

# Managing Ulcers with Neigh-Lox<sup>®</sup>

## Ulcers in horses—what we know today:

**E**quine gastric ulcer syndrome (EGUS) is a widespread problem among all horses. Many horses with ulcers show no outward symptoms. The prevalence of gastric ulcer damage has been documented in 93% of horses in race training, in nearly 60% of other performance horses, and in 57% of all foals. Recreational horses and broodmares are also at risk. A research project recently conducted on a band of broodmares at the University of California, Davis revealed that even though the mares had not been exposed to the typical environmental conditions conducive to ulcers, the occurrence of ulcers in the mares was approximately 70%. Preventing and treating EGUS is a challenge faced by many veterinarians and horse owners.

## What role does Neigh-Lox play?

Neigh-Lox was specifically developed to address the problem of gastric irritation in horses. It has become one of the leading products of choice for maintaining a healthy stomach.

Neigh-Lox is a supplement consisting of a proprietary combination of antacids and coating agents designed to reduce the clinical signs often associated with gastric ulcers. Neigh-Lox is not a cure for ulcers like omeprazole is, but a way to manage horses with mild to moderate ulceration (grades 1-3) and to prevent the risk of the condition's return in horses that have already been treated with medication for gastric ulcers.



  
**Neigh-Lox<sup>®</sup>**



Becky Young

## What makes Neigh-Lox unique?

1. Neigh-Lox has the capacity to buffer for a long period of time (minimum 6-8 hrs). Most antacids buffer for a much shorter period of time.
2. Neigh-Lox has the ability to buffer a large amount of acid. One dose (per 4 oz) has 240 mEq of acid-neutralizing capacity, which is equivalent to the amount of gastric acid typically produced over a six-hour period.
3. In addition to its buffering capabilities, Neigh-Lox also contains compounds that protect the mucosal lining and adhere to gastric lesions, protecting them from further acid injury.
4. Ease of administration. Neigh-Lox comes in a palatable pelleted form and is eagerly consumed by horses, even those that exhibit poor appetite.
5. Neigh-Lox has been proven to aid in the prevention of cribbing behavior.

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## Efficacy

A study performed at the University of Tennessee showed Neigh-Lox was beneficial in healing ulcers following a two-week administration period. In the same study, Neigh-Lox exhibited protective benefits to the non-glandular region of the mucosa against acid injury induced by volatile fatty acids.

In a study performed at the University of Bristol in 2002, the effect of Neigh-Lox supplementation on (i) decreasing cribbing behavior in young horses and (ii) improving the condition of the stomach and decreasing ulcer scores was examined. The reason for performing this study on crib-biting horses was related to recent research that showed the risk of crib-biting was increased in horses fed a low-forage and high-grain diet. Although the mechanism governing this effect was not fully understood, it was proposed that horses may begin crib-biting to increase their flow of alkaline saliva. Results revealed Neigh-Lox was effective in reducing ulcer severity compared with a basal diet. Neigh-Lox was also effective in reducing cribbing behavior.

In a study performed at Auburn University, the effect of Neigh-Lox supplementation on gastric pH and cribbing frequency was monitored. This study showed Neigh-Lox was effective in significantly increasing gastric pH following a 21-day supplementation period.

## When to Use Neigh-Lox

1. *When mild to moderate ulceration is suspected.* Horses that display signs of moderate gastric ulceration are good candidates for Neigh-Lox. These include horses with poor appetites, sour dispositions, chronic colic, or poor body condition.
2. *When horses are entering stressful situations.* Horses being prepped for sales or just entering training may benefit from Neigh-Lox. Any horse can develop ulcers when placed in an unfamiliar and stressful environment.
3. *When horses have been previously treated for ulcers.* Horses that have been successfully treated for ulcers with medications such as omeprazole will often redevelop lesions when the medication is discontinued. Neigh-Lox provides these horses protection against return of the ulcer.
4. *When horses are being transported.* No matter what the distance, shipping causes anxiety in horses. Adding Neigh-Lox to a horse's routine prior to, during and after shipping protects the sensitive stomach from irritation.
5. *During weaning.* Neigh-Lox helps reduce stress on the stomach of foals as they transition from a milk-based diet to a diet composed of forage and grain.

**Neigh-Lox is an excellent choice as a general maintenance and preventative product for horses and foals.**



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