



COLIC INFORMATION SHEET

- Symptoms (may include one or more of the following)
 - Lying down for prolonged periods
 - Looking at or biting at his sides
 - Repeated rolling and/or thrashing
 - Partial or complete lack of appetite
 - Pawing at the ground or “playing” in the water bucket with his muzzle
 - Decreased bowel movements or frequent, loose bowel movements
- Causes
 - Food related – sudden change in type, feeding dusty or moldy hay, etc
 - Enteroliths – stones that can form in the intestines
 - Worms/Parasites
 - Sand – from eating off the ground, inadequate amounts of feed, boredom
 - Over eating/drinking
 - Intestinal accidents – twists or displacements
 - Stomach ulcers
- First Aid
 - Check rectal temperature and heart rate with a stethoscope (if available)
 - Walk the horse if it is thrashing or rolling violently
 - If horse is laying quietly he can be allowed to stay laying
 - Remove feed from stall/pen
 - During the day in hot weather the horse can be wet down with water
 - If symptoms are severe or if mild symptoms persist for more than 2 hours, call 928-636-6644 for advice or treatment. Don’t wait excessively long to call us. We can usually fix a colic that has been going on for 2-3 hours but it is much harder to play catch up on a colic that has been going on for 2-3 days.
 - Don’t panic! A horse is unlikely to die from a colic in the 1-2 hours it may take a vet to get out to them unless the colic has been ongoing for days.
 - Please DO NOT give a colicking horse banamine (flunixin meglumine) prior to calling your vet!!!! This is a very powerful drug and can mask important signs which could help determine the prognosis and outcome of colic!!! Call The Vet First and inform them of the signs/symptoms!!!



- Follow-up (after treatment by veterinarian)
 - If the horse receives a sedative it may lay down. This is expected and he can remain laying if he is quiet and does not roll.
 - Walk the horse if he begins rolling again.
 - Call if symptoms persist or re-occur. Many pain medications and drugs are expected to last 2-6 hours. Ask your vet which treatments they used and how long they last.
 - No solid food until the horse is alert and is showing no symptoms. Water is okay in small amounts.
 - If mineral oil was administered it should pass between 10-20 hours.
 - The first feeding after the colic should be $\frac{1}{4}$ of his normal meal. If this feeding does not cause any problems then feeding can resume as normal.
 - For sand colic, a PSYLLIUM product should be added to his normal feeding regiment. Give one serving of psyllium daily for one week out of each month unless directed otherwise by your vet.