

When to work your horses after they have had abdominal surgery

Recent studies have shown that horses which have had abdominal surgery through an incision in the mid-ventral line of the abdomen (beneath the abdomen) can be exercised after surgery earlier than previously thought.

The studies showed that the incisional site strength is increased by the 4th week following surgery and that by 8 weeks it is comparable to normal abdominal wall strength.

Aimed with this new information veterinarians are saying that it is reasonable for a horse to begin light exercise 4 weeks after surgery and to return to normal exercise 8 weeks after surgery.