

WENSUM VALLEY VETS NEWSLETTER



Christmas Opening Hours

Outside of these hours we will of course be offering our normal emergency service on 07850 230803

Monday 23rd December - 8.15am-5.00pm

Tuesday 24th December - 8.15am-5.00pm

Wednesday 25th December - **Emergency Only**

Thursday 26th December - **Emergency Only**

Friday 27th December - 8.15am-5.00pm

Saturday 28th December - **Emergency Only**

Sunday 29th December - **Emergency Only**

Monday 30th December - 8.15am-5.00pm

Tuesday 31st December - 8.15am-5.00pm

Wednesday 1st January 2025- **Emergency Only**

Thursday 2nd January 2025 - 8.15am-5.00pm

Friday 3rd January 2025 - as normal



Colic

As we move into winter, increased periods of time stabled (reduced movement), changes to feeding regimes and reduced water intake can all contribute to an increased risk of colic. Dehydration due to water freezing over or reduced water intake in cold weather can both contribute to a greater risk of impaction colic.

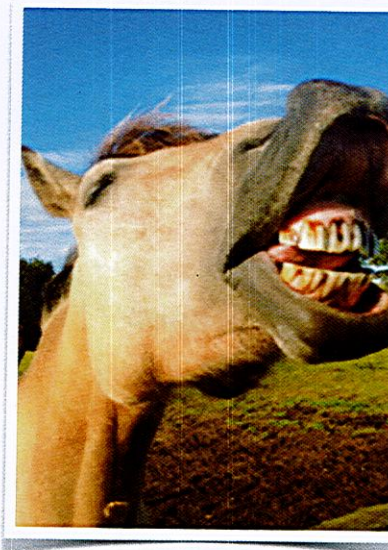
What is it?

'Colic' means abdominal pain and the associated signs. There are a vast number of causes/types of colic including spasmodic, tympanic, impaction, displacement, torsion, entrapment and sand colic.



What are the signs?

- Flank watching
- Biting/kicking abdomen
- Rolling
- Getting up and down
- Reduced faecal (poo) output or changes in faecal output
- Lip curling



What to do

If you suspect that your horse has colic, it is important to call us immediately. We will usually need to visit your horse to examine them and try to determine the type/cause of the colic and provide pain relief and treatment. Most cases of colic are a type called 'Spasmodic Colic' where increased movement is triggered in the gut causing discomfort. These can be treated medically, however it is important that your vet is consulted to rule out more serious problems.

Reducing the risk of colic

- Ensure 24/7 access to clean water - adding warm water to buckets and feeds can help with this and water sources should be checked at least twice daily
- Soaking or steaming hay to increase water intake
- Keep diet as consistent as possible and make any changes gradually
- Where possible, encourage turnout and regular movement
- Regular worm egg counting and responsible worming
- Regular routine dentistry to promptly identify dental problems which could contribute to reduced chewing
- Feeding a product for sand prevention regularly (e.g. SandOut, SandAid, Psyllium husk)



Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year from the whole team at Wensum Valley Vets !

