

Colic Information Sheet

If your horse needs colic surgery, this document has information that may be helpful to you:

- 1) Most colic is treatable medically but sometimes surgery is needed to save a horse's life.
- 2) About 60% of horses that require surgery survive and lead useful, productive lives as athletes, pleasure horses or broodmares. However, that means 40% die in the immediate short term or have significant complications that interfere with their usefulness and may eventually lead to death.
- 3) Colic surgery is expensive. To explore and humanely put to sleep an adult horse on the surgery table costs approximately \$2500 depending on the amount of pre-operative care. Total cost to an owner for a patient that experiences an uncomplicated recovery averages \$5000-\$7,000. A complicated recovery is uncommon but may exceed \$10,000. Complicated short-term recoveries are more likely to have long term complications and it is often difficult or impossible to predict complications pre-operatively.
- 4) There are no guarantees. We are dealing with a difficult medical problem in a complex biologic system that is under attack by bacterial and inflammatory toxins. Colic surgery requires a team effort, difficult and physically challenging surgical procedures and consumes a large amount of supplies and drugs.
- 5) Full payment for the procedure and post-operative care is required at the time of discharge. Please see our financial policy for details. A deposit is required (minimum of \$1000 for existing clients, \$2000 for new clients) in addition to a credit card number. Care Credit is available for those who qualify.

We will work hard to save your horse and will strive always to treat your horse compassionately. We want you to be well informed before proceeding with surgical intervention.

Owner signature _____ Date _____