



Photo: AVS Equine Hospital

December 2008

Success Story

BEST FRIENDS ARE HARD TO FIND!

Valentino, a 15 year old Saddle Horse gelding owned by Ryan Pfouts of Hahira, GA was referred to **AVS Equine Hospital** by Dr. Mary Rogers of Thomasville, GA for chronic drainage of the left nostril. The Pfouts came to Dr. Rogers because they had been to several equine facilities trying to get his problem diagnosed. There are many reasons a horse can have drainage from a nostril, so **Dr. Steve Fisch** began the process of elimination that led to **Valentino's** diagnosis and treatment.

His temperature, pulse and respiration were all within normal limits when he presented to the hospital. First a bag was placed over the end of his nose. This forces the horse to take deep breaths and allows the veterinarian to hear any abnormalities in the lungs that might be causing the drainage. The lungs sounded clear. Next **Valentino's** guttural pouches were examined with a 1-meter video endoscope. The video endoscope allows the veterinarian and the clients to see the guttural pouches on a large TV screen. If the guttural pouches are infected drainage will be visible with the endoscope. In Valentino's case the guttural pouches were clean with no discharge. **Dr. Steve Fisch** recommended skull radiographs as the next step.

Valentino had been having problems for several months and had previously had two teeth removed at the University of Florida. The skull xrays revealed a mass in the maxillary sinus above where the two teeth had been removed. The mass was an encapsulated abscess and would require surgery to be removed..

Ryan and Valentino have a very special bond, which is one reason Ryan's parents had been travelling back and forth between different

equine facilities trying to get Valentino diagnosed. The family decided to proceed with the surgery at **AVS Equine Hospital**.

Dr. Steve Fisch performed the surgery that required opening a section of the skull known as the left maxillary sinus flap. Once inside the skull **Dr. Steve Fisch** then explored the maxillary sinus and found the encapsulated abscess. He took a culture, which would later help determine which antibiotics would most likely work against Valentino's particular problem. Next the sinus area was copiously lavaged (washed) and a Kaslow tube was placed as an indwelling sinus flushing catheter. Lastly, the skull flap was returned and secured with the skin sutured over the surgical area. The flushing catheter was used in the weeks following surgery to flush out the sinus area daily with one liter of lactated ringers solution plus the antibiotics that the infection was found to be sensitive to from the culture.

Ryan was with **Valentino** every step of the way and diligently took over treatments once he went home. The only setback occurred on day 5 post-surgery when Valentino rubbed out his sinus flushing catheter. The doctors at AVS Equine replaced the sinus flushing catheter along with his venous catheter that was being used to administer his antibiotics. The venous catheter was replaced to decrease the risk of infection and thrombosis (blood clots).

After two weeks of diligent work by Ryan and his family and the team at AVS Equine, Valentino was back to his normal happy life with his best friend Ryan. Everyone thanks Dr. Mary Rogers for her quick referral.

