

## COLIC

**Colic, or abdominal pain, is a sign of serious medical problems in horses. Abdominal problems causing colic are the most common reason for doing surgery and the most common cause of natural death in horses. Colic pain can have many causes. Often it is difficult to determine the specific cause. Veterinarians treat horses with colic according to their medical needs, based on initial and followup examinations.**

**Most horses with uncomplicated colic respond to treatment within 2-4 hours. Horses not responding to initial treatment require further examination and treatment. This requires another visit to reevaluate your horse. You should consider your position regarding hospitalization/surgery and the costs associated with such treatment. All horses hospitalized for colic do not need surgery. You can make up your mind about surgery as your horse's care progresses. However, it is important to decide now to what extent you want treatment to proceed if your horse's condition deteriorates. If hospitalization becomes necessary, you should make plans now to transport your horse to the equine hospital where your horse will be treated. The sooner you make these plans, the more likely your horse will benefit from prompt treatment.**

**The equine hospital we recommend is: \_\_\_\_\_**

**Horses with colic generally travel very well. The ride tends to be soothing and sometimes transport is beneficial. Tie your horse with a lead long enough so that it can lie down.**

**Some cases of colic resolve without surgery or prolonged treatment. If you elect not to proceed with diagnostic tests and advanced treatment, we recommend that you at least allow use of pain-relieving medication as an alternative. In the event that colic pain progresses to an intolerable level despite use of pain relievers, you can elect euthanasia.**