

bly not the limiting factor. Now we are looking at the blood flow to the lungs," Dr. Manohar said.

Equine Colic Research

Clyde, the pony, died of severe colic last year. On the advice of veterinarians at the University of California School of Veterinary Medicine, Davis, Mr. and Mrs. Dale Brooks, Clayton, California, had their long-time friend put down.

Clyde taught the Brooks' six-year-old daughter Sarah, to ride, and was an important part of the horse-loving Brooks family. Mrs. Brooks vowed that the death of the 17-year-old Russian pony wouldn't be in vain.

She participated in the 1985 Danville Junior Horsemen Ride for Research, a fund-raising project of Morris Animal Foundation, Englewood, Colorado. Riders obtain pledges for miles ridden. The money is used for horse health studies in veterinary colleges.

Mrs. Brooks raised \$1,550 in donations, which she contributed to the study of colic at the University of California, Davis, in Clyde's memory. Morris Animal Foundation funded a study of new surgical techniques for colic at the college, supported in part by the money dedicated to Clyde.

Twists and displacements of the horse's colon can be repaired surgically with great success, thanks to advances in equine colic surgery.

Ten years ago, such colics were usually fatal. But now that their success rate in such surgeries produces long-term survivors, equine surgeons realize that a small number of these survivors have a recurrence of the same condition.

Dogs and cows also are prone to torsions. Recurrence in these animals is so common that at the time of initial surgery, the surgeon attaches the twisted organ to other organs or to the abdominal wall, deliberately creating adhesions which prevent further twisting.

Dennis Meagher, D.V.M., Ph.D., and Mark Markel, D.V.M., University of California, Davis, equine surgeons, are testing the same technique on horses through a grant from Morris Animal Foundation, Englewood, Colorado. The non-profit organization funds studies of the diseases and health problems of dogs, cats, horses and zoo animals.

The surgeons are testing a technique which can be performed easily by equine practitioners. It will add approximately half an hour to the colic surgery.

The technique has been performed on a number of horses. So far, all show good recovery. A post-surgical weight loss is quickly regained and the horses show no apparent ill effects from immobilization of the fastened colon.

Initially the procedure will be recommended by Drs. Markel and Meagher only for horses needing a second surgery for twisted colons. The recurrence rate is too low for the special technique to be applied routinely unless long-term follow-up of treated horses confirms that there are no side effects.

