

## Factors to Consider In Selecting A Veterinarian

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- **Where does your horse live?**  
Home, boarding facility, race track, training center
- **What type of horses do you have?**
- **What do you use your horses for?**  
Breeding, racing, performance, show, jumping, endurance riding, pulling
- **Does your horse have any special needs?**
- **Do you have a choice?**
- **Location**  
You may want to choose a vet whose practice is near your horse.
- **Check with people who have a similar size operation as well as similar needs.**  
Does the vet. have: "Horse sense", good judgment and intelligence?  
Does the vet. like people and feel comfortable talking and dealing with them?  
Is the vet unafraid of horses?
- **Doctor's background/ Experience**  
An assistant should be able to answer most questions concerning the vet's qualifications and education, as well as years in practice. They may also be able to address specific questions you may have. Ask for references.
- **Office hours/ Availability**  
Does the vet have an office?  
What are the regular office hours?  
Does a live person answer the phone or is it an automated system?  
Does the vet return calls promptly?  
After hours care/emergency numbers?
- **Is the vet in private practice or part of a group?**
- **If a group practice, who will be taking care of your horses?**
- **Who covers when primary vet is unavailable?**
- **Payment**  
It is very important to inquire about methods of payment before scheduling an appointment. Find out if the vet will bill you or if they want payment when services are rendered. Ask about methods of payment, personal checks, credit cards, and installments.