



### Signs that your colicing horse may need surgery:

Abnormal Rectal Exam

Non-responsive to pain medications

Abnormal Abdominal Tap

Thicken of small intestinal wall on ultrasound

October 2007

Photo on Left, Back Row: Steve Fisch, DVM, Colleen Prater. Middle Row: David Clifford, Carla Danesi, Amber Hickson, DVM, Joe Fisch, DVM. Front Row: April's Foolish Dancer. Photo on Right Cherie' Anderson and April's Foolish Dancer going home :)

# Success Story

## THE VERY LITTLE GIRL WITH THE BIG HEART

**April's Foolish Dancer** was born on April Fool's Day 2007. Cherie' Anderson, who raises miniature horses in Panama City, Florida, knew from the beginning that **April's Foolish Dancer** was special because of her big sweet heart. What Cherie' didn't know was that a mere 6 months after birth her special little horse would need that big heart to fight for her life.

**April** was admitted to **AVS Equine Hospital** on October 21, 2007 at 2:00pm by **Dr. Joe Fisch**. She had been seen by the referring veterinarian twice during the previous day but had not responded to mineral oil and Banamine (pain medicine) treatments. Upon presentation, **April's** abdomen was very distended and she was moderately painful despite a Banamine injections 3 hours prior. **Dr. Joe Fisch** obtained no net reflux via the nasal gastic tube so the decision was made to ultrasound the abdomen. The abdominal ultrasound revealed a gas-filled large colon and a few loops of gas-filled small intestine. **April** had not had a bowel movement or ingested any water in the last 24 hours. Her blood work showed a moderate level of dehydration. Once all of the diagnostic procedures had been completed and reviewed the decision was made that **April** would need surgery and Cherie' was advised of her prognosis.

Cherie' told us, "She a fighter. If there's a chance we can help her, I'm going to do it." **April** was prepped and taken into surgery, while Cherie' was taken into surgical

observation so she could watch all stages of the surgery.

In surgery, a **large Sternal Flexure Impaction** was found and relieved by an enterotomy at the pelvic flexure. Basically this means she had a large mass that was stopping anything from moving along her intestinal tract. Complicating matters was the gas that had built up behind the mass causing the intestines, cecum, and colon to distend or "balloon up". **Dr. Steve Fisch** released the gas from the cecum and opened up a section of intestine that allowed **Dr. Joe Fisch** to break up the mass and flush the intestine clean. While **Dr. Joe Fisch** was flushing, **Dr. Steve Fisch** was going over all the rest of the intestines with a practiced eye, searching and repairing minor tears and/or weak spots in the intestinal wall. Once everything was repaired and all the flushing was complete, the intestines were sutured back together and placed back in the abdomen.

One day after surgery and plenty of fluids later, **April** was feeling better and was started on a small amount of alfalfa. In total **April** spent 8 days at AVS Equine Hospital for monitoring and post surgical treatments.

Cherie' will continue **April's** care at home starting with 3 weeks in the stall with hand walking. Then **April** will progress to turnout in a round pen for two months before she resumes her usual activities. Cherie' who has around 30+ mini at her ranch [www.wildroseminiatures.com](http://www.wildroseminiatures.com) says that **April** will always have a home with her!