

Preventing Colic in Horses

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Front matter

Please note...

In writing and producing this book, every effort has been made to provide accurate information and sound advice on preventing colic in horses. But ultimately, it is up to the reader to determine whether and how to use the information contained in this book. We encourage you to discuss management changes that may impact the health and performance of your horse(s) with your regular veterinarian beforehand. As your veterinarian is familiar with your area, the scope and limitations of your facility, and your horse(s), s/he is the best person to consult for advice on horse healthcare. We defer to him/her in all matters discussed in this book.

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Thanks to...

Dr. Anthony Blikslager, my consulting editor, for ensuring both the scientific accuracy and practical value of the material in this book. Anthony is a gifted equine surgeon, a noted researcher in the field of gastrointestinal physiology, and, above all, a horseman—a potent combination, to the horse's benefit.

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Dr. James Kubiak, for agreeing to review the manuscript from yet another perspective. Dr. Kubiak teaches in the Department of Animal Sciences at North Carolina State University, and is the co-ordinator of REINS—the Regional Equine Information Network System—an organization of volunteers in North Carolina who offer their various skills and expertise (not to mention their time) to horsepeople throughout the state.

Liz Anderson, for her perspectives as both a horse owner and a publisher. Thanks for the pointers, and for not laughing (at least, not out loud) when I said I wanted to publish this book myself.

Dr. Robin Peterson, for the excellent illustrations. Robin trained and worked for some years as an equine surgeon before becoming a medical illustrator, so her drawings have the added dimension of actually having "been there." [2016 Note: Dr. Peterson's illustrations have been lost to time and have been replaced with more generic illustrations for this web reissue.]

*Thanks for so generously giving me your time
and the benefit of your experience.*

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Colic is a horse owner's worst nightmare. While it's quick to appear, colicking can be difficult to deal with. Fortunately, you may be able to keep your horse healthy and reduce the need for an expensive vet bill by preventing colic in your horse. Start by making sure your horse is eating a proper diet. Additionally, provide your horse with good care to help maintain its health. Prevention of Colic in Horses. Occasionally, a horse will colic for no apparent reason. In such cases, the best prevention is to know your horse's habits so that you can quickly identify a colic episode in the future. Here are some preventative measures you can take: Always make sure that your horse has access to fresh, clean water. In the winter, horses are more susceptible to impaction colic. Make sure your horse has regular dental checkups to ensure there are no sharp points or missing teeth that prevent him from grinding his food properly. Talk to your veterinarian about the best way to control intestinal parasites. In the spring, slowly introduce your horse to lush pasture. Prevent horse colic and reduce the risk of colic by carefully using a good parasite control program. Combine this with a reduction of the stress in your horse and by providing your horse with plenty of fresh, clean water. Horse Colic. 1. What is Colic. 2. What Causes Colic. 3. Colic Symptoms. 4. Preventing Colic. 4. Treating Colic. Good basic care is the best way to reduce the risk of or prevent colic in your horse. A simple but structured daily routine, daily health checks and healthy nutritious food forms the essential requirements of a good basic routine. The best ways to prevent horse colic... Colic in horses is a reality that countless horse owners face every year. Every horse owner should be aware of the risks and warning signs. For how strong horses are, they possess an acute vulnerability in their digestive system. While colic has a high recovery rate, every horse owner should be aware of the risks and warning signs in order to catch it in the early stages, as well as set up a preventative care and feeding routine. What You'll Learn Today. 1 Warning Signs Of Colic. 2 Types Of Horse Colic. 2.1 Gas Colic & Spasmodic Colic. 2.2 Impaction Colic.