

# COMMON Q&A'S

**Kohnke's Own**<sup>®</sup>

## Contact Details

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## GASTRO-COAT

### ★ A Dietary Supplement of Natural Compounds for the Gastro-Intestinal Tract of Horses

#### Concept of Gastro-Coat

Gastro-Coat contains natural mucilage compounds that assist saliva in maintaining normal physiological and optimum digestive conditions within the stomach and upper small intestine of horses. These compounds are inherently low in feed mixes containing grains and protein meals in ready-mixed and home-mixed feeds fed to horses in training. Heat processing of grains further damages the natural mucilages that help maintain optimum conditions for digestion. When supplemented in the feed, natural mucilages may help the action of chewing and salivation to maintain normal gastric and upper intestinal function.

**Gastro-Coat, when added as a supplement to mixes containing grains and hay, helps to maintain the appetite and natural digestive function of all horses. Gastro-Coat can be given with rations based on prepared feeds and home-mixed rations alike - it is economical and simple to use.**

**Gastro-Coat is not a drug medication or a treatment for gastric ulcers in horses.** When supplemented in the feed, Gastro-Coat provides natural mucilages to aid the normal function of saliva to protect the gastro-intestinal tract and may help to maintain the appetite in hard working and traveling horses. Gastro-Coat has a similar consistency to sticky 'saliva', which naturally adheres to the upper stomach and intestinal wall and is resistant to acid digestion.

#### **Q: What signs indicate that a supplement of natural mucilages may be beneficial?**

A: Many horses suffer digestive discomfort during and after exercise and when travelling, especially during longer trips where they are not given feed containing adequate mucilage as their stomach empties. This can lead to symptoms of poor appetite and 'picky eating' after exercise or competition. Many horses also develop unsettled behaviour due to this discomfort if they do not have access to feed containing adequate mucilage compounds.

#### **Show, Reining Horses, Lead-in Horses and Pleasure Horses**

##### **"Good at Home – Bad Away"**

Many show and equestrian horse owners observe that a horse is "good at home" and behaves well, without being restless, but after transport (usually more than an hour in duration), or at a show, the horse becomes more restless, with obvious discomfort and is often reluctant to reload onto a float for the return trip. **Many horses also chew on rails, doors and feed bins when adequate levels of natural mucilages contained in feed or in saliva stimulated by chewing are not available on a regular basis every few hours overnight or when traveling and waiting to compete.**

**Handy Hint:** Many ex-racehorses are often 'picky eaters' or 'up on their toes' when first taken to a show if natural mucilages are not being adequate in their diets, or when not given food, such as dampened lucerne hay or chaff containing natural mucilage compounds when traveling and away from home

#### **Racing, Polo, Eventing and Showjumpers (and all other horses as well!)**

If the diet is not adequate in natural mucilage compounds or they do not have an opportunity to chew feed and salivate prior to exercise, horses can develop digestive discomfort that can be exhibited by the following signs:

**Agitation** - reluctance to stand quietly, shuffling and constantly moving around, especially after transport or hard exercise.

**Restless, Pawing** - especially when standing in the stalls or waiting to compete, or when travelling after competition.

**Girthy** - signs of 'ears back' and discomfort and aggressive behaviour when being girthed up.



**Bad Barrier Manners** - reluctance to go into the barriers, agitated and difficult behaviour at the start of a race, including 'pulling' and 'grabbing the bit' It is probable that these horses anticipate or have experienced previous digestive discomfort when they were not given adequate mucilages in feed to chew and produce sufficient protective and buffering saliva prior to and during transport, or within a few hours of racing or hard competition.

**Kicking the Float** - pawing and kicking the float during travelling after racing or competition.

**Picky Eating** - poor appetite after work, taking all day to eat morning feeds - interrupted feeding - but may lick feedbin clean overnight.

**Chewing the Bit** - some horses chew the bit after exercise in an attempt to secrete their own natural mucilages in saliva.

**Q: When should Gastro-Coat be given to help provide natural mucilages to assist chewing and complement the secretion of saliva?**

A: **Gastro-Coat** is best given each day for 2-3 days in the main feed before travelling to a show, interstate or even prior to education and breaking-in, or to the races or event competition. Gastro-Coat must be mixed into a dry feed topping because the natural mucilages become "sticky" and "gluggy" within a few minutes in damp feed.

**Q: What if my horse refuses to eat it in feed?**

A: There are 2 choices to help ensure the horse consumes the supplement:

1. Mix it in chaff with a 'slurp' of **Energy-Gold** oil. Energy-Gold, as an oil, does not activate the mucilage compounds - add a double handful of dry lucerne chaff, which also contains natural mucilages and buffers, mix in the recommended supplement dose of Gastro-Coat, and then mix in 20-30mL Energy-Gold - its garlic oil flavour will make it more appetising to most horses who relish the taste and smell. **Dab a little Energy-Gold into the nostrils for a couple of hours to accustom a "suspicious" eater to accept the garlic aroma.**
2. **Gastro-Coat** is formulated to go "gluggy" quickly when mixed in water - add 2-3 scoopsful to a half a cupful of luke-warm water, mix it into a slurry with the nozzle of a large 60mL, withdraw it into the syringe and administer it over the tongue. Add more water if necessary to maintain the slurry and deposit it over the tongue until the full amount is given. **Make it up at the horse just before giving it over the tongue, otherwise it will be hard to eject from the syringe.**
  - Give 3 scoopsful of Gastro-Coat, over the tongue as a slurry, about 5-10 minutes before training and exercise or 3 scoopsful around 5-10 minutes before travelling.
  - Follow-up with 2 scoopsful of Gastro-Coat within 10-15 minutes after training or exercise or prior to return travel to provide natural mucilages during the return trip.
  - Repeat for 3-4 days as a pre-exercise and an after-exercise supplement over the tongue.
  - After 3-4 days, most horses will benefit from the mucilage supplement as the Gastro-Coat aids the normal function of saliva in maintaining optimum conditions within the stomach and upper intestinal tract.
  - Once Gastro-Coat has helped maintain a more consistent appetite, then to help maintain the appetite, mix 4-5 scoopsful of Gastro-Coat into a small amount of dry lucerne chaff as a topping on the morning feed after exercise, as recommended on the label.

**A slurry of Gastro-Coat over the tongue can be given before travelling to race, compete or show - it contains only natural food compounds that do not contravene the medication guidelines for show, sporting, dressage or racing horses.**

**Q: Can Gastro-Coat be given to foals as well?**

A: Yes. Gastro-Coat mixed into a small amount of milk and given over the tongue just before feeding, helps to provide natural mucilages and assist salivation as the foal drinks, especially if it is a young orphan foal being fed milk with a bottle or from a bucket.

**Q: What pack sizes are available?**

A: Gastro-Coat comes in **1kg** (16 x 60g supplement doses), **3kg** (50 x 60g supplement doses), **6kg** (100 x 60g supplement doses), **10kg** (167 x 60g supplement doses) and **20kg** (334 x 60g supplement doses) packs.

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