



Photo Left: Poco back home & happy to have both eyes!

October 2008

Success Story

LUCKY FOR “POCO” HE HAS PERSISTANT PARENTS!

Poco, a 12 year old Quarter Horse Gelding owned by Clint & Kitten Grimes of Crawfordville, was originally seen by Dr. Scott Richardson and referred to the University of Florida to explore the possibility of saving his eye. **Poco** had been suffering from a large coronary ulcer for weeks and was not responding to treatment. **Poco** was examined by the University of Florida and their recommendation was enucleation (removal) of the eye due to the size of the ulcer and previous non-response to treatment. Their second recommendation was a corneal replacement of the eye. The Grimes were not comfortable with these solutions. Dr. Richardson referred them to **AVS Equine Hospital** for a second opinion.

On 4/23/08 **Poco** arrived at **AVS Equine Hospital** and was observed to have a large ulcer that covered two-thirds of the eye. Because the Grimes Family wanted to give **Poco** every possible chance to save the eye **Dr. Steve Fisch** examined the eye and offered the Grimes family the option of a conjunctival flap surgery. This is when the pink tissue around the eye is surgically cut and stretched over the ulcer and then sutured to the cornea. Permission was given for surgery so **Poco** was scheduled for the following day. On April 24th he was placed under general anesthesia and a conjunctival flap was grafted over the corneal ulcer in his left eye. This is done for large ulcers to increase the blood supply to the cornea which aids in healing and also provides a protective barrier in case the eye ruptures during the treatment period. A mila eye lavage kit was also

placed in his upper left eye lid to aid in giving medication in the eye every 4 hours for the first few days and then every 6 hours for an additional two weeks. On May 5th **Poco** decided he was done with the eye lavage system and rubbed it out. Unfortunately for him his doctors did not agree so the eye lavage system was replaced the following day.

On May 6th the Grimes family took **Poco** home with detailed treatment instructions. Clint and Kitten where very dedicated to the treatment schedule and the happy outcome of this story is largely due to their dedication. For two weeks he required 4 different eye medications every 6 hours and then for an additional two weeks the same 4 eye medications every 8 hours. The 4 eye medications had to be given at 5 minute intervals. This meant that to do the medicating correctly the Grimes had spend at least 15 minutes each time. Not every owner is able to keep up that kind of schedule for a month, but because of the Grimes dedication and the success of the surgery performed by **Dr. Steve Fisch** today **Poco** has an eye.

On June 6th **Dr. Joe Fisch** went to the Grimes farm in Crawfordville and rechecked **Poco**. The eye was completely healed and only a small focal white scar remained where the ulcer had been.

Poco is back to doing what he loves—riding the trails in the Apalachicola National Forest with the Grimes family!

