

LEAKY GUT SYNDROME

SUMMARY

Leaky gut syndrome (LGS) occurs when the lining of the gastrointestinal (GI) tract is compromised, allowing harmful substances to cross the intestinal barrier and be absorbed into the bloodstream. A leak into the bloodstream will cause intestinal inflammation, resulting in various systemic problems for your horse.¹ These leaks often start slowly, but with time can result in a wide variety of health and performance issues you see every day in your horse.

SYMPTOMS

Quite often your horse simply seems “off” and is not performing at their previous level or a level that is expected. Personality or behavior has changed (dull or irritable) and they are often “girthy” when saddled. You may see occasional loose manure, skin allergies or recurrent low-grade colic.² The result is that your horse does not feel well, and their overall performance and well-being is being negatively impacted.

CAUSES

Pathogenic bacteria, mold toxins, parasites and common stressors such as exercise, training, transportation, heat and even simple hay changes, can all lead to LGS.¹ Any of these stressors can result in damage to the tight junctions of the intestinal lining that are an important barrier between toxic intestinal contents and the bloodstream. Repeated exposure to any of these common stressors will result in small, recurrent intestinal leaks, causing greater health and performance issues over time.

SYMPTOMS

- ✓ Change in behavior or personality (dull or irritable)
- ✓ Not performing at previous or expected level
- ✓ Weight loss
- ✓ Laminitis
- ✓ Insulin resistance or metabolic syndrome
- ✓ Often “girthy” when saddled
- ✓ Loose manure or diarrhea
- ✓ Skin allergies
- ✓ Chronic or recurrent colic
- ✓ Not finishing feed
- ✓ Constantly switching from one hind leg to the other in the stall
- ✓ Would rather eat hay than grain

PREVENTING LGS

The best way to prevent LGS or help to heal a leaky gut is through good nutrition and attention to gut health.

An exciting area in horse nutrition is the incorporation of fermentable fibers (such as beet pulp and soy hulls), probiotics and prebiotics. Probiotics backed by proven horse research, such as the PB6 in CLOSTAT®, are a logical approach to support overall gut health in your horse. Specific fatty acids, such as butyric acid found in ButiPEARL® Z EQ, are also proven to be protective to the intestinal lining and help in tight junction formation. Through novel nutritional science, horses can now be fed supplemental butyric acid to ensure the health of intestinal cells. Feeding nutrients that support gut health will help mitigate the everyday “slow leak” and improve your horse’s health and wellbeing.



CLOSTAT®

CLOSTAT contains PB6, a patented strain of *Bacillus subtilis*. PB6 is a probiotic that helps improve intestinal health and integrity. It does this by maintaining a healthy balance of microflora in the gut and by helping develop a natural defense against harmful bacterial pathogens.

ButiPEARL® Z EQ

ButiPEARL® Z EQ – the first product of its kind on the market – provides supplemental butyric acid and zinc to help strengthen the intestinal tract of the horse.

The combination of zinc and butyric acid strengthens the lining of the gut, leading to improved nutrient absorption and a stronger barrier against pathogens, parasites and toxins. A healthier gut means less Leaky Gut Syndrome (LGS).



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LEARN MORE AT [kemin.com/leakygut](https://www.kemin.com/leakygut)

1. Lindinger, M. (2018, June/July). Equine Leaky Gut Syndrome Part 1. Equine Wellness, 13(3), 22-24.

2. Kemin Industries KEMTalk Series. (2017). Leaky Gut: Symptoms, Causes and Nutritional Approaches to Ameliorate [Video webinar]. Retrieved from <https://www.kemin.com/na/en-us/markets/animal/gut-health/018-kemtalk-series>