

FACT SHEET

My Horse Needs Surgery...

Your questions answered...

What will happen to my horse prior to surgery?

Your horse will be weighed, and their temperature, pulse and heart rate taken. They will have a catheter placed in their jugular vein for the administration of anesthetic drugs. He or she will have their mouth flushed, their tail bandaged, shoes removed, and their operation site clipped and sterilely cleaned.

What are the risks associated with surgery?

All operations that involve anesthesia carry a risk from injury during the induction and recovery, as well as from the drugs used and the surgery itself. Every effort is made to minimize these risks by careful monitoring during each stage of the procedure. Despite this, complications can occur but are fortunately rare and limited to between 1% and 3% of operations.



How long will my horse's operation take?

The nature of your horse's condition will determine how long the operation will take. There is also time spent on preparatory work detailed above and the induction of, and recovery from anesthesia. The surgery is not considered complete until your horse has recovered from the anesthetic and has been returned to his or her stable.

When will the surgeon contact me?

The surgeon will not contact you until your horse has recovered from the anesthetic and been returned to its stable. There may be several operations taking place that day and please be aware that the surgeon might not be free to call until the last horse has recovered. We would ask that you refrain from phoning during the day to check on progress. The surgeon is the only person that knows precisely how the operation has gone and he or she will talk to you in detail as soon as they are available.

How long will my horse need to stay in the clinic after surgery?

This will depend on your horse's condition and the surgeon will discuss this after the operation.

What will I need to know when I get my horse home?

Full written instructions detailing your horse's aftercare will be given when he or she is discharged from the clinic.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any further questions.