**PRE-OP CONSIDERATIONS**

* Observe your horse and monitor vital signs as well as passing of any feces. Remove access to feed. If there is a blockage, any feed intake will only intensify the problem.
* First determine the cause of colic before administering any pain medication. This may mask the colic symptoms and complicate diagnosis and treatment.
* A thorough history and physical exam is conducted where the gut sounds and vital signs are assessed as well as passage of a nasogastric tube and performing a rectal exam are all standard protocol for determining the root of the problem.
* Once the peritoneal fluid is normal, heart rate is found to be below 60 bpm and there is no cardiovascular compromise or nasogastric influx, these signs suggest a dull colic which can be indicative of a colonic impaction if the intestinal motility is decreased or a spasmodic colic if the intestinal sounds are increased. These can both be treated medically.