

Gastric Ulcers in New Zealand

In overseas countries, gastric ulcers are very common in racehorses. Recent studies in other countries suggest that between 75% and 90% of Thoroughbred Race-horses in training develop gastric ulcers.

In New Zealand the incidence of gastric ulcers is unknown because we have not had the necessary diagnostic equipment available to make an accurate diagnosis of this problem in adult horses. The incidence, however, could be quite different as our training and management environment is very different from that in overseas countries.

The NZ Equine Research Foundation in conjunction with Massey University are funding a project in which the diagnostic equipment (3 metre long video endoscope) has been purchased and a survey begun. The survey aims to examine the severity of ulcers, when present and the relationship of ulcers with age, time in work, grain or pasture feeding etc. The research will be carried out over the next two years under the direction of Dr Tony Mogg of Massey Equine, and should provide us with the first real knowledge of this problem in our horses. At the compl