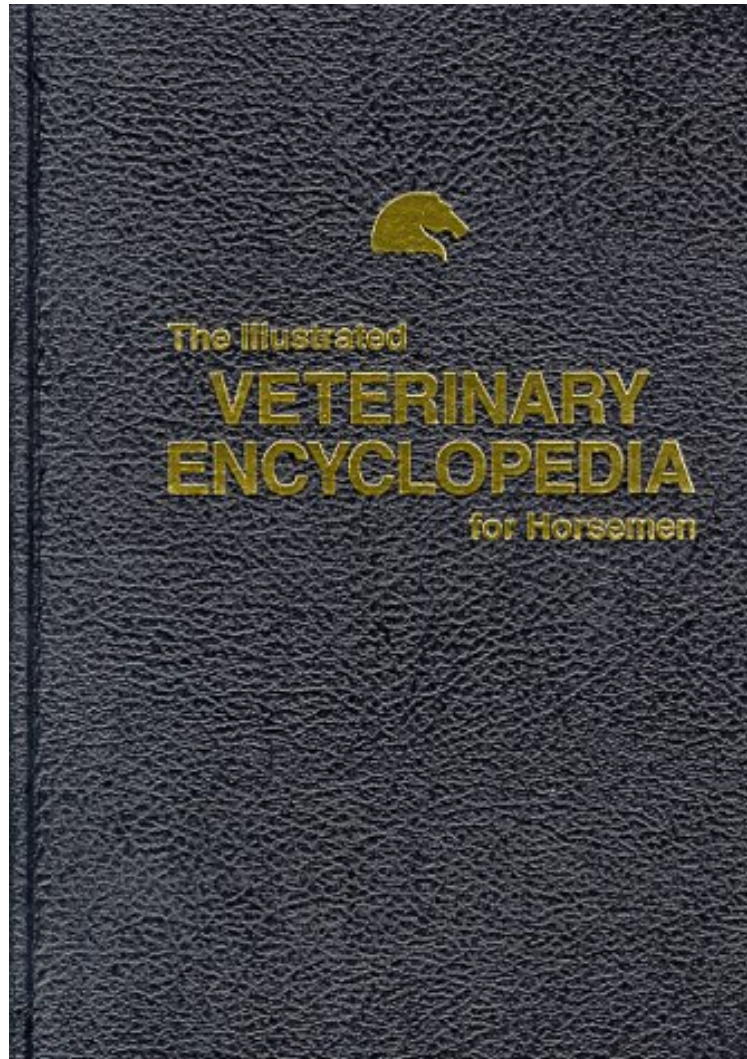


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From the Publisher This book is part of the Equine Research, Inc. library set-a highly respected collection of eight books that should form the foundation of every horse person's bookshelf. Excerpt. Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved. Colic What is colic? Colic is a disease complex, not a specific disease. Specifically, it is abdominal pain which may be caused by a wide variety of disorders. They will be dealt with here as separate disorders which are recognized by the signs of abdominal pain (colic). What causes colic? The primary cause of abdominal pain in colic is distention of the stomach or the intestines. This distention may be caused by an accumulation of gas, fluid or feed due to an obstruction (blockage) of the digestive tract, or to improper action of the peristaltic movements which force material through the tract. Pain is also produced when the peritoneum is stretched during attacks of "colic."