**Post Op Considerations of Surgical Colic**

Every 2 hours in the first 24-hour period after surgery, horses should be checked for signs of colic, and a physical exam should be done. This can then be extended to every 4 hours.

Each check should be recorded and documented so changes in parameters can be easily identified. Any changes in attitude or physical parameters should be communicated with the veterinary surgeon.

For the first week, post op care can include IV fluids, antibiotics, painkillers and a gastric protectant.

Other post-op considerations include:

* Observation of the horse for EDUD or Eating, Drinking, Urinating, and Defecating
* Checking for gastric reflux
* Ensure the horse is BAR (bright, alert, responsive), that he’s regaining any weight he may have lost
* Ensure no new signs of colic are seen
* The incision should be inspected daily for signs of infection such as discharge, redness, or excess swelling or dehiscence

**Eating**: Horses are to be slowly reintroduced to food, and gradually increasing its amount. The patient can be offered small amounts of water, followed by wet, sloppy, high-fibre mashes or handfuls of grass or soaked hay every four hours.

**Exercise:** Horses should be box rested for 4 week, where it can be hand walked, then a following 4 weeks of turnout in a small paddock, alone.

Depending on the case, at the end of about two-month period, if all is still going well, most horses can be given full turnout with other horses. Light lunging and riding can be done, with a gradual return to full training at the 90 day mark.

https://www.vettimes.co.uk/app/uploads/wp-post-to-pdf-enhanced-cache/1/colic-surgery-in-horses-nurses-role-in-postoperative-care.pdf