



# What's Up Doc?

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## Oh! The Places You Can Go

Traveling with your horse sounds simple - just load up and drive away. Although, there are many things to consider before hauling horse's long distances. Planning ahead is crucial, from vehicle maintenance to animal care and proper documentation.

Prior to traveling, vehicle and trailer maintenance should be at the top of your to-do list. Having your truck die on the side of a busy highway, or a worn trailer tire blow out is a recipe for disaster. Having the peace of mind of knowing your truck has been regularly maintained and has a full tank of gas may save some headaches. Every time you load up your horse trailer you should ALWAYS do a basic inspection. This includes floor boards, trailer ties, floor mats and bedding, checking for sharp edges or wasp nests, window and door latches, trailer tires, trailer lights, and double-triple-quadruple check the trailers hitch!!! Having your trailer fall off the hitch at 60 mph is terrifying! One MUST HAVE item in every horse trailer is a first aid kit. Having a well-stocked first aid kit will help you handle many different types of injuries and minor emergencies. We have basic and customized first aid kits available in our retail store.

Paperwork is no one's favorite part of any trip. It is important to have a current license, insurance and registration on both the truck and trailer. It's easy to keep up to date, not worth a ticket. Horses require a current negative coggins test to cross state lines and enter certain events. These are typically valid for one year. They also need a health certificate, good for 30 days, and a brand inspection, if you travel more than 75 miles from home. It is important to research what is endemic near your destination, so you know what to vaccinate against before arriving. For example, in Colorado animals should be vaccinated for rabies. Another important document to carry with you is the route plan. Route planning ahead of time will help you avoid construction and having a map and/or a GPS can assist you through detours.

On your horse's pre-travel list: pack more than enough feed for your trip. Trying to keep your horse on all the same grain, hay, and water regimen will keep their digestive tract running smoothly. Since many horses are sensitive to feed changes, we suggest taking 10 days to transition to a new feed (grain) before traveling. Hay is similar, switching hay, even from one year to the next should slowly be transitioned over. Water from different sources can have different minerals and scents which can cause horses to resist drinking enough water. Water is going to be especially important when traveling, so practicing with different water additives like apple juice or vinegar ahead of your travel date will help get your horse used to different smells and tastes in water. You may also consider bringing some water from home.

When traveling, you should always start with a healthy horse. Traveling is very taxing on a horse's physical and mental wellbeing. Horses by nature, are not lovers of dark, enclosed spaces. Horses that are new to trailering may feel extremely stressed. Training and practice is important for a less stressful trailer experience. When riding in a trailer, horses must use their whole body to maintain balance. After a few hours, this becomes very exhausting. You may choose to outfit your horse with protective gear for trailering. Again, it is important for the horse to become used to their fancy duds prior to being trailered. The protective gear is meant to protect a horse during a normal trailer experience, but if a horse were to panic in the trailer, the protective gear likely will not be able to fully protect a thrashing horse. (Drive with the horse in mind)

Once on the trailer, horses appreciate some in trailer entertainment. Some version of a hay bag can be provided to make the trailer ride more enjoyable. Horses should have the ability to put their heads down in the trailer to assist in expelling dust particulates that can cause shipping fever. While trailering long distances, you should stop every 3 hours for water breaks. If your trip will take more than 15 hours you should stop over-night and give the horses a chance to stretch their legs.

It can be really exciting to travel with your horses and have a fun horse vacation, as well as traveling to rodeos and shows, but being prepared for anything is the key to a smooth trip. Having up to date paperwork and bringing along your horse's usual diet will help prevent anxiety and ulcers for you as well as your horse. Countryside Vet is always willing to answer questions about local and interstate traveling requirements. Enjoy your Trip!!



## Meet Dr. Adrienne Rhodes:

Dr. Adrienne Rhodes was born and raised in Marquette, Michigan located in the Upper Peninsula on Lake Superior. Her love of animals, especially large animals, came from growing up on the family dairy farm. Growing up, she enjoyed horseback riding, swimming in the lake, and playing soccer. Adrienne also showed her Jersey cows at the local fair for a few years.

After graduating from high school, Adrienne went on to complete a Bachelor of Arts degree in Biology with minors in Chemistry and German from Northern Michigan University. Followed by attending Michigan State University's College of Veterinary Medicine. Prior to vet school, Adrienne attended the Southern Great Plains Dairy Consortium in Clovis, New Mexico to learn more about the dairy industry. Adrienne focused on production medicine, particularly dairy, during clinics in vet school but is interested in working with all large animal species. She appreciates the challenge of veterinary medicine and the variety of cases that it brings.

Adrienne spends her spare time with her 4-year-old son named Tusken, enjoying outdoor activities such as hiking, swimming, bike riding, and frequent trips to the park.



**Forgetting Something?**  
 Ready-for-the-show, the-race, the-ride, the-weekend  
**First Aid Kits**

<p><b>Small Kit</b></p> <p>Cellarator<sup>®</sup> paste,          Banamine paste, Bute Paste,          Full Bucket<sup>®</sup> probiotic,          Light Plast Tape, SoffForm Gauze, 4x4 Copa          Foam, Furasone, Chlorhex Scrub, 4x4 Gauze          Pads, Gloves, Thermometer</p>	<p><b>Large Kit</b></p> <p>Small Kit + 16" Redi Roll, Vetrap,          Brown Gauze, Bandage Scissors,          500ml Saline</p>
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 Large Animal Veterinary Service, PLLC