



## **Ulcer Prevention – A Winning Strategy for AQHA World Champion**

It can happen at any time. One minute you and your horse are winning AQHA World Championships, the next minute your horse is off feed, losing weight, and has an attitude change for the worse.<sup>1</sup>

Jim Bound, a multiple AQHA World Champion roper from Fort Atkinson, Wis., has experienced this course of events. Jim's horse showed signs of stomach ulcers on their way home from the 2015 AQHA Select World Show.

"That horse wasn't eating right. He never acted like he was in pain, but we suspected something was off," Jim said. "The veterinarian scoped him, looking for ulcers, and sure enough, he had them. We think it was from the stress of the show. Looking back, it's something that could've been prevented."

Two out of three non-racing competitive horses suffer from stomach ulcers.<sup>2</sup> Simply transporting your horse to and from a horse show, feeding it twice a day or giving it light exercise could be enough to cause ulcers.<sup>3</sup> And they can occur in as little as five days.<sup>3</sup>

However, stomach ulcers can be avoided. ULCERGARD® (omeprazole) is the only medicine that's proven and approved by the FDA to prevent equine stomach ulcers.<sup>4</sup> Studies and tests conducted by Scott Stanley, Ph.D., University of California-Davis and by the FDA confirmed that unapproved products claiming to treat or prevent equine stomach ulcers had inconsistent and varying amounts of the active ingredient – omeprazole.<sup>5</sup> Stanley's tests found some products had as little as 27 percent,<sup>6</sup> and some as much as 126 percent,<sup>7</sup> while the FDA tests found some products had as little as 36 percent,<sup>5</sup> and some as much as 135 percent.<sup>5</sup> Lack of potency is not the only issue that may affect the efficacy of unapproved omeprazole products. These products may also have unpredictable bioavailability, or how much of the drug goes from the stomach into the bloodstream.<sup>8</sup> This certainly affects the efficacy of the products.

Despite FDA warning letters,<sup>5</sup> some of these unapproved products continue to be manufactured and sold. These have not been tested for safety or effectiveness, which makes them illegal.

“The unapproved drugs haven’t been tested for efficacy, so it’s really a waste of money to use them,” said Hoyt Cheramie, DVM, MS, DACVS, manager, Merial Large Animal Veterinary Services. “You can make sure you’re getting what you pay for with ULCERGARD.”

Jim says he is a firm believer in ULCERGARD to prevent stomach ulcers. “Horses can be stressed out at shows, and we have to do everything we can to keep them healthy,” he says. “My horse is a champion, and I believe ULCERGARD will help keep him that way.”

For more information about equine stomach ulcers and how ULCERGARD can be a part of your winning strategy, go to [www.thestomachtowin.com](http://www.thestomachtowin.com).

### **About Merial**

Merial is a world-leading, innovation-driven animal health company, providing a comprehensive range of products to enhance the health and well-being of a wide range of animals. Merial employs 6,100 people and operates in more than 150 countries worldwide with over €2 billion of sales in 2014.

Merial is a Sanofi company.

For more information, please see [www.merial.com](http://www.merial.com).

### **IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION:**

*ULCERGARD can be used in horses that weigh at least 600 pounds. Safety in pregnant mares has not been determined.*

®ULCERGARD is a registered trademark of Merial. ©2015 Merial, Inc., Duluth, GA. All rights reserved. EQUIUGD1538 (10/15)

<sup>1</sup>Equine Gastric Ulcer Council. Recommendations for the diagnosis and treatment of Equine Gastric Ulcer Syndrome (EGUS). *Equine Vet Educ.* 1999;11:262-272.

<sup>2</sup>Mitchell RD. Prevalence of gastric ulcers in hunter/jumper and dressage horses evaluated for poor performance. Association for Equine Sports Medicine, September 2001.

<sup>3</sup>McClure SR, Carithers DS, Gross SJ, Murray MJ. Gastric ulcer development in horses in a simulated show or training environment. *J Am Vet Med Assoc.* 2005;227(5):775-777.

<sup>4</sup>ULCERGARD product label.

<sup>5</sup>FDA Issues Warning Letters for Unapproved Omeprazole Drugs Marketed for Use in Horses. Available at:

<http://www.fda.gov/AnimalVeterinary/NewsEvents/CVMUpdates/ucm422694.htm>. Accessed January 29, 2015.

<sup>6</sup>Data on file at Merial.

<sup>7</sup>Data on file at Merial.

<sup>8</sup>Papich MG. Drug compounding for veterinary patients. *AAPSJ.* 2005;7(2):281-287.