



## Henderson Veterinary Associates, Ltd.

24 Hour Mobile Equine Service And Haul In Facility

55 Prospect Road, Elizabethtown, PA 17022  
717-361-8700, 717-361-8708 fax  
ER pager 866-825-0218  
www.hvaequine.com

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### **First Aid: What can YOU do in an emergency situation?**

#### **Be Prepared:**

It is easy to panic when an emergency arises. If you are prepared, you can help your horse as quickly and efficiently as possible. Make sure that you have your veterinarian's information (name, phone number, emergency number) easily accessible on your horse's stall, with you, and with your barn manager/farm owner. You may also want to consider assembling a first-aid kit. See our website for a list of suggested items.

#### **What IS an emergency?**

Some emergencies are more critical than others. It may be difficult for you to judge whether or not a situation with your horse is an emergency. The following are emergencies that we see commonly:

- Colic
- Wounds or profuse bleeding
- Severe lameness or unwillingness to move
- Abnormal eyes
- Fever/not eating
- Diarrhea
- Profuse, sudden nasal discharge
- Respiratory distress
- Neurological disease
- A horse that is unable to get up ("down horse")
- Trouble foaling

When in doubt, please call! We are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. We can help you decide whether an emergency visit is necessary or if monitoring your horse for a few hours/overnight is reasonable.

#### **How do I use the pager?**

If you are trying to reach us after hours, call the main clinic line FIRST and leave a message with your name and phone number. We can check the messages remotely, so we know who paged if the page does not come through completely for some reason. After leaving a message, call the pager number, enter the number where you can be reached, and hang up. Then, keep your phone with you so that we can call you back. We will return most pages within 5 minutes. If we have not returned your call within 10-15 minutes, repeat your page.

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When you call the emergency pager, make sure that you have the following information readily available:

- Where is the horse located (physical address)?
- What is the horse doing?
- Did it eat/drink/pass manure?
- Rectal temperature?
- Any medications?

### **While you are waiting:**

- Keep the horse as calm as possible. If he is rolling repeatedly, try to keep him on his feet and walking. However, do not put any people in danger while doing this. Human safety always comes first.
- If possible, take your horse's vital signs (heart rate, respiratory rate, and rectal temperature).
- Do not give your horse anything to eat, especially if he/she is colicky.
- If your horse is actively bleeding, try and stop it using a pressure wrap.
- \*\*\*Do not give any medication unless directed by your veterinarian.\*\*\*
- We will give you specific instructions over the phone.

### **When we arrive:**

We will immediately assess the situation, typically starting with a physical exam. After our initial assessment, we will discuss any treatment decisions with you. We will leave you with a detailed plan so that you understand any further care that your horse may need.

### **TAKE HOME MESSAGE:**

- Be prepared.
- Have your veterinarian's information easily accessible.
- When in doubt, just call!!!

-Erin K. Dill, D.V.M.