

# Management for a Healthy GI Tract

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## How are horses designed to work?

24/7 forage availability Lots of walking

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CR1 Christina Reynolds, 10/25/2018



## Modern Horse Management

Stalled part (or all) of day

Poor pasture

Grain meals

Limited movement





# Hot Topics in Equine Athletes



## **Gastric Ulcers**

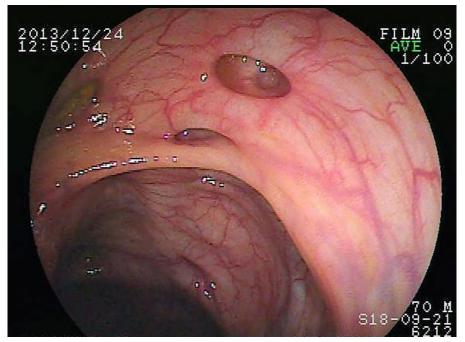
Hindgut Inflammation

Leaky Gut Syndrome





## Gastric Ulcers



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Occur in the stomach

Two portions to the stomach- glandular and nonglandular, can get ulcers on both, as well as the pyloric region

Once present, require medical treatment

Management can help avoid occurrence and can help with recovery





## **Gastric Ulcer Symptoms**

- Biting at sides
- Eat bite of feed, retreat
- Girthiness- reactivity when saddling
- Lying down more than normal
- Stretching stance after eating
- Resistant to forward movement/leg aides



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# Hindgut Inflammation & Hindgut Ulcers

Hindgut = cecum and large intestine, fermentation zone

44-60% horses have colonic ulceration, higher in performance horses, 70% in racehorses

SOME CAUSES:

Microbial balance out of whack ("alterations in intestinal microbiota")

- caused by feed, antibiotics, pasture changes

**Stress** 

Mycotoxins/toxins/pathogens

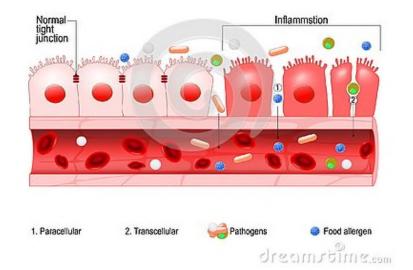
**NSAIDs/other drugs** 

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## Leaky Gut

#### **LEAKY GUT**



Increased permeability of the intestinal wall- increased space between the cells

Allows larger proteins out of the gut

Allows harmful substances to be absorbed into the bloodstream

Immune system can become hypersensitive





## Signs and Symptoms

Similarities between fore and hindgut issues:

- \*change in behavior/personality
- \*grumpy, doesn't like being touched/groomed
- \*"poor doer"- weight loss, poor performance
- \*poor hair coat
- \*reduced immune function







#### COMMON CAUSES OF LEAKY GUT SYNDROME

Stressors: Training/Injuries/Heat, Weather Changes/Trailering/Abrupt change in feed or hay

Excessive time spent in stalls

Socialization issues: new grouping or new horses

Pathogenic bacteria: Clostridium difficile, Clostridium perfringens, Salmonella etc..

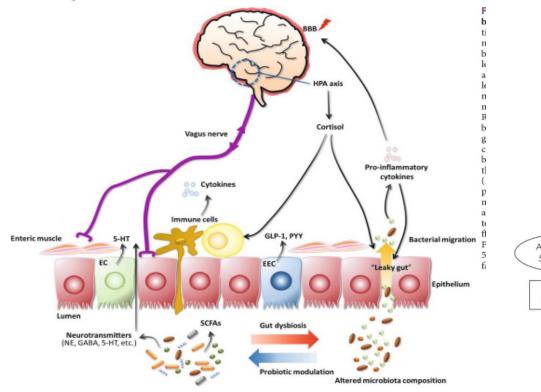
Medications: NSAIDS, deworming, Omeprazole, Antibiotics

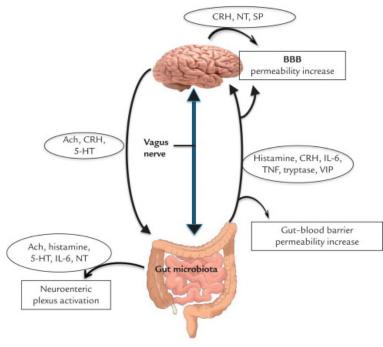
Toxins from mold, parasites

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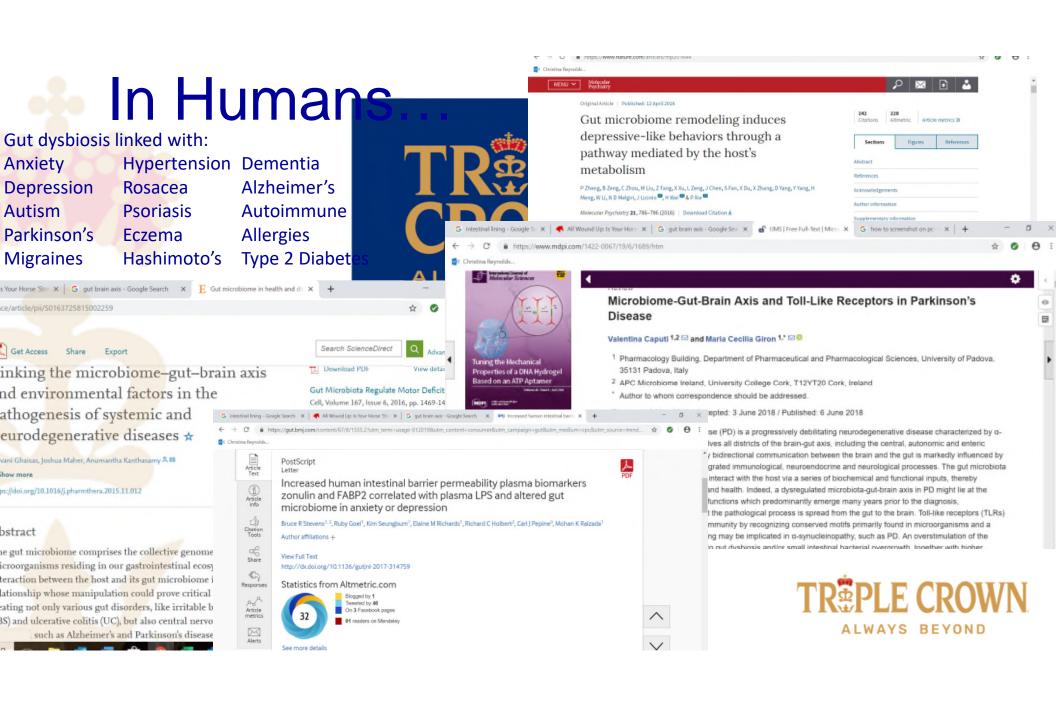


## Leaky gut = leaky brain











## Simple Changes to Help with GI Issues

Maximize turnout time

Ensure free choice forage

Low carb concentrate when needed Limit stress





#### **Turnout Time**



Eating

More eating

Walking More walking





## Free Choice Forage

Grass- metabolic limitations, seasonal limitations

Hay- choose by calorie needs so horse can eat 1.5-2% of body weight, slow feeder nets/bags Bagged forage- can be soaked if needed, use ways to slow down intake

Soaked cubes- multiple meals per day for horses with compromised teeth, feed before riding/travelling

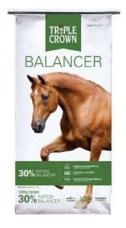




## Lower Carbohydrate Ingredients:

- Avoid "grains" corn, wheat, barley, oats
- Look for high digestible fiber- alfalfa meal, soybean hulls, wheat middlings
- Look for high fat (if you don't have an easy keeper)

















## Limiting **Stress**

- Easier said than done...
- Transport
- Training
- Stall neighbors/ pasture buddies
- Heat stress





### Additional ideas

#### Good quality probiotic, prebiotics

• Look for at least 1 Billon CFUs of each strand

#### Omega 3:6 ratio- help decrease inflammation

• Good sources of O3: fish oil powder, ground flax, grass

Beet pulp-based concentrate- produces helpful volatile fatty acids that help with villi regeneration

• TC Senior/TC Senior Gold

#### Buffering agents- help decrease acidity in stomach

• Alfalfa, supplements, StressFree





## How Can Triple Crown Products Help

- EquiMix Technology: Found in all Triple Crown Products
- ButiPEARL Z EQ: an encapsulated form of Butyric Acid and Zinc
  - Acts as an energy source for the epithelial cells and strengthens the tight junctions of the intestinal lining
  - Helps reduce gut inflammation and promotes healing
  - Promotes a strong barrier against pathogens, parasites and toxins
  - Improves nutrient absorption





## Triple Crown EquiMix

- Probiotics 1Billion of each strain. Helps crowd out pathogens, better digestion and utilization of nutrients
- Hydroxy minerals
- Prebiotic fiber feeds the "good bugs" and helps them flourish (beet pulp)
- Digestive enzymes for better utilization of protein and fiber
- Mannanoligosaccharides (MOS) bind to pathogens such as E coli and salmonella
- ButiPearl Z EQ encapsulated butyric acid helped strengthen the gut wall
- Clostat (Bacillus subtilis PB6) Has a proven mode of action in its inhibition of equine-specific pathogens including a variety of *Clostridium* species.<sup>2</sup>
- Lysoforte natural emulsifier that increases fat digestion





## New Terminology for the Microbiota

- Prebiotics: Feed ingredients that stimulate growth or activity of the probiotic bacteria.
- Probiotics: Live micro-organisms themselves, that confer a health benefit to the horse
- Postbiotics: result of probiotic activity. Non living by products or metabolites; examples include short chain fatty acids (acetate/butyrate: help reduce inflammation)





## Any Questions?



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