

Gastroscopy diagnosis process for horse owners.

Preparation

Your horse's stomach needs to be empty for the vet to be able to see its lining.

It is important to starve your horse before gastroscopy.

Remove feed and hay the night before.

Ensure there is plenty of clean fresh water.

Ensure your horse can't eat bedding; shavings are preferable to straw.

Diagnostic procedure

The procedure will last approximately 15-20 minutes.

Your horse will be given a standing sedation.

The gastroscopy involves a 3 metre long endoscopic video camera being inserted into the nostril down the oesophagus to view the stomach.

There are typically no side effects from the procedure although uncommonly some horses may experience a brief self-resolving nose bleed.

The vet will then be able to thoroughly explain any diagnosis and treatment plan.

After care

Check with the vet how long you should wait for after the sedation to be able to safely feed, transport or turn out your horse.