Marvin Expands After Colic Surgery

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Colic surgeries are common procedures in equine veterinary medicine. But do you know what to expect following colic surgery? Equine Reproduction SVC can help ensure the horse comes through surgery and recovery in the best shape possible. No owner wants to send his or her horse under the knife. But knowing what to expect ahead of time can help ease some of the anxiety.

Developing Colic

Southwood noted that horses that crib and those that live in certain geographic areas could be at higher risk of developing colic, so owners should take extra steps to reduce the chance of their animals coming down with the condition. There were no differences between case and age-matched control horses in the number of surgical procedures performed, but control horses had longer hospital stays. Several researchers have evaluated horses' return to work following colic surgery, Southwood said. Southwood noted that many racehorse trainers don't believe that horses can return to having a successful racing career after colic surgery, so the group at New Bolton Center was eager to see the results of the study.

Return to Work

Southwood reviewed return to work for 76% of the study horses. She noted that several researchers have evaluated horses' return to work following colic surgery, Southwood said. Southwood noted that many racehorse trainers don't believe that horses can return to having a successful racing career after colic surgery, so the group at New Bolton Center was eager to see the results of the study.

Nutrition

When it comes to nutrition, Southwood said most patients can resume eating a normal diet. In some cases, she noted, the attending surgeon might recommend modifying the horse's diet, perhaps transitioning to a complete feed or adding oil if the horse is losing weight. In any case, it's important to follow the surgeon's and veterinarian's advice when it comes to the horse's diet following surgery. Southwood recommended keeping the horse stalled, with hand walks and grazing, for the first four weeks before resuming regular turnout.

Wound Care

When it comes to wound care, Southwood said the attending surgeon might recommend using a wound care product to help keep the wound clean and dry and monitoring it closely for hernia formation. If the infection is severe or it is delayed a horse returning to work following surgery.