



Reata Equine Veterinary Group LLC

CARING FOR SOUTHERN ARIZONA'S HORSES SINCE 1978
24/7 EMERGENCY COVERAGE
9100 E. Tanque Verde Rd. Ste 100
Tucson, AZ 85749 520-749-1446

Information on Possible Complications Arising from the use of General Anesthesia in the Field

Although general anesthesia in the field is a common procedure it is not without risk. It is performed where the horse is stabled and under field conditions with little back up resources available in the case of life threatening complications. The purpose of this information sheet is to inform the owner of the risks inherent in general anesthesia performed in the field. The procedure involves the patient being given an intravenous dose of short acting general anesthetic, shortly after which the patient lies down and is under general anesthesia for a short time (15-45 minutes).

Advanced monitoring equipment for oxygen levels, EKG, blood pressure, blood gas measurements are not available for field anesthesia.

In case of respiratory failure, ventilators are not available in the field.

Possible complications include

- peripheral nerve neuropathy
- sensitivity to the anesthetic
- cardiac arrhythmias
- hypoventilation
- hypotension
- rhabdomyolysis (severe muscle damage)
- injury to the patient during induction of anesthesia or recovery from anesthesia.

All of these and other unlisted complications can result in permanent injury to the patient or death of the patient.

Owners of horses that require general anesthesia have the option of transporting their animals to a surgical facility to have the procedure performed in a hospital setting where anesthetic monitoring equipment and back up services are available in case of unexpected complications.

Owners should weigh the risk benefit ratio. Some procedures are more safely done in the field where others should only be done in a hospital.

Please consult your attending veterinarian for advice.

Seek a second opinion when needed.

Patients Diagnosis: _____ Procedure: _____

I have read and understand the above information on the risks associated with field anesthesia and accept the risks inherent in the procedure. I give my consent to perform field anesthesia on my horse.

I authorize Dr. _____ to perform a field anesthesia on

(Horse's name)

Print Name _____

Signature _____ Date _____

The above listed risks were discussed prior to administration of anesthesia:

Veterinarian Signature: _____