

Colic

NOTE: Older horses may be more stoic and not show the more severe signs

Mild Signs

- **No appetite**
- **Looking at flank**
- **Laying down**
- **Fleman response** (particular type of curling of the upper lip)
- Heart rate 40 BPM or more
- **No intestinal sounds**
- excessive intestinal sounds, but this may be normal
- CRT \leq 2 seconds
- Pink membranes
- May pass no manure, minimal manure or pass very hard, dry fecal balls

Moderate Signs

- Pawing at the ground
- Sweating
- Laying down, getting up
- Stretching - looks like the horse can't pee
- Backing up – as if backing away from the pain
- Heart rate high 40's - 60 BPM
- No or poor intestinal sounds

Severe Signs

- The above signs
- Wildly thrashing, rolling
- Heart rate 60 - 80 BPM
- CRT 3 seconds or greater
- Membranes pale
- If the heart rate 80, the horse needs surgery.
- If the heart rate is above 100, horse almost always will die.
- If the heart rate is over 120 and the membranes are blue, the horse is close to death

First Aid:

1. Blanket the horse to keep it warm, unless the ambient temperature is hot
2. Walk the animal if it wants to go down, but **DO NOT** walk to exhaustion
3. Control inflammation and provide pain relief (refer to Equine Medications instruction sheet)
 - a. Administer 10 cc Banamine IV
 - b. Administer 2-5 cc Rompum IV
4. Withdraw all feed
5. If the horse has been symptom free for 6-8 hours, give a **HANDFUL** of hay.
6. If the horse remains symptom-free continue feeding a handful of hay every 30 minutes for 2 hours.
7. **SLOWLY** re-introduce small amounts of hay thereafter.
8. If relief is not achieved after 12 hours and the horse cannot yet get veterinary care, administer another dose 10 cc Banamine IV. **Seek veterinary care ASAP.**