



# What's Up Doc?

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## Dr. Google is not a Licensed Veterinarian:

Even after 17 years, Google University is still unable to achieve accreditation with the American Veterinary Medical Association.

Using Google may be tempting because the internet is always near at hand, and it may seem less expensive, but information you may be getting from the internet and “experts” that are not licensed veterinarians may be incorrect or even harmful to your animal(s).

Veterinarians go through many years of rigorous education and training to become licensed. A licensed veterinarian has a trained eye that can catch symptoms you may miss. It is important to have the whole picture, which only a veterinarian laying hands on the animal can fully recognize. An exam allows the animal to be treated as an individual, and not just a generic species which will lead to a more accurate diagnosis and tailored treatment plan for your animal. Veterinarians observe the symptoms, behaviors, history and environmental trends to diagnose the problem and create a treatment plan that will best suit the case.

“Expert” opinions on the internet are NOT monitored and often contain misinformation. When we have a concern about our animals we want information quickly. This may lead us down the dark path of bad medical advice. It is ALWAYS best to contact your veterinarian. Countryside Large Animal Veterinary Services is available for emergencies 24/7, 365 days a year.

Googling symptoms and behaviors online or asking non-veterinarians like breeders, trainers or “experienced owners” may lead you to incorrect conclusions and treatments. For example, if you search for deworming protocol with horses, you may find suggestions to deworm with different types of deworming products 6+ times in one year. This line of prevention has been updated in recent years because many parasites are becoming resistant to conventional dewormers.

Our current recommendation is to have a fecal test done on your horse(s) to see what type of dewormer is needed, if any is required at all! *Just think, less fights with the dewormer syringe!*

Even if you are using websites to research a doctor's diagnosis, be sure to use a credible site. Many sites are biased or are trying to sell their product. Other sites may scare you away from using treatments that are safe when prescribed correctly by a veterinarian. Treatments you may find suggested on the internet are not tailored to your animal and do not take into consideration the whole health of your horse, and/or potential drug interaction, which may further compromise a medical condition. An example of compromising an existing medical condition could be having some eye ointment on hand that contains a steroid and using it on a horse with an eye ulcer. Without having the veterinarians knowledge to prescribe a medication, you can easily make a bad situation worse. Some online health "remedies" could be ineffective, costly, dangerous or even illegal. Some websites that have credible information include state USDA websites, as well as many veterinary college pages.

Remember, the internet gives people with a convenient place to publish their idea, no matter how great or terrible they may be. There are no online police fact-checking the pages. Veterinarians can and should always be your go to for information. We are happy to answer your questions and explain your animal's treatment plan. Give us a call!

### **Fecal Testing:**

Are you deworming effectively? Bring us a sample of your horse's manure and find out! We only need 2 grams of fecal matter to run a fecal test to discover the possible parasites residing within your horse's system. No appointment required.

