



# EQUIPLAS®

**EQUIPLAS** is equine plasma, collected from hyperimmunised donor horses, that is very rich in Gamma Globulins. The minimum amount of gamma globulins present in a one litre bag is 22g. Some bags, in fact, contain much more.

Equiplas® is collected from horses that have a much higher content of gamma globulins in their plasma than normal horses. It contains greatly increased levels of all the antibodies which the plasma of a normal horse would contain.

Donor horses have been found free of agglutinins and haemolysins against 32 of the main antigens in blood groups A, C, D, K, P, Q and U. Donors have also been tested negative for EIA, EVA, Equine Morbillivirus, Equine Herpes Virus types I and IV, Ross River Fever and Equine Babesiosis.

Equiplas® is an aid increasing the gamma globulin level (in the blood) of foals, especially in cases of Failure of Passive Transfer.

## INDICATIONS

Failure of Passive Transfer, when there is Hypogamma globinaemia, and other conditions where it is desirable to increase the gamma globulin level in the blood of foals. Common sense veterinary medicine also indicates that gamma globulins would be a strongly indicated supportive therapy in a range of conditions, such as diarrhoea, colitis, renal conditions, and any active infections where there is destruction of gamma globulins.

## DOSAGE

One litre of Equiplas® per 50kg body weight. If required, such as in cases where there is an ongoing depletion of gamma globulins, this dose may be repeated daily, while an attempt is made to treat the primary disease condition. Dosage should be based on systemic IgG levels of the recipient, verified by immunodiffusion or equivalent testing before and after administration, or upon experience resulting from past testing in similar circumstances.

## ADMINISTRATION

In foals less than twelve hours old, where FPT is predicted, Equiplas® can be given orally. Once the foal is older than twelve hours, Equiplas® must be given intravenously.

Equiplas® must be administered through a blood giving set with a 200 micron filter in the drip chamber. One litre can be given over a period of 10 – 20 minutes. A second litre should only be given 1 – 2 hours later.

During administration, an attempt should be made to avoid volume overload. Complications of administration are very infrequent, but may include mild reactions such as trembling and tachypnoea. If these symptoms become severe or progress to

sweating and excessive shaking, it is advisable to slow the rate of administration or to stop and restart in 10 – 15 minutes. If symptoms recur or persist, discontinue administration and contact Plasvacc.

## THAWING

Keep plasma frozen until required. Thaw Equiplas® to body temperature, using only warm water at around 40 degrees C. This will take about 10 – 20 minutes, if warm water is added to hold this temperature. Do not use a microwave oven or excessively hot water as this will cause degradation of the gamma globulins and render the plasma impossible to administer.

Do not refreeze thawed Equiplas®. Thawed product must be used within 21 days, and kept refrigerated at 8 degrees C.

## RESTRAINTS

Equiplas® contains no preservatives, is not pasteurized and is frozen immediately after collection.

Equiplas® is only for sale to, and can only be administered by, registered Veterinary Surgeons in Australia.

The transmission of viral diseases is possible with the administration of any blood product, as is the development of serum sickness, but these are rare occurrences in the equidae.

Do not mix with any other product.

Do not transfer it to another container.

## STORAGE

Store below minus 5 degrees centigrade (freeze).

## PLASVACC

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## To order

Please contact your local veterinary wholesale supplier

**PLASVACC**  
FOR LIFE



## EQUIPLAS OR PLASMA MADE ON THE STUD? – IS THERE A CHOICE?

When comparison is drawn between Equiplas® and plasma produced on the stud (by the sedimentation method), the following points need to be made....

	EQUIPLAS	Other plasma
Is the donor in good health at the time of collection? _____	YES	UNKNOWN
Is the donor free of Equine Infectious Anaemia? _____	YES	UNKNOWN
Is the donor free of any other viral illness? _____	YES	UNKNOWN
Does the donor qualify as a Universal Plasma donor? _____	YES	UNKNOWN
Is the plasma tested and found free of any blood cells? _____	YES	NO
Is there a guaranteed high concentration of Gamma Globulin? _____	YES	NO
Is every bag of uniform GG concentration? _____	YES	NO
Is the plasma tested for sterility? _____	YES	NO
Is it protected by APVMA Registration? _____	YES	NO

### REMEMBER

It is several months before Plasvacc completes its extensive Quality Control programme on each and every serial of Equiplas®, and only then is it released for sale. Transfusion with other plasma, with little or no Quality Control, may be worse than using no plasma at all. Some of the untoward sequelae of using fresh plasma are:

- transmission of disease
- not transfusing enough GG by using plasma with an unknown (low) GG concentration
- transfusion reactions/haemolysis/serum sickness/jaundice
- sensitization of the patient to the blood group of the donor horse

Any or all of which could possibly lead to litigation! Use only plasma available in Australia and New Zealand which is protected by registration with the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) and New Zealand Food Safety Authority (NZFSA).

### PLEASE NOTE

Frozen bags of plasma are very easy to break. Do not drop. Do not handle transfusion ports before thawing, as they may break off. Claims made on bags broken during transit can not be considered unless the (empty) fractured bags are returned to Plasvacc for inspection. Place bags in thawing water as soon as unwrapped. As "Equiplas®" will often be needed urgently, and freight to some practices will take as long as two days, we suggest that some frozen stock be retained by the veterinarian. Equiplas has a 3 year expiry period.

## READ WHAT EQUINE PRACTITIONERS ARE SAYING ABOUT

## EQUIPLAS

“Equiplas® removes the worry of having to use colostrum or plasma of dubious value in situations where the dam either has poor or no colostrum, or she has died”

Dr Reg Pascoe, Oakey Veterinary Hospital, Queensland

“It has been beneficial in colic surgery cases which are in the early stages of Endotoxaemia, either pre or post-operatively – Equiplas® has controlled this condition successfully. I intend to use Equiplas® on all colic surgery referrals showing signs of Toxaemia, before or after surgery”

Dr Phil Burgeuz, Eagle Farm, Brisbane

“I used Equiplas® on sick foals referred to me in the 1997 Season, and found it to be much easier and more convenient to use than plasma I collected myself, with no untoward side effects”

Dr Lionel Richards, Deagon, Brisbane