

SA's New Stride

IN EQUINE NUTRITION



In the highly competitive, high stakes world of the horse, high performance starts with the health of a horse, naturally. Now leadership in equine feed reaches a new level as trusted brands **Epol** and **Equus** come together and raise the performance bar in equine nutrition. With more than 100 years of experience in the feed industry, **Epol** has withstood the test of time continuously adding value to the performance of your horse. **Equus** brings strength to the partnership that is rooted in principles of natural feeding techniques. With the latest research **Epol** and **Equus** provide the next level in equine nutrition.

Giving you all you need from one brand stable.



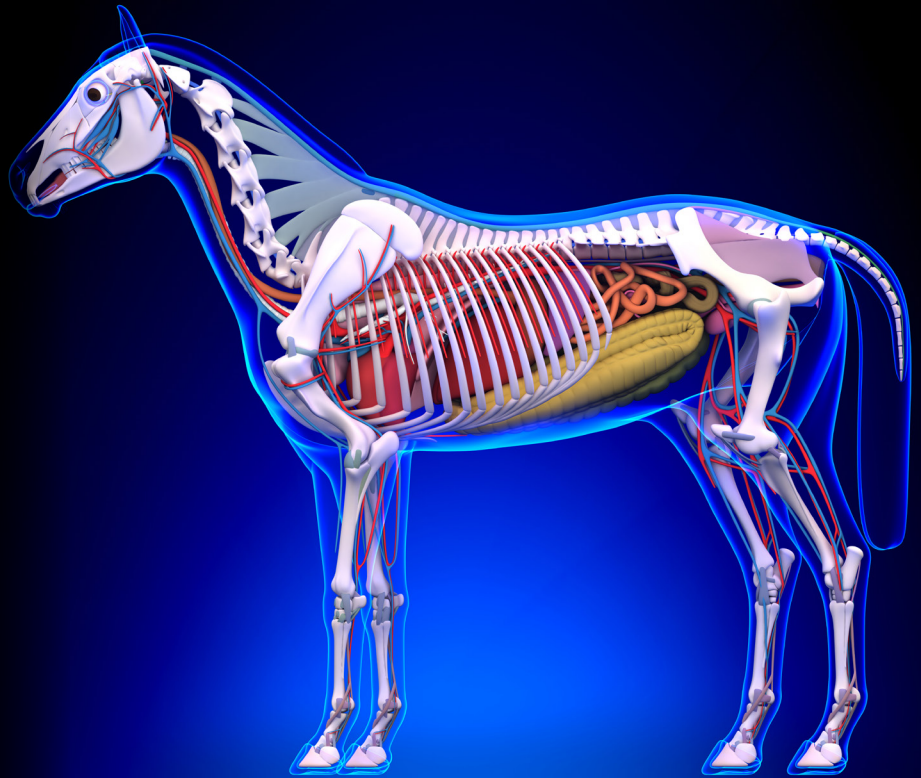
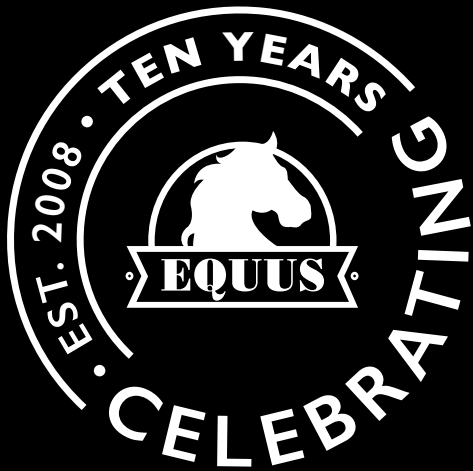
Epol Feeding Advice:
 Debbie.Dick@rclfoods.com | info@epol.co.za
 076 755 5164 | +27(0)31 242-8600
 info@epol.co.za | www.epol.co.za



Equus Feeding Advice:
 +27 73 423 5491 | +27 83 998 6824
 Hannah.botha@rclfoods.com
 Helen.Gilfillan@rclfoods.com
 www.equusfeeds.co.za



Should you have any queries or concerns, please contact tech.equus@driehoek.co.za



GETTING TO GRIPS WITH GASTRIC ACID

Did you know the average horse's stomach only has a 7.6-15L capacity? That's because it was designed to digest a small but steady forage stream throughout the day.

Horses evolved as grazers, spending two-thirds of the day grazing. As they continuously graze, they produce large amounts of saliva and maintain a mixture of roughage and saliva in their stomach most, if not all, of the time that buffers it from the acid. However, common performance horse feeding practices don't typically follow that routine.

When horses are fed meals, especially concentrates containing cereal grains that pass through the stomach more quickly than roughage, there are often times during the day or overnight when the stomach is empty of feed. It is, however, still producing strong gastric acid. In fact, horses produce up to 60 litres of acidic gastric juice each day.

That's approximately equivalent to:

- The tank of an average car;
- Six 10L water buckets; and
- Half of an average bathtub.

The horse's stomach is separated into upper and lower parts. The lower portion is lined by glandular mucosa and is where the acid is produced. That's where the acid is meant to reside and digest food. The glandular mucosa has a thick mucous layer, robust blood flow, and naturally-produced sodium bicarbonate, all of which protect the lower portion of the stomach from the acid.

The upper part of the stomach, however, is lined by squamous mucosa and doesn't have the same protection from the acid. If the stomach doesn't have any food in it, the acidic juice can accumulate and reach or splash up and contact the unprotected upper part of the stomach, burning the squamous lining and causing stomach ulcers.

"Horse owners have to consider the sheer amount of acid the horse's stomach produces, and that acid is being produced whether there is food in the stomach or not," said Hoyt Cheramie, DVM, MS, Dipl. ACVS, senior equine professional service veterinarian for Boehringer Ingelheim. "The most natural way to feed a horse is to provide grazing for most of the day.

"However, he continued, "that isn't feasible for most performance horses that are fed large infrequent meals, have limited turnout and grazing, and are under the stress of training, showing, and traveling; yet their stomachs still produce all of that gastric fluid on relatively empty stomachs."



TESTIMONIAL

Dear Equus

Thank you for your expert advise, i have to say I was really skeptical to change my horses to a new feed , but the results most certainly show how wrong I was. all my horses are on Equus train and leisure and they are happy, contented and very shiny! I also use equus all time balancer with great results.

As they say the proof is in the pudding,

*Thank you
Renier Bouwer*



The most natural way to decrease the strength of the acidic juice in the stomach and to keep it off the upper squamous lining is to take advantage of a quality-roughage-based diet. Cheramie suggests:

- Increasing grazing time whenever possible;
- Using a slow-feed haynet to extend foraging time;
- Keep meal sizes small at no more than 2.5kg of concentrates at a time
- Replace some calories from cereal grains with good-quality roughage or roughage alternatives (beet products for example) where possible; and
- Add lucerne to the diet, where appropriate.

A higher-roughage diet has been shown to result in a lower acid level due to roughage and saliva's natural buffering effect.

Take-Home Message

Feeding a performance horse isn't without challenges. Due to the way performance horses are commonly fed, and in addition to the stress of training, showing, and traveling, stomach or gastric ulcers affect two out of three competitive horses affected. Ask your veterinarian or equine nutritionist for feeding recommendations to help keep acid levels under control.

Reference:

Article taken from <https://thehorse.com/110702/what-you-need-to-know-about-equine-stomach-acid/>

What You Need to Know About Equine Stomach Acid

By Edited Press Release Aug 27, 2018

Article, Digestive System, Digestive Tract Problems, Hay, Horse Care, Nutrition, Nutrition-Related Problems, Pasture and Forages, Sports Nutrition, Ulcers



For an absolutely free consultation with no further obligation contact our professional consultants to schedule a visit to your yard.

Hannah - 073 423 5491 - tech.equus@driehoek.co.za | Helen - 083 998 6824 - helen@driehoek.co.za



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