

We want to thank all of our clients for such a wonderful year! I hope that everyone is staying warm with this cold snap. For any of your equine needs, please contact the companion animal side at 810-648-8230. We would like to share a few tips for winter colic prevention and to welcome a new staff member!

### Tips for Colic Prevention

The number one killer of horses is colic. Colic is not a disease, but rather a multitude of signs which indicate abdominal pain in the horse. Colic can range from mild to severe, but it should never be ignored. Colic can become life threatening in a relatively short period of time. The chances of recovery are greatly improved by recognizing colic and seeking veterinary help quickly. Management plays a key role in prevention. Although not every case is avoidable, the following guidelines can maximize the horse's health and reduce the risk of colic:

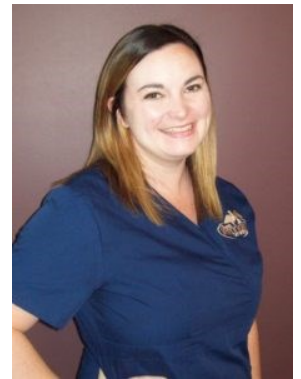
1. Provide fresh, clean water at all times. Provide a heated water source during times of the year when freezing is a concern.
2. Feed a high quality diet comprised primarily of roughage (hay.)
3. Avoid feeding excessive grain and energy-dense supplements. Divide daily concentrate rations into two or more smaller feedings rather than one large one.
4. Establish a daily routine, including exercise and turnout. This also provides a chance to observe your horse for irregularities.
5. Set up a regular parasite control program with the help of your equine practitioner.
6. Avoid putting feed on the ground, especially in sandy soils.
7. Check hay, bedding, pasture, and environment for potentially toxic substances, such as blister beetles, noxious weeds, and other ingestible foreign matter.

### 8. Reduce stress. Horses experiencing changes in environment or workloads are at higher risk of intestinal dysfunction.

Virtually any horse is susceptible to colic. There seems to be minimal correlation with age, sex, and breed. However, with conscientious care and management some colics can be avoided.

### Welcome Our New Equine Assistant!

We are proud to announce a new member to our equine team, **Chelsea Messing**. She will be assisting with appointments and scheduling. Chelsea grew up in the Carsonville area and still resides there with her husband Adam and their 2 boys Blake and Brady. Chelsea grew up on a small farm and has been around horses since birth. She grew up riding and showing Quarter Horses in the all around events, focusing on Hunt Seat and Western. She currently has 2 dogs and a cat at home, with 4 horses still on the family farm. Chelsea enjoys spending time with her family, riding and showing her horse, Wilson, and farming with her husband.



### Wishing you a Happy Holidays!

Thumb Veterinary Service Equine Team



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