

UC Davis Equestrian Center
Veterinary Care

When To Call For Vet Care Support (9/04)
Horse Care/ Vet Support Protocol

If you observe a horse that appears ill or injured, please:

1. **Assess the situation** and severity. Secure the site to keep yourself and others safe at all times. Take the horses vital signs. Observe for signs of discomfort, gut sounds, lack of appetite, manure output, bleeding, lameness, exposed foreign bodies or bones, snotty nose, cough or other signs of illness or injury. Try to get the horse comfortable and secured in a safe location.

2. **Call Vet Students:** If the horse has a temperature of F 101.5 or greater, HR 50 beats/min. or greater, appears lame, or in need of additional vet care attention, call the vet students on staff. If the vet students are unavailable, call VMTH Field Service at 752-0292. Record your actions and the horse's condition in the Barn Supervisor notebook. Continue to monitor the horse and record observations so they are available to vet services should they be needed.

- a) The vet students work independently, but are supervised by the EQC Attending vets, Dr. Spier and Dr. Watson. They meet at least 2x/monthly to review cases, modify treatments, etc. The meetings are recorded in the Vet Notebook.
- b) If the vet students are uncomfortable or unfamiliar or if the horses' problem is complicated, they are authorized and expected to call the attending vets for guidance and supervision. They may also call Field Service for immediate backup.

3. **Call VMTH Field Service:** If the horses vital signs are elevated to HR 60 beats/minute or more, T is F 102 or greater, bleeding profusely, has exposed bone or foreign object, is non-weight bearing lame, eye injury, is sweating excessively, rolling, kicking or biting at their belly or you determine the horse needs immediate vet care, call the vet school field service @ 752-0292. Check the horses file for allergies, insurance papers and/or other notations and inform the vet.

- a) After Field Service is called, then call the vet students so they are aware of the situation and can be involved or be prepared for potential follow up care.

4. **Assisting the Vet:** If the horse requires vet care for colic, you should feel comfortable with the vets medicating, putting in catheters, putting horses on fluids, getting them tubed, or other non-surgical treatments rendered necessary by the vet.

5. Authorization to Stabilize, Comfort, Euthanasia: If a horse is critically injured or ill and a decision needs to be made regarding euthanasia, contact the Program Manager or Administrator. Try to get the horse stabilized and comfortable until a decision can be made. Guidelines are such to authorize \$300 to stabilize a horse. Generally UCD horses are not surgical candidates, however, some loan horses do have owners who continue to insure the horse and some guardian angels have agreed to pay for colic surgery if it becomes necessary. If you find yourself in the difficult position of making a decision such as this, check the horses' files first.

Contacts:

VMTH Field Service 752-0292 (Vet)

Attending veterinarians: Dr. Watson and Dr. Spier 752-0292

Program Manager: Holly Fox 756-7625, 902-1905

Program Administrator: Lori Kaeslin 757-1204

Vet Students:

Ryan Carpenter 758-1569, (pager) 759-4090

Jen Williams 753-4925, (pager) 220-4156

Barn Supervisor Colic Care Protocol (2/04)

If you find a horse that appears to be colicking or ill on your shift, respond by:

1. **Assess the situation** and severity. Take the horses vital signs, observe them for signs of discomfort, gut sounds, lack of appetite, kicking, pawing, sweating, rolling and manure output. Record this information in the Barn Supervisors Notebook.
 - a) If the horse is just mildly uncomfortable bring him into the Main Barn for regular monitoring and make a Treatment Sheet. Make a Treatment Sheet to check and monitor the horses' vital signs and manure output every hour until horse shows signs of recovery. Remove all feed from the stall.
 - b) Change the Feed and Stall Cleaning Charts to reflect the horses location and include special directions (e.g 1/2 feed or no stall cleaning etc).
2. **Call Vet Students:** If the horse has a temperature of F 101.5 or greater, HR 50/min. or greater, or if the horse appears significantly uncomfortable, call the vet student. If the vet students are unavailable, call VMTH Field Service at 752-0292. Record all notes, communicating in Barn Supervisor notebook so we can continue to monitor them and make the vet services aware of the horses' condition. Check the horses' file for allergies, special conditions and make give the vet students that information.
3. **Call VMTH Field Service 752-0292.** If the horses vitals are elevated to temperature of F102 or greater or HR 60 beats/min. or greater, the horse is sweating excessively, rolling, kicking or biting the belly, or you determine the horse needs immediate vet care, call VMTH. Check the horses file for allergies, insurance papers and other notations and inform the vet.
4. If the horse requires the vets attention, you should feel comfortable assisting the vet with medicating, putting horses on fluids, getting them tubed, or other non-surgical treatments rendered necessary by the vet.
 - a) Most medicated and controlled colic cases can be safety checked at 2 hours intervals. In this case, set up a Treatment Sheet and Chart. Call Barn Supervisor staff to fill in each time slot to continue the care and monitoring of the ill horse. If the horse needs this much care call the Program Manager and Head Barn Supervisor for assistance.
 - b) Often a staff member will volunteer to spend the night caring for a critically colicky horse. Communication with the vet during this time is expected to be needed so be prepared for that interaction.
5. If the horse is very seriously ill (e.g., requiring surgery or euthanasia) you are authorized to try to get the horse stabilized and comfortable, until the Program Manager or Administrator is contacted. A guideline for expenditures is \$300/horse for this purpose. A The UCD horses are not surgical candidates, however, some loan horses do

have owners who continue to insure the horse and some guardian angels have agreed to pay for colic surgery if it becomes necessary. If you find yourself in the difficult position of making a decision such as this, check the horses' files first.

Contact Phone Numbers:

Head Barn Supervisor Jessica Wade 925-963-2227 (cell)

Program Manager, Holly 756-7625 (home), cell 902-1905 (cell) Program Administrator,
Lori 757-1204 (home)

Vet Students:

Ryan Carpenter 759-4090, (pgr) 758-1569

Jen Williams 753-4925, 220-4156

VMTH Field Service 752-0292

Attending vets: Dr. Spier and Dr. Watson 752-0292