



Invitation to the

2nd Practical Equine Colic Surgery Course

Thursday to Saturday, 19. – 21. February 2026 at the Pferdeklinik
Niederlenz, Switzerland

Information | Program

Practical Equine Colic Surgery Course

This course is designed for practicing equine surgeons and surgeons at any stage of training, particularly those involved in equine colic surgery.

The focus of the course lies on practicing several techniques of bowel anastomosis on well-prepared equine cadaver intestines.

Highlights:

- Expert lectures, discussions and videos
- Intensive hands-on practice using well prepared equine intestines
- Small groups allowing direct supervision with personal feedback
- Each surgical team will exist of two participants which will have ample opportunity to practice several intestinal anastomosis techniques
- Standardized and objective improvement assessment

Theory Topics Covered:

- Theatre setup, tips and tricks
- Sutures and instruments
- Surgical exploration
- Intestinal viability and decisions
- Step-by-step anastomosis techniques
- Abdominal closure
- Postoperative management
- Complications
- Prognosis
- Current and future research topics

Practical Skills:

Hands-on training includes:

- Suture patterns and knots particularly useful in abdominal surgery
- Jejunio-jejunal anastomosis
- Jejunio-cecal anastomosis
- Incomplete ileocecal bypass and hybrid jejunio-ileo-cecal anastomosis
- Large colon resection and anastomosis
- Small colon resection and anastomosis

Expected outcomes

By the end of the course the participant will be able to understand the different types of intestinal anastomosis, the pathophysiology of anastomotic healing and the principles of how to manage surgical equine colic cases.

The participant will be able to demonstrate various suturing techniques whilst performing hand sewn end-to-end small bowel anastomosis, jejunocecal hand-sewn end-to-side and side-to-side anastomosis as well as colo-colic anastomosis on the ex-vivo models provided.

Speaker

Gessica Giusto, DVM, PhD, Associate Professor of Large Animal Surgery, University of Turin, Italy:

Prof. Giusto graduated from the University of Turin in 2013. After completing her degree, she worked as an Assistant Veterinary Surgeon in private practice before enrolling in a PhD program at the University of Turin in 2015. She earned her PhD in 2018, focusing her doctoral thesis on the formation of abdominal adhesions. During her PhD, she also served as an Assistant Equine Surgeon at the Veterinary Teaching Hospital of the University of Turin.

In 2019, she was appointed Assistant Professor and advanced to Associate Professor of Large Animal Surgery in 2021. Her primary areas of interest include colic surgery, laparoscopy, and wound healing. Prof. Giusto has authored 55 peer-reviewed scientific articles, including more than 29 focused on colic surgery in horses. Additionally, she has contributed to over 60 presentations at various congresses and symposia.

Outside of her academic and professional pursuits, she has competed as an amateur show jumping rider. She is also passionate about swimming, trail running, and skiing.



Marco Gandini, DVM, PhD, Associate Professor of Large Animal Surgery, University of Turin, Italy

Prof. Gandini graduated from the University of Turin in 2002. Shortly after graduation, he spent several months at the University of Liverpool, gaining experience in colic surgery under the mentorship of the late Prof. Barry Edwards, one of the pioneers of equine colic surgery. After two years working as an Assistant Veterinary Surgeon in private practice in England, he began a PhD program at the University of Turin. He earned his PhD in 2009 with a thesis on ischemia-reperfusion injury.

Following his PhD, he worked as an equine surgeon in private practice before being appointed Assistant Professor in Equine Surgery at the University of Turin in 2011. In 2020, he was promoted to Associate Professor of Equine Surgery. His main research interests include anastomotic techniques and laparoscopy.

Prof. Gandini has authored or co-authored 70 scientific articles, 41 of which focus on colic surgery in horses, and he has contributed to over 100 presentations at professional congresses. In his free time, he enjoys exploring the Italian Alps, either skiing or running.



Nico Bolz, Dr. med vet, DECVS, Pferdeklinik Niederlenz, Switzerland

Dr. Bolz completed his veterinary degree in 2016 in Zurich. Following graduation, he completed a rotating internship at the Equine Hospital of the University of Zurich. He then gained experience as an equine veterinarian at Sussex Equine Hospital in the UK and subsequently at the surgical department of the University Equine Hospital in Zurich.

He became a Diplomate ECVS in Large Animal Surgery in 2024 after completing his three-year residency at the Free University of Berlin under the mentorship of Prof. Christoph Lischer.

Now based at the Pferdeklinik Niederlenz, his interest in advancing practical surgical education, particularly in colic surgery, inspired him to co-organize this course. He will serve as host and junior lecturer.



Information

Costs:

The course includes lectures, wet labs, coffee and lunch and costs CHF 2'400.- excl. tax. (CHF 1'600.- excl. tax for active ECVS Residents, please attach proof of Residency). Your registration will be confirmed when payment has been received. Please be aware that the course is limited to 16 participants.

In case that you are unable to attend, the participation fees will be partial refunded: four weeks before the event 90% of the participation fee will be refunded, up to one week before the event 50% will be refunded.

Registration deadline:

19. January 2026

GST-Recognition:

This event is officially recognized by the SVPM and the GST.

The educational points have been applied for and will be announced as soon as possible.

Recommended hotels for overnight accommodation

Hotel Restaurant Ochsen:

Burghaldenstrasse 33
5600 Lenzburg
Tel. 062 886 40 80
<https://www.online-reservations.com>
www.ochsen-lenzburg.ch

Hotel Restaurant Rössli:

Hauptstrasse 48
5502 Hunzenschwil
<https://www.online-reservations.com>



Program Day 1, Thursday 19. February 2026

- 12:30** Registration, lunch and coffee
- 13:00** **Lecture:** Theatre setting, sutures and knots, instruments
- 13:30** **Lecture:** Surgical anatomy and routine exploration, intestinal viability and decision, resection/decompression
- 14:30** Coffee break
- 14:45** **Lecture:** Jejunio-jejunal anastomosis
- 15:15** **Wet lab:** Jejunio-jejunal anastomosis
- 17:45** Coffee break
- 18:00** **Lecture:** Peculiar pathologies of the small intestine
- 19:00** Joint dinner (further information will be provided)



Program Day 2, Friday 20. February 2026

- 08:00** Registration and coffee
- 08:15** **Lecture:** General techniques of small intestine resection involving the ileum
- 09:00** **Lecture:** Viable ileocecal valve and/or partially viable ileum: incomplete ileocecal bypass and hybrid jejuno-ileo-cecal anastomosis
- 09:45** Coffee break
- 10:00** **Wet lab:** Incomplete ileocecal bypass and hybrid jejuno-ileo-cecal anastomosis
- 12:15** Lunch
- 13:15** **Lecture:** Non-viable ileum: handsewn end-to-side and side-to-side jejunocaecostomy
- 14:00** **Wetlab:** Handsewn end-to-side and side-to-side jejunocaecostomy
- 16:00** Coffee break
- 16:15** **Lecture :** Use of staplers and stapled side-to-side jejunocaecostomy
- 16:45** **Wet lab:** Stapled side-to-side jejunocaecostomy
- 18:00** **Lecture:** Different/ future perspectives on abdominal surgery
- 19:00** Joint dinner (further information will be provided)



Program Day 3, Saturday 21. February 2026

08:00	Registration and coffee
08:15	Lecture: Ileocolic bypass, cecal/ cecocolic intussusception
09:00	Lecture: Surgical techniques for large colon
09:45	Coffee break
10:00	Wet lab: Large colon enterotomy, wedge resection, extensive large colon resection and anastomosis
12:15	Lunch
13:15	Lecture: Small colon resection and anastomosis
14:00	Wet lab: Handsewn end-to-end small colon anastomosis
15:15	Coffee break
15:30	Lecture: Abdominal closure and prevention of SSI
16:00	Lecture: Post-operative management, complications and prognosis
17:00	Closing session
17:30	End of course