

Post- Op Considerations of Colic as it relates to feeding and exercise

Feeding

The patient is gradually re-introduce their regular feed as soon as possible—ideally within 18 to 36 hours after surgery

If grain is fed, reintroduce slowly after 30 days. Grain is not recommended during the early postoperative recovery.

Examine the manure daily. Note the quantity of manure and the characteristics. A diet which has a laxative effect is recommended (grass, alfalfa hay).

Exercise

First 30 days: Stall rest with hand walking the first 30 days after surgery. Hand walking, 10 minutes per walk, and hand grazing if grass is available, is recommended 3 to 4 times daily.

30 to 60 days: Round pen or small paddock self-exercise is permissible from day 30 to day 60 after surgery if the incision is healing well. If a round pen or small paddock is not available, increase the time hand walking.

60 to 90 days: Gradually return to normal activity from day 60 to day 90 after surgery. If postoperative complications occurred, especially in the incision, additional rest is recommended.

References

<https://largeanimal.vethospitals.ufl.edu/hospital-services/surgery/colic/post-operative-surgical-colic-care/>