

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q: Are all equine massage therapists the same?**

As in all professions, there are good and not-so-good massage therapists. Many therapists spend hours learning anatomy, techniques, latest research and studying while others are more apprenticeship-based and learn much of their craft on client horses. In general, there are two types of massage therapists:

- Relaxation/Body Worker
- Sports Massage/Swedish/Therapeutic

**Q: How do I choose a massage therapist?**

There is no regulatory body for Equine Massage Therapists, so education and skill level may vary greatly from one individual to another. It is an excellent choice to query local trainers and veterinarians who are familiar with you and your horse as to whom they would recommend. In making this decision, it is very worthwhile to observe a therapist's treatment and ask any pertinent questions.

**Q: How often should I have my horse treated?**

The frequency of treatment for your horse depends on many factors including:

- Workload and type of work
- Pre-existing conditions and health problems
- Conformation and Age

Please ask you massage therapist what they recommendation to be the best course of action for your animal's treatment.

**Q: Can the massage therapist diagnose lameness and disease?**

Your massage therapist is an excellent resource to ensure your horse is healthy and happy in his work. They are **NOT**, however, a replacement for regular veterinary attention. There are many diseases, lamenesses and ailments that must be diagnosed and treated by a veterinarian. A good massage therapist will be able to recommend when it may be time to call the veterinarian.