

## **Briefing Note for trainers: Gastro Care tablets for horses**

**1st February 2024**

### Background

The product Monoshield Gastro care has been withdrawn from sale in the Republic of Ireland following an instruction from the Irish department of Agriculture to undertake a product recall.

Gastro Care operates outside of feed and veterinary regulations, and at recommended usage rates could pose a risk to equine health and welfare.

Regulators do not believe trainers have intentionally acted outside of the law but instead have put their trust in a product that promises efficacy against the known condition of gastric Ulcers. That the formulation makes the product illegal requires specific nutrition knowledge that neither a trainer nor their veterinary advisers could be expected to be aware of, and requires the input of expert nutritionists.

The claims made for this product in respect of efficacy against gastric ulcers makes this an unauthorised medicine, and the iodine content and feeding recommendations could potentially expose horse to chronic high levels of extremely high doses of iodine that affect their health and welfare.

### Q & A

#### I've used this product, are my horses at risk?

Iodine supply from normal feed and forage will typically be in the region of 5-10mg per day, in line with published nutritional requirements. One tablet of MonoShield Gastro Care contains 6mg, and the maximum feed recommendation of 10 tablets thus supplies 60g, together giving a total dietary iodine supply of 65-70mg/day. This provides iodine in excess of established safe normal limits. As a result we recommend it is removed from diets immediately. Chronic iodine excess presents as goitre, an enlarged thyroid gland.

#### Is this the same product as Nutriscience Gastro Care?

No Nutriscience Gastro care is a perfectly legal gastric support supplement.