Post-surgical Management

1. Anti-Inflammatory medications (Phenylbutazone (“bute”), Flunixin meglumine (Banamine), Ketoprofen; and Firocoxib (Equioxx) are administered post-operatively for 3 days to reduce swelling around the incision
2. Systemic Antibiotics are usually administered prior to and following surgery to protect against bacterial infection of the operation site for up to a week
3. Incision site should be cleaned twice daily until it is healed
4. The skin is held together immediately post-operatively using skin staples or sutures. These will usually be removed approximately 14 days after the surgery is performed.
5. Following surgery, all food and water should be fed from a height for at least three weeks, and the horse should not be turned out to grass. Allowing the horse to lower its head results in stretching of the permanent suture material and may contribute to failure of the surgical procedure
6. Trotting exercise can begin following staple / suture removal, however canter work should not begin for approximately four weeks after the surgery

