

# EquiShure®

## Time-released Buffer Stabilizes Hindgut pH

EquiShure® is a time-released buffer targeting the hindgut. Research supports the use of a hindgut buffer in cases of high grain and high fructan intake. EquiShure's unique, patented encapsulation technology ensures targeted release directly in the hindgut. Up to 70% of the horse's energy is derived from fermentation in the hindgut. The pH of the hindgut varies as bacterial populations increase and decrease in response to dietary modifications. An acidic shift, which can be caused by carbohydrate-rich meals, favors the growth of acid-loving bacteria, while other microbes die in the same conditions. Changes in the pH of the hindgut due to alterations in the microbial populations and acid profiles cause a condition known as subclinical acidosis, which can put affected horses at a higher than normal risk for colic and laminitis.

Other signs of subclinical acidosis include decreased feed intake or complete inappetence in severe cases, mild to moderate colic signs of unexplained origin, poor feed efficiency and subsequent weight loss, loss of performance, and development of certain vices such as wood chewing, weaving, and stall walking.

### Cause of Subclinical Acidosis

One of the primary signs of subclinical acidosis is inappetence or decreased appetite. A horse is often reported to be "off his feed." Because the hindgut is overwhelmed with lactic acid when a horse is experiencing acidosis, the intestinal lining becomes inflamed and irritated, causing the horse discomfort. The irritation may be severe enough to induce behavior characteristic of colic. Furthermore and perhaps most detrimental to equine athletes is a reduction of feed efficiency. Long-term exposure of the intestinal lining to a low-pH environment may negatively affect the absorptive capacities of these structures, limiting the amount of energy available for performance. In addition to these health concerns, a link between subclinical acidosis and stereotypies such as wood chewing, weaving, and stall walking has been suggested by researchers. Because of the precarious nature of the hindgut of a horse afflicted with subclinical acidosis, it is less able to handle metabolic crises that healthy horses may be able to fend off. Hence, horses with subclinical acidosis are more susceptible to colic and laminitis.

EquiShure is recommended for horses:

- ✓ On high-grain diets or grazing lush pasture
- ✓ With inappetence or weight loss
- ✓ With unexplainable behavioral problems
- ✓ With digestive upsets resulting in loose manure
- ✓ Prone to recurrent mild colic or laminitis
- ✓ Sport horses under stress of training



Grain Intake	Forage Source	660 lb	1100 lb	1320 lb
		Amount of EquiShure per day		
Low to moderate	Mostly hay	30 g	50 g	60 g
Low to moderate	Mostly pasture	60 g	100 g	120 g
Moderate to high	Mostly hay	60 g	100 g	120 g
Moderate to high	Mostly pasture	90 g	150 g	180 g

For more information see [ker.com](http://ker.com).