

Emergencies in Equines

Colic



Rolling

What to look for: horse looking at flanks, kicking belly, sweating, pawing ground, lying down, rolling.

First Aid: Remove food, encourage horse to stand but do not force it to walk if it does not want to. Try to move to a stable with a deep bed.



Looking at flanks



Kicking belly

Call the Vet immediately.



Pawing ground

Choke



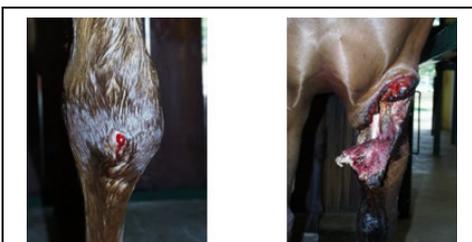
Saliva/food dripping from mouth

What to look for: stretching neck, repeated attempts to swallow. Saliva and/or food coming from the nose, distress.

First Aid: Remove all food and water. Try to keep the horse as calm as possible.

Call the Vet immediately.

Wounds/Injuries



The injury on the left could be just as serious as the injury on the right.

What to look for: wounds which may require emergency treatment include any wound causing severe lameness, a deep wound over a joint and wounds with arterial bleeding (pulsing).

First Aid: For profuse bleeding, apply pressure to the area followed by a thick dressing if possible. If blood seeps through do not remove the dressing, but add another dressing on top. Keep doing so until the Vet arrives. Other wounds – clean thoroughly and apply a dressing to keep it clean until the Vet arrives to stitch the wound.

Call the Vet immediately.

Foaling Difficulties



What to look for: if the foal's feet are visible but it has not been born within 7 minutes, or the mare is straining unproductively for more than 15 minutes **please contact us without delay.**

Breathing Problems



Flared nostrils at rest can be a sign of respiratory distress

What to look for: increased rate or effort of breathing, wheezing, flaring of nostrils, distress. You may notice an obvious "heaves line" or there may be a noise when the horse breathes in.

First Aid: Move the horse to an area that facilitates breathing easily i.e. outside.

Call the Vet immediately.

Collapse



What to look for: horse collapses on exercise, slips or falls down, is found down in the stable or field.

First Aid: if the horse collapses during exercise try to loosen tack if possible. If the horse has collapsed on a hard surface and is unable to stand, try and support the horse with bedding/rugs.

Call the Vet immediately.