

Nexium for Horses: Dosage Protocol Worksheet

Printable owner worksheet for discussing off-label esomeprazole (Nexium) use, dosage-per-day math, tapering, and follow-up questions with a veterinarian.

Veterinary disclaimer: This worksheet is informational only. It is not a prescription and does not replace veterinary diagnosis or treatment. Nexium use in horses is off-label. Confirm the dose, schedule, duration, product form, taper, and medication separation rules with your veterinarian.

Horse name: _____
Current weight: _____
Vet contact: _____

Vet-confirmed daily dose: _____
Course length: _____
Recheck date: _____

Example Dosage Math

The table below uses 20 mg delayed-release capsules and a 0.5 mg/kg example target. It is for math checking only. Your veterinarian may use a different dose or schedule. Veterinary references discuss different esomeprazole ranges depending on product form, diagnosis, and study design, so this worksheet should not be used as a prescription.

Horse weight	Approx. kg	Example target at 0.5 mg/kg	20 mg capsules per day
500 lb	227 kg	113.5 mg	about 6 capsules
800 lb	363 kg	181.5 mg	about 9 capsules
1,100 lb	500 kg	250 mg	about 12 to 13 capsules
1,400 lb	635 kg	317.5 mg	about 16 capsules
1,800 lb	816 kg	408 mg	about 20 capsules

Protocol Questions for Your Veterinarian

1. Are we treating confirmed gastric ulcers or suspected signs?
2. Is gastroscopy recommended before or after treatment?
3. What exact dose should this horse receive each day?
4. Should the product be delayed-release capsules only?
5. How should capsules be given without crushing the beads?
6. How long should the full course run before reassessment?
7. What taper schedule should we use?
8. Should sucralfate, alfalfa, or other support be added?
9. Which signs mean we should stop and call the clinic?

Product Form Rules

- Use the product form your veterinarian approves.
- Delayed-release capsules are commonly discussed for owner protocols.
- Do not crush, grind, or dissolve enteric-coated beads unless instructed.
- Watch the horse eat so capsules are not sorted out.

Example Taper Discussion

Taper step	Example schedule to discuss	Vet notes
Step 1	75% of treatment dose for 3 days	
Step 2	50% of treatment dose for 4 days	
Step 3	25% of treatment dose for 3 days, then stop if approved	

Daily Monitoring Notes

Watch for improvement • appetite and hay intake • girthing or grooming sensitivity • attitude under saddle • body condition and topline • manure quality	Call your vet promptly for • colic signs or severe discomfort • fever, diarrhea, or depression • reduced appetite • worsening manure changes • no improvement on the agreed plan
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Source page: slowfeedinghorses.store/treatment/nexium-for-horses-dosage-guide/ - Print date: 2026-06-22 - Sources reviewed include Merck Veterinary Manual, FDA GastroGard labeling context, and PubMed esomeprazole pharmacodynamic records.