

TRIANGLE EQUINE VETERINARY SERVICES

103 CANDY APPLE CT CARY, NC 27513

919 460-6300

WWW.TRIANGLEEQUINE.COM

Dr. Sally Vivrette & Dr. Jenn Patterson

Gastroscope instructions

We are scheduled to examine your horse's stomach via gastroscope. During this procedure we will look at the squamous and glandular portions of the stomach, including the pylorus. Gastroscope appointments are usually scheduled around 9 or 10 am. To insure the possible visualization of your horse's stomach it is important that you follow these instructions:

The stomach MUST be empty.

It is critical to the success of the procedure to:

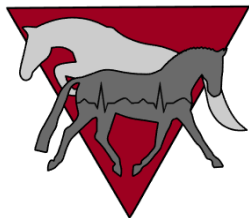
- **WITHHOLD FEED (including hay, grass, grain, and treats) for 10 hours**
- **WITHHOLD WATER for 10 hours**
- **REMOVE all hay and bedding from stall. MUZZLE your horse during the no food/no water time period (please use a solid bottom muzzle, or tape the holes to prevent munching on anything). Your horse can be put in a stall stripped of bedding but remember....some horses will eat their manure. (If you do not have access to a solid bottom muzzle, you can rent one from us. Please let us know.)**

Why remove bedding and muzzle your horse?

Horses will eat straw, shavings, sawdust, etc. even through a muzzle and may even eat their own manure if hungry enough. **We have muzzles to rent if you need one!**

What is gastroscope?

Gastroscope is a procedure used to view the inside of a horse's stomach. The procedure uses a 3.5 meter long endoscope/camera (shown right) passed into the stomach via the nose. Gastroscope is the **ONLY** way to accurately diagnose stomach ulcers in horses. Ulcers are extremely common and can cause signs of colic, weight loss, poor performance, and much more.



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About the procedure:

Gastroscopy is typically scheduled in the morning, because of the fasting requirements. The procedure is not painful, but your horse will receive mild sedation for the procedure. The scope passes through the nose to the esophagus and into the stomach. Air from the scope is used to distend the stomach so the gastric surface can be observed and imaged. We visualize the squamous portion of the stomach first and then advance the scope to view the glandular portion and the pylorus.

Following the procedure, your horse will be able to eat in approximately 1 hour. If your horse has been diagnosed with ulcers or other GI issues, the doctor will create a tailored treatment plan based on the degree of ulceration. Treatment plans may include various medications and follow-up scopings to monitor progress.

Your horse does not need to be trailered to a hospital or clinic for scoping! We can do it on your farm! Please remember that Dr. Vivrette is Board Certified in Internal Medicine, and has access to the most recent information regarding stomach disease in your horse.