

# Columbia Equine Hospital

## Preparing For Your Horse's Gastroscopy Appointment

### **In hospital scope with day before drop off:**

This is the easiest way to get your horse scoped. When you schedule your gastroscopy appointment plan to drop off your horse the day before between 2-4:30pm. (Times outside of those can be accommodated on an individual basis, please contact the office with questions).

We will make sure your horse is appropriately fasted and will scope them first thing in the morning.

### **In hospital scope with day of drop off AND/OR on farm scoping:**

In order to appropriately visualize the stomach horses need to be fasted for a minimum of 14 hours prior to gastroscopy. This includes all feed, treats, grazing etc. Water can be available during this time but should be removed 1-2 hours prior to the scoping (during times of the year the temperature remains above 85°F water should be left available at all times).

It is recommended to feed your horse a late lunch the day before the scoping and to remove ALL FEED 14-16 hours prior to the scoping. If trailering to the clinic please do not allow your horse to have access to any hay in the trailer, no grazing and no treats.

Be mindful of the stall location and be sure your horse cannot reach any grass which may be growing around the stall, steal their neighbors hay or eat shavings etc.

A grazing muzzle is strongly recommended to be left on to prevent eating of shavings. Taping the bottom of the muzzle will further reduce risk of eating shavings. Alternatively, horses that cannot be muzzled and tend to eat shavings should be left in a bare stall.

### **Post gastroscopy:**

Once your horse is recovered from their sedation they can be introduced back to hay/feed. Some horses appreciate a mash (such as soaked hay pellets or equine senior) as an easy to chew option just after the scope. Once they finish that they can have their regular meals.

Monitor your horse for any mild colic signs which can occur due to gas colic. We expand their stomach with air during scope and although most of this air is removed once we are finished it is still good to monitor for any signs of discomfort.

If your horse develops a nosebleed during the scoping this is generally a mild complication and resolves quickly without any specific intervention. However, if you notice continued discharge after 2 days or it worsens at any time, please contact our office.