandin if necessary to short cycle the mare

Not included

- Livery fees
- Non-routine drugs e.g. sedation
- Additional intrauterine therapy (if required)
- Procedures – squeezing twins, caslicks, pre-breeding swabbing or biopsies
- External laboratory fees

Please contact the office on 01260 280800 and ask to speak to a vet if you have any questions.



Gastroscope Clinic

Our gastroscopy clinic is back!

For the whole of April, at our Somerford Park Clinic, we are offering this fantastic opportunity to look into any niggles before the start of the season!

GASTROSCOPE CLINIC APRIL 2022 - JUST £75*

- Offer includes initial scope (including sedation), gait analysis, and full clinical examination
- Open to new and existing customers
- IN CLINIC ONLY
- Procedure carried out under standing sedation
- Payment BEFORE the day
- Limited slots available
- Any treatment/aftercare will be an additional cost and at our usual rates

Please contact the office on 01260 280800 to book your space now!

***overnight livery for starving will be at a reduced livery cost of £15**

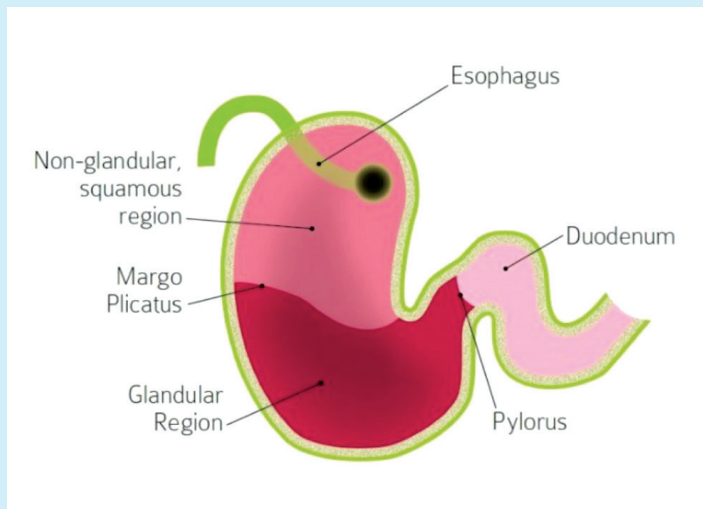


What are Gastric Ulcers?

Equine Gastric Ulcer Syndrome (EGUS) is the disease process that occurs when the lining of the horse's stomach becomes damaged by the acid present and required for digestion of food.

There are two main regions of an equine stomach, the glandular and squamous portions.

- The glandular is the bottom half of the stomach where the initial act of food digestion occurs. This area appears dark pink and produces acid continually ensuring there is always acid present within the stomach. The glandular mucosa therefore already has a natural protective layer to stop ulceration occurring.
- The squamous mucosa is the top half of the stomach where food enters from the oesophagus. This does not have a protective mucus lining like the glandular mucosa as naturally, it should never come into contact with the stomach acid. When viewed on a gastroscop it appears pale pink in colour.
- The line between these two regions is known as the margo plicatus and is a common site to find ulceration.



Regardless of where in your horse's stomach the ulcers are, they have all been caused in the same way; the acid in the stomach has caused damage to the cells in the stomach wall lining and eroded them away.

Due to their different functions, there are different reasons for ulceration to occur within the different parts of the stomach (although there is also some crossover!)

- **Squamous ulceration** – mostly due to excess or too strong acid in the stomach coming into contact with the unprotected squamous cells. Stress, diet, turnout and strenuous exercise are common causes of this type of ulceration.
- **Glandular ulceration** – this occurs due to failure of the protective layer that naturally protects the glandular cells from the acid. Stress, long term low level pain and drug use can cause this type of ulceration.
- Glandular ulcers generally heal more slowly than squamous ulcers.

Treatment involves administration of a drug called omeprazole, often in conjunction with a powdered drug called sucralfate. There are two formulations of omeprazole available; an oral and an injectable.

- Omeprazole acts to increasing gastric pH by suppressing acid production.
- This decreases the irritation to the glandular area of the stomach and should any splash back occur into the squamous region it is less severe.
- Sucralfate works by forming a barrier over the areas of ulceration, mainly in the glandular region which is where the protection from the stomach acid is mainly required.

Feeding and management:

Feeding long fibre

- Long fibre stimulates saliva production which buffers stomach acid.
- It also provides a fibrous mat on top of the stomach acid to reduce/prevent splash back.

Adding chopped fibre to concentrate feeds is helpful to stimulate further saliva production.

- Alfalfa has been shown to buffer the acidity in the stomach so is considered a useful chaff in these cases.

Feed majority of roughage during daytime rather than overnight.

Soak hay/haylage for 6-12 hours to reduce sugar content if concerns regarding weight gain.

Corn, vegetable or rapeseed oil (45-100ml twice daily) can increase protective prostaglandin production, potentially improving glandular ulcer healing in addition to providing a non-heating source of calories – although it has no effect in cases of squamous ulceration.

Feeding a scoop of chopped fibre within 30mins of starting exercise will reduce splash lesion risks.

Limiting stresses e.g. exercise, stabling and transport is very important and helpful.

Application of stereotypy-reducing strategies may help e.g. multiple haynets in stable to encourage "foraging" activity, herd management, boredom breakers etc.

