

Stomach Distress



Various methods for relief of stomach distress from llama owners:

"We have, for years used generic store brand antacid, WITH an anti gas component (it will say that on the label). Any of the big drug store chains carry it. Like Mylanta with the extra anti gas component. We give them about 60 cc orally if we find one on their side, or sternal but making grunting noises. Gastric distress usually gets probios around here if mild, and antacid/anti gas liquid if it's more serious looking. We check again in half an hour and re-dose, and again in an hour and give a third dose if needed. Usually one to three doses of 60 CC will cure a bad tummy and not screw up their rumen or load them with non digestible oils. We have been doing this for many years, I didn't know anyone still used the old cures. This is way easier, less messy and quickly effective. It's not going to cure anyone's animal with meso esophagus or cancer, but it will certainly fix up a case of bloat ultra fast. I have seen a down thrashing animal who we got sternal enough to dose, be calm within 15 to 20 minutes (those are the cases we might give two 60 cc syringe fulls right off the bat). I am not a vet, not prescribing, and check the info out with your vet before adopting it please."



"We've used Mylanta (or store brand equivalent) in the past as well. The active ingredient is Simethicone, which behaves like a detergent. Small bubbles coalesce into larger ones, which break easier. Mylanta-like products actually have way too much aluminum and/or magnesium hydroxide vs. the Simethicone. The ratio is designed for non-ruminants where the main problem is excess acid / heartburn. It won't really harm them though -- whereas bloat is deadly -- so I wouldn't be too concerned about that. Simethicone-only products are typically tablets or capsules, which can be administered mixed with water (I've never tasted it, but typically mix such concoctions with a little molasses regardless). Problem was we were all out, the local store was all out, and so we resorted to the mineral oil again. Our vet actually recommends mineral oil plus about a tablespoon of sodium bicarbonate in water, as the first choice. In my opinion either remedy will do the job without significant side effects. The biggest advantage to the Mylanta-like products is that it should take a smaller amount so can be easier to administer (and take less time) with a large syringe if the llama doesn't particularly like to take medications that way. They often come in various flavors too. Our llamas dislike minty or citrus flavors, which are the most common. An advantage of the mineral oil, aside from being tasteless, is that it also acts as a mild laxative to aid intestinal motility. Mylanta does nothing for intestinal issues. "



"I just went through this with one of my girls two weeks ago. I had put a bale of straw to in their barn for storage before opening it for bedding. One of my girls thought it would be fun to lay in front of it and nibble on it during the night. When I went out to feed the next morning. I found her positioned right in front of the bale and she did not pop up like she usually does when we go in the barn. So I knew something was up. I rolled her back and forth which caused her to emit a groan. Allie wanted to lay on her side but I made her sit in a more cushed position and kept rolling her from side to side until our vet arrived. It was then determined that, yes, she ate herself into a bloat condition. I need to tell you, it did not look like she had eaten that much! Our wonderful vet gave her a Banamine shot for pain, and then mixed a powder called Polyox, which is an antiacid in powder form, into a gallon of warm water. I was to syringe 240cc's orally every 2 hours until she started to act normal. Within minutes she wanted to stand. This was at 10 am. By 2 pm, third dosage, she was walking around and exhibiting hunger. I was to only allow her to have a hand full of hay every so often for the first few hours. We walked and walked for about an hour. Allie is doing fine and luckily we have not had any more problems. I have now put the straw down as bedding, she seems it leave the straw totally alone once it is spread on the ground. We watched her very closely that first day. I guess the straw in bale form was too wonderful looking to pass up, and became an overnight straw piggy."