



Photo Left: Cracker Jack during his stay in the hospital



June 2008

Photo Right: Cracker Jack back home with friends in June

## Success Story

### “CRACKER JACK” GETS THE PRIZE FOR BEING ONE TOUGH COOKIE!

At AVS Equine Hospital not all of our equine clients are “large” animals and in some cases this makes them a little bit more challenging to treat. **Cracker Jack**, a six year old stallion owned by Allison Hollaway, was showing signs of colic on 4/11/2008. Allison decided to call AVS Equine Hospital and have us come to her farm to treat him. **Dr. Joe Fisch** went to Allison’s house and examined **Cracker Jack**. His vitals were normal but he was not eating well and was laying down much more than normal. He had no net reflux after passing the stomach tube so he was given mineral oil and banamine.

Unfortunately, he did not improve much over the weekend so on 4/14/2008, **Dr. Steve Fisch** went out to see **Cracker Jack**. This time **Cracker Jack’s** heart rate was increased and intestinal sounds were decreased. Allison told **Dr. Steve Fisch** that he had not defecated at all over the weekend. Due to his small size **Cracker Jack** could not be palpated. Normally this is a tool our veterinarians use to get a better idea of what is going on internally. They can feel the intestines to determine whether there is an impaction, a twist, or some other problem. Blood work (CBC and blood lactate) was pulled and showed moderate dehydration. Blood lactate was at 5.2 which is a critical level. The decision was made to bring **Cracker Jack** in for IV fluids and permission was given to go to surgery, if needed. He was also started on antibiotics to decrease the chance of peritonitis due to prolonged GI stasis.

**Cracker Jack** remained in guarded but stable condition. After a

week he had still not defecated. On 4/18/08 abdominal radiographs were taken to look for enteroliths. For those non-medical folks, that’s stones in the intestines! No stones were found so treatment continued. Although surgery had been approved, the doctors of AVS Equine Hospital did not perform surgery because **Cracker Jack** remained stable and showed low levels of pain which were all indications that he could recover medically with out the need for surgery.

On 4/25/2008 the impaction finally broke down and was released. It was said he lost 100lbs overnight. **Dr. Joe Fisch** says he does not recommend this dieting approach for his other patients!

**Cracker Jack** continued to get fluids, antibiotics and gastrogard for 2 days and then he was taken off all medication. The next day he spiked a fever so he was started on Baytril for 14 days. **Cracker Jack** went home on 5/2/2008.

When **Cracker Jack** was rechecked before discontinuing his antibiotics, his blood work (CBC) revealed a mildly increased white blood cell count which is a sign of infection. Therefore he continued on antibiotics for an additional 2 weeks.

It was close to two months after **Cracker Jack** first showed signs of colic that he was given a clean bill of health! **Cracker Jack** is now back home with all of his mini friends and Allison says he is back to his old “ladies man” self!

