

COLIC IN HORSES – Feeding study – Dosage

COLIC in horses is a complex of different symptoms and means no more than abdominal pain. Diseases of the digestive tract (gastrointestinal tract) and peritoneum can thus be expressed simply in this way. Colic of the small and large intestine are the most common.

Nutritional colic of the small intestine is usually associated with disturbances in stomach function. Occasionally there are also disorders of passage through the lower section of the ileum (impactions with faulty chyme fermentation), due for example to finely cut grass (mowed grass) or fresh straw which has not yet been stored (fermented) and this can also cause impactions.

Disturbances of the large intestine in horses are especially common. Colic of the large intestine is associated with faulty fermentation, microbial imbalance, gas formation, passage disorders and diarrhoea. These disorders are due to feeding technique, composition of feed and feed hygiene, such as over feeding, irregular feeding with precaecal feed which is hard to digest, tainted feed, insufficient chewing e.g. in the case of straw which is fibrous or cut too short, tooth damage, inadequate digestion and resulting surge of easily fermentable nutrients into the large intestine.

In general the proportion of Colic in diseased horses is estimated at 10%. This disease in horses has also been linked to water intake, the quality and quantity of feedstuffs, time taken to feed and frequency of administration, changes in feed, first turning out to pasture (young, green feed) and sensitivity to the weather.

Treating colic can also involve considerable costs which can be avoided by sensible prophylaxis. A study using Eucarvet at Piber has shown that prophylactic administration can prevent colic occurring when first turning horses out to pasture.

Results of feeding study:

Federal stud farm at Piber (Steiermark)

Eucarvet was tested at Piber by the attending vet there, Dr. Planner, and the stable master Herr Weiss, as a prophylactic treatment for horses known to suffer from colic. They tested 5 Lippizaner mares which each year develop colic at first going out to pasture. The mares showed no signs of colic even after 3 weeks in the pasture. The mares were treated with Eucarvet for about 2-3 weeks before going out to pasture. Even sultry weather and known colic weather situations produced no colic. At present they are still having Eucarvet and it is still to be seen whether they continue to remain free of colic.

Stud farm Angere Söding (Steiermark):

This stud farm breeds Haflinger mares for milk production from mares. The milk production permits performance feeding of the mares and leads to frequent feed-related cases of colic in the horses. The farm uses Eucarvet in animals which show first signs of colic. The animals are fed individually according to the dosage instructions for Eucarvet until the colic symptoms subside. The use of Eucarvet has

drastically reduced veterinary costs, since no more colic treatments are needed. The study has shown that early use of Eucarvet can prevent the development of colic. Eucarvet should thus be used for prophylactic treatment of colic in horses.

Dosage recommendation for the use of Eucarvet in horses:

Colic prophylaxis in horses (colic susceptibility, feed changes, first going out to pasture):

≤ 3.5 g/100kg/day

Mild colic caused by gas or constipation:

3.5 – 5g/100kg/day (this dosage has been used by Dr.Saad, Saudi Arabia)

In severe colic symptoms:

The dosage may be increased **to up to 10g/100kg/day** for individual animals in order to achieve a more potent laxative effect.

From our experience with Eucarbon over almost 100 years, we know that the **susceptibility of the individual to the active substance** may vary greatly and it is therefore necessary to adjust the dosage on an individual basis. It should be assumed that also in the veterinary field, there will be different individual or species-related susceptibilities. It is therefore the task of the vet to **adjust the dosage on an individual basis**.

The usual **standard therapy** for acute treatment of colic should also be **maintained** when using Eucarvet.

It should be noted that the **laxative effect** of Eucarvet does not occur until **approximately 8 hours** after administration. The **adsorptive, carminative and bactericidal effects** of Eucarvet occur **immediately**.