

FIRST AID AND EMERGENCY CARE.

If you own horses, you are likely to be faced with a medical emergency- lacerations, swollen legs, eye injuries, colic, etc... You must know how to recognize serious problems and respond promptly. Contact your veterinarian to determine to best course of action when faced with an emergency.

To help you prepare for an equine emergency:

- 1- Have your veterinarian's phone number and emergency number posted in your barn and in your trailer.
- 2- Keep your insurance information readily available in case of emergency- especially when trailering your horse or away from your farm.
- 3- Have directions to the referral clinic with your insurance information.
- 4- If you do not own a trailer, make sure to have contacts (friends or family) that can be easily reached in case of an emergency which may require transporting to the referral center.
- 5- Keep a first aid kit in your barn and trailer at all times.
- 6- If your horse is boarded at a farm or you have other people watch your horses while you are out of town, make sure that they have all the information required to admit your horse to a referral hospital- including but not limited to:
 - a. Extent of treatment (financially and medically- i.e. is colic surgery an option).
 - b. Contact information for you or other party authorized to make decisions.
 - c. Financial information
 - d. At Tryon Equine Hospital, we encourage owners to fill out emergency clause forms which are kept on file and inform us of the owner's wishes in case of emergency.

Things to have available:

- 1- Information on hand at all times.
 - a. Insurance information- including emergency/after hours contact
 - b. Veterinarian phone number and emergency number
 - c. Directions to referral center.

- 2- Bandage Material
 - sterile gauze
 - cast padding
 - sheet cotton
 - vet wrap
 - elastikon
 - standing wraps
 - Duct tape
 - bandage scissors

- 3- Wound care and medical supplies
 - betadine solution or betadine scrub
 - alcohol
 - clippers
 - antibiotic ointment
 - rubber gloves
 - thermometer
 - it is also a good idea to have an extra lead rope and halter available.

Many accidents can be prevented by taking the time to evaluate your horse's environment and removing potential hazards.

Develop an emergency plan ahead of time- in a true emergency situation it is critical to act quickly and developing a plan ahead of time makes the situation easier on you, your horse, your helpers, and your veterinarian.

Remember to call the veterinarian if you think you have an emergency- your veterinarian will advise you on the best course of action.