Preventing Colic in Horses

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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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What is horse colic? How can you spot the symptoms, prevent it and treat it. Horse Colic, acute stomach pain, is the number-one killer of horses and can be a really serious problem. Call your vet immediately when you suspect colic and begin emergency first aid. Horse Colic. 1. What is Colic. The attached graph shows the results of studies on U.K. horses and horses in the U.S.A, horses in the Virginia-Maryland region and in Michigan, based on incidence, mortality, and surgical risk per 100 horses per year. Colic can be caused by a variety of circumstances including an abrupt change in feeding practices, over-feeding, worms or other parasites, poor feed quality, dehydration, eating sand, a twisted intestine and pregnancy. The Major Types of Horse Colic â€“ Impaction Colic