

Success Story

“SKIPSA GOLD LEAGUER” MAKES A SOLID GOLD RECOVERY!

Skipsa Gold Leauger (aka Mary Lee), an American Quarter Horse owned by Lorrie Jickell of Debary, Florida, arrived at **AVS Equine Hospital** on July 17, 2008 exhibiting signs of mild colic. At admittance around 10am she had an elevated heart rate of 48 and was moderately painful. However her remaining vitals (temp., respiratory rate, capillary refill time and GI sounds) were within normal limits. A naso-gastric tube was passed to her stomach and no net reflux was obtained so she was given a gallon of mineral oil.

Mary Lee was not at Lorrie's home but away at a trainer's farm in Georgia when she started showing signs of colic. Fortunately for Lorrie and **Mary Lee** the trainer sent her to **AVS Equine Hospital** at the first sign of colic. **Dr. Joe Fisch** palpated her after the vitals were taken and found that she had a large firm left colon impaction and one loop of small intestine was felt.

Mary Lee is a good example of how quickly a colic can change from mild to life threatening. At 10am her blood lactate was 1.8(normal is <2.0). She was started on IV fluids to help loosen the impaction. At 2:30pm, **Mary Lee** started to get more painful and needed sedation to keep her standing. Her increased level of pain, along with a rising blood lactate of 3.3, and an abnormal rectal exam caused **Dr. Joe Fisch** to recommend colic surgery.

At 6:30pm, the 28 month old **Mary Lee** went into surgery. In the four hours that followed **Dr. Steve Fisch**, assisted by **Dr. Voorhees** alleviated the left colon impaction via enterotomy. In layman's terms, **Dr. Steve Fisch** emptied the colon through an incision, then carefully evaluated the entire gastrointestinal tract for signs of displacement or torsions. The cecum had also

become displaced and had shifted to the left side of the abdomen. This was also replaced to its normal location during surgery. **Dr. Joe Fisch** prepped **Mary Lee** for surgery and kept a close eye on all of her vital signs while running her anesthesia during surgery. He also stayed with her in recovery and personally returned her to her stall. She was started on antibiotics pre-operatively and these were continued for 5 days.



We all fell in love with Mary Lee's sweet personality, but she is no wimp. It took a lot of heart to come through colic surgery so beautifully. Photo: 70 days post surgery

Mary Lee did well in the days following surgery. She started on small amounts of alfalfa 2 days post surgery and was increased to flakes of alfalfa over the following three days. On day 5, Safe Choice (a Nutrena Feed) was added to her daily ration and slowly increased to her normal amount over a four day period.

On July 27th, **Mary Lee** was sent home with instructions of stall rest and hand walking for two months followed by an additional month of small paddock turnout.

Lorrie says, "I have owned horses for more than 35 years and have never had so much confidence that my horse was in good hands and the job was being done well. I attribute **Mary Lee's** success 100% to **Dr. Joe** and his team. I really appreciated all of their personalized

care and **Dr. Joe's** daily phone calls to update me and patiently answer all of my questions. I can't say enough about **Dr. Joe** and **AVS Equine Hospital**.

We would like to say "THANK YOU" to Lorrie for her high praise. We look forward to adding **Mary Lee's** photo to our "Wall of Champions" next year when she wins the AQHA World Title for 3 year old western pleasure!

