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Gastric Ulceration

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Gastric ulceration is very common in all horses, not just race horses as was previously thought. It has been found in 37% of pleasure horses, 60% of competition horses and over 90% of racing thoroughbreds.

Clinical signs are often vague but can include:

- **Weight loss**
- **Poor performance**
- **Mild colic episodes**
- **Behavioural changes**
- **Resentment of tightening the girth**
- **Abdominal guarding when grooming**
- **Poor appetite**

The only way to definitively diagnose the condition is to use a gastroscope, a 3m long camera, to look in the horse's stomach for them. It is a painless procedure performed under sedation.

Treatment is easy and effective and involves giving the horses drugs to reduce the acid production in the stomach and to help them form a better protective barrier. Changes in diet and management regimes are also an essential part of the treatment and prevention.

For further information or to book your gastroscope please contact the clinic.