



## Irish Equine Centre's Bespoke Equine Probiotic **ProSol**

### What is Gut Flora?

Billions of bacteria inhabit the horse's digestive tract. These bacteria known as 'Gut Flora' are essential for breaking down the mostly fibre diet of the equine animal to give energy. This is of utmost importance in the horse as they acquire all of their energy from fibre. Healthy gut flora also plays a major role in immunity & prevention of certain diseases. Protecting the balance of the gut flora - between beneficial and harmful bacteria - is vital for the well-being of the horse.

Gut flora can be adversely affected by many factors including stress (e.g. strenuous exercise, travel), illness (e.g. colic, bacterial and parasitic infections), antibiotics, poor diet and the horse's environment.

### What is an "autogenous" probiotic and why give it?

A probiotic is a solution containing beneficial gut bacteria, it may be in liquid or powdered form & most often commercially produced. An autogenous probiotic, is a solution containing live beneficial bacteria harvested from the horse's own faecal sample. An autogenous probiotic is unique to that horse and most importantly is sensitivity tested to rule out resistant bacteria. The autogenous probiotic can re-gain the balance of the gut flora in the occurrence of a detrimental event in the gut.

### Why choose **ProSol**?

For a live probiotic to be considered beneficial, the bacteria must reach the colon alive. In other words, the bacteria must be of sufficient numbers to survive obstacles such as gastric, bile and pancreatic acids. The IEC has been involved in gut flora research for the past 20 years. Through our extensive research, we have been able to identify and isolate the beneficial bacteria from freshly cultured faeces. We then harvested these bacteria to sufficient numbers to ensure the live bacteria reaches the gut. We have formulated a unique liquid that is easily administered to the horse called **ProSol**.

This liquid contains only the horse's own beneficial bacteria suspended in sterile water and NO other additives. The pink colour of the **ProSol** is a natural phenomenon. **ProSol** does not contravene any rules of racing or competition. Using **ProSol** over a period of three weeks we have seen improvements in the health and condition of horses where a gut imbalance had previously been diagnosed. The horses typically thrive and maintain better condition post exercise and racing.

### IEC's Bacteria Bank

Using cryo-preservation the IEC can store each horse's harvested beneficial bacteria in a secure bank for the duration of the horse's career, providing a safety net for the owner or trainer. In the case of a detrimental event in the gut, e.g., antibiotic treatment, the beneficial bacteria can be wiped out leaving nothing left to harvest. By storing the beneficial bacteria in advance, the IEC will always be in a position to access the horse's beneficial bacteria and quickly formulate a **ProSol** probiotic for the horse.

### Contact Us

Contact the IEC's Microbiology laboratory for more information. **ProSol** is available throughout the United Kingdom.

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