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.

Dr. Richard Mansmann, for taking the time to review the manuscript and make suggestions. Also a born horseman, Dick has spent nigh on 30 years practicing equine medicine, in both private practice and academic settings, so he brings a wealth of experience and good sense to this project. (As with Equine Lameness, this book is far better for your contributions, Dick. Thanks, too, for your continued encouragement.)

Linda Mansmann, for acting as my guinea pig. As a horse owner, her perspectives and comments were really valuable; her enthusiasm for this project is also gratefully acknowledged. (Here’s to many happy, colic-free years with Louis, aka “Red All Over.”)

Dr. Kenneth Kopp, for casting an expert eye over the manuscript and ensuring that the nutritional advice is sound. Dr. Kopp is a consultant in equine nutrition who mixes a background in equine veterinary practice with the science of feeding horses.

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 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.