

# Common Symptoms of Colic

- Restlessness manifested by pawing, repeated getting up and lying down and rolling over
- Kicking at the belly
- Looking at the flank
- May adopt a dog-setting posture
- Decreased appetite
- Lying down and getting up carefully
- Appears lifeless, drooping head, depressed
- Weight loss
- Unable to gain weight regardless of change in diet
- Watery diarrhea

**T**he animal may just stand or lie down on its sternum and turn its head to look at its left flank. It may get up, walk around, and then lie down again. They usually refuse to eat and sometimes will go to a water source and play in it with their lips. As the severity of the case increases so does the evidence of pain. They will begin to sweat; breathing becomes more and more labored. The horse will go down and roll from side to side, often kicking and striking as it rolls. It will get up and immediately go down again, until it is almost impossible to keep it on its feet. *A.J. Newman, DVM*

## Signs of Colic

	Mild	Moderate	Severe
Heart rate (beats per min.)	40 to 60	60 to 80	Over 80
Respiratory rate (breaths per min.)	20 to 30	30 to 40	Over 40
Temperature (degrees F.)	99 to 100.5	99 to 100.5	under 99/over 100.5
Gum color	pale pink	pale pink	bluish or purple
Capillary refill time	1 to 2 seconds	2 to 4 seconds	over 5 seconds
Gut sounds	normal/increased/absent	decreased/absent/ may be increased	absent
Feces	may be normal	small, hard fecal balls, normal, no fecal production	none or profuse diarrhea
Passing gas	maybe	maybe	none or profuse diarrhea
Pain level	sweating, intermittent pawing/ looking at belly/ lifting hind leg/ stretching	same as mild but continuous plus may try to roll	all other signs plus uncontrollable, continuous attempts to roll/thrash
Contact your veterinarian	if your horse has any 2 for more than 30 minutes	immediately	immediately



*"Quality and Concern in Equine Practice"*  
**Serving Colorado Springs and Eastern Colorado**

**16895 Hanks Grove  
Peyton, Colorado  
(719) 749-9500**