

SUPPORTING YOUR COMPETITION HORSE



HELPING MAINTAIN A HEALTHY GUT
PART OF THE COOPERS RANGE



  @CoopersGutRange

www.coopers-range.co.uk



Competition horses: the challenges to gut health

Horses competing in a wide range of disciplines at all levels, from Pony Club to the Olympics, can be subject to lifestyle challenges which can negatively affect their gut health.



These include:

- Strenuous exercise
- Stress
- Transport to competitions
- Management changes
- Low forage diet
- High concentrate diet
- Limited turnout
- Change of routine when away competing

All of these factors can impact the balance of beneficial and pathogenic (bad) bacteria in the gut. Any imbalance is known as dysbiosis and this can have a negative effect on your horse's health and performance.

Potential consequences of these challenges to gut health

Horses have evolved as trickle feeders, designed to be eating roughage/fibre for a large portion of their day. Digestion of roughage occurs in the hind gut where a population of micro-organisms break down the fibre to provide a source of slow release energy, in a process known as fermentation. This process requires a stable population of healthy bacteria within the hind gut.

Any imbalance between the beneficial and pathogenic bacteria in the gut can lead to a decrease in pH causing hindgut acidosis. This can lead to inflammation of the gut causing problems such as **diarrhoea, behavioural change, weight loss, colonic ulceration, colic and poor performance**. This imbalance can be caused by any of the challenges listed above.



How do Coopers® Gut products support healthy gut flora and digestive function?

The Coopers Gut range contains a mixture of prebiotics and postbiotics which support the beneficial bacteria and therefore help to maintain normal gut function.

What are prebiotics?

Prebiotics are non-digestible food ingredients that act as food for the healthy bacteria within the horse's gut. They selectively stimulate the growth and activity of the beneficial bacteria helping to support hindgut function.



What are postbiotics?

Postbiotics are beneficial components produced by bacteria during the fermentation process which have a positive effect on the healthy bacteria within the horse's gut.

These components are likely to:

- Support healthy gut bacteria by contributing to the structure of the cell wall
- Protect the healthy gut bacteria against pathogenic bacteria
- Support the gut wall barrier
- Support the gut's natural immune system

There are approximately 200 types of bacteria/organism in each section of the horse's gut with different functions.

Every horse has its own unique balance of microflora and by using prebiotics and postbiotics the horse's own healthy bacteria are supported, without the need to supplement with external bacteria (probiotics).



Common concerns for the competition horse

“My horse gets very stressed when he travels”

Some horses become stressed when travelling and competing. Stress can cause dysbiosis within the gut leading to inflammation and problems such as behavioural change, poor body condition and colic.

Feeding **Coopers Gut Equalise** during short term periods of stress can help to ensure the healthy balance of bacteria in the gut is maintained.

“My horse struggles to maintain weight over the competition season”

Competition horses often have a busy schedule and are subjected to regular, often strenuous exercise. Furthermore the stress of travelling and shows, lack of turnout and reduced time to eat forage can all contribute to horses struggling to maintain weight during the competition season.

Coopers Gut Support can help to ensure the healthy balance of bacteria in the gut is maintained to ensure optimum digestion and also provides amino acids to help maintain body condition.

“I’m worried that my horse is spending more time in the stable”

Often during the competition season horses have to spend more time stabled, particularly when away at shows. This change in management often comes with a change in diet. The combination of these factors can have a negative effect on the balance of gut flora and this imbalance can cause inflammation of the gut leading to problems such as diarrhoea, colonic ulceration and poor body condition.

Coopers Gut Support (long term) and **Coopers Gut Equalise** (short term) can help to ensure the healthy balance of bacteria in the gut is maintained.



“My horse is on a high concentrate diet”

Horses doing a high level of work are usually fed a relatively high level of concentrate in order to provide them with the required energy for their work load. This can cause imbalance of the gut flora known as dysbiosis.

Coopers Gut Support can help to ensure that a healthy balance of bacteria is maintained.

“My horse’s routine changes on competition days”

Even travelling to a show for the day can dramatically change a horse’s routine in terms of turn out and diet, and this is exacerbated when horses are required to stay away at shows for a longer period of time. This change in management can have a negative effect on the balance of gut flora.

Coopers Gut Equalise can help to maintain the normal balance of bacteria ensuring optimum gut health and digestion.

It is important to also remember to speak to your vet if you have any concerns regarding your horse’s management over the competition season. To maintain optimum health and performance it is advisable to ensure all aspects of healthcare are addressed, including vaccination, dental care and worming.



COOPERS®
GUT SUPPORT

COOPERS®
GUT EQUALISE

Which Coopers Gut product is right for my competition horse?

Long term use:

For long term use throughout the competition season Coopers Gut Support provides prebiotics and postbiotics to help optimise digestion, condition and performance. It can be fed daily and also contains amino acids to help your horse maintain body condition throughout the season.

Short term use:

For short term use during specific periods of the competition season, such as competitions and travelling, Coopers Gut Equalise provides prebiotics and postbiotics to help to maintain the normal balance of bacteria within the gut. It is a paste which is used once daily for short periods of time.



The Coopers Gut range consists of 3 products to allow you to select the most appropriate one for your horse.

Explore Coopers Gut Support



Formulation: Pellets

Other constituents: Free amino acids and amino acid derivatives including GABA

Short/long term use?* Long

Intended use in adult horses:

To help maintain normal gut function

Supports optimum body condition during periods of high energy requirements

For horses finding it difficult to maintain body condition

Recommended amount: 120-240g daily**

Administration: Feed alone or mix with feed

Pack size: 5kg bucket (3-6 week supply)

Explore Coopers Gut Equalise



Formulation: Paste

Short/long term use?* Short

Intended use in adult horses:

During periods of stress such as:

- Transport
- Competition
- Management changes
- Diet changes
- Antibiotic treatment

Intended use in foals:

To aid in the establishment of normal digestive flora

Maintain normal gut function during foal heat and weaning

Recommended amount: 1 syringe daily

Administration: Syringe directly into horse's mouth

Pack size: 5 x 20g syringes

Explore Coopers Gut Assist



Formulation: Powder

Other constituents: Smectite – a natural clay

Short/long term use?* Short

Intended use in adult horses:

During periods of digestive disturbance

Intended use in foals:

During periods of digestive disturbance

Recommended amount: Up to ½ a pot*

Administration: Mix with feed or add to warm water and syringe into horse's mouth

Pack size: 500g pot

Discuss with a nutrition expert or veterinary surgeon prior to using the product or extending its period of use.

* For further information, refer to product packaging.

** On competition days maximum amount is 120g.

Sofie Butchart, international dressage rider, uses Coopers Gut Support on her horses having been recommended it by her vet for a competition horse who was struggling to keep weight on.

“The results were amazing. Within days he was more consistent and happy to train, his appetite improved and he seemed much more relaxed in himself. I am over the moon with the results.”



 To find out more about Sofie visit our Coopers Gut Facebook page.



COOPERS® TRY COOPERS GUT TO KEEP YOUR HORSE **GUT** HEALTHY FROM THE INSIDE OUT

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