

Consultant

A Diagnostic Support System for Veterinary Medicine

<http://www.vet.cornell.edu/consultant/Consult.asp>

The **Consultant** database is **freely** accessible on the Internet, 24 hrs/day, 7 days/wk.

Consultant contains approximately 7000 diagnoses/causes, about 500 signs/symptoms, more than 18,000 literature references, and over 3,000 web links. It covers primary domestic animal species including **dogs, cats, cattle, horses, sheep, goats, swine, birds, and poultry**.

It is updated **daily** by Dr. Maurice “Pete” White, a professor at Cornell University’s College of Veterinary Medicine. **Consultant** is intended to provide clinical diagnostic support for veterinarians and others interested in animal health. It can be **searched** by **Diagnoses/Causes** or by **Clinical signs(s)/Symptoms**.

Diagnosis / Cause

Use this approach if you already know a disease diagnosis and you want more current information about it.

The image shows a composite of three screenshots from the Consultant website. The top-left screenshot shows the main navigation menu with 'Search by Diagnosis' circled in a dashed oval. The top-right screenshot shows a search form with a 'Species' dropdown menu open, listing options like Canine, Feline, Bovine, etc. The bottom screenshot shows the search results for 'anemia' in the 'Canine' species, with a dashed box around the search input and a callout box providing instructions.

Choose a **species** from the pull-down menu

Enter **one or more letters** or words of a diagnosis and click **Search**.

Search by Diagnosis

Species: Canine

Diagnosis Keyword:

[5 Possible Diagnoses](#)

Aplastic anemia, bone marrow aplasia, pancytopenia, hemorrhagic diathesis
 Autoimmune, immune-mediated hemolytic anemia in dogs and cats
 Familial nonspherocytic hemolytic anemia
 Hereditary nonspherocytic anemia
 Iron deficiency anemia

Click on any of the **diagnoses** listed to see the description, species affected, associated clinical signs and links.

IRON DEFICIENCY ANEMIA

Description Primary iron deficiency anemia is uncommon in animals but can follow blood loss; baby pigs raised in confinement can become anemic due to iron deficiency.

Species Bovine, Canine, Equine, Feline, Caprine, Ovine, Porcine

Signs Dullness, Dyspnea, Exercise intolerance, Generalized weakness, Increased respiratory rate, Lack of growth or weight gain, Pale, Pica, Rough hair coat, Tachycardia

References **Herd TH, Hoff B.** The Use of Blood Analysis to Evaluate Trace Mineral Status in Ruminant Livestock. *Veterinary Clinics of North America: Food Animal Practice* 2011;27:255-283 [[Web Reference](#)]

McCown JL, Specht AJ. Iron Homeostasis and Disorders in Dogs and Cats: A Review. *Journal of the American Animal Hospital Association* 2011;47:151 [[Web Reference](#)]

Maes D et al. Comparison of oral versus parenteral iron supplementation on the health and productivity of sows. *Veterinary Record* 2011;169:108 [[Web Reference](#)]

Clinical Signs / Symptoms

Use this approach to determine which *diagnoses* have a certain *combination of clinical signs*.

Search by Signs

Species: Equine

Sign Keyword:

Copyright © 2011 Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine

Choose a **species** from the pull-down menu

You are now able to **search** by one or more clinical signs in **FOUR DIFFERENT WAYS!**

Four different methods of choosing clinical signs/symptoms...

1. By Sign List

- a. Click **Sign List**
- b. Choose a body system from the pull-down menu
- c. **Mark** one or more signs
- d. Click **Add to Signs**

Sign List

System: Digestive

Gagging, retching

Parasites passed per rectum, in stools, feces

Polyphagia, excessive appetite

Anorexia, loss or decreased appetite, not nursing,

Pica, depraved appetite

Difficulty in prehending or chewing food

Inability to open and/or close beak

Inability to open (trismus) and/or close jaw, mouth

Prolapsed rectum, rectal eversion

Palpable dilated bowel internal palpation

OR

2. One by One

a. Enter one or more words or letters of the first sign and click **Search**.

- i. e.g.
tachy
fever
hyper

Search by Signs

Species: Equine

Sign Keyword: tachy

Search Sign List

Search for Signs

tachy: Tachycardia, rapid pulse, high heart rate
 Sinus tachycardia
 Atrial tachycardia
 Ventricular tachycardia, multifocal or unifocal
 Increased respiratory rate, polypnea, tachypnea, hyperpnea

Add to Signs

b. **Consultant** will display a list of standardized symptom phrases.

c. **Mark** one or more of the most relevant symptom phrases & click **Add to Signs**.

d. **Repeat** the process of adding additional signs until an appropriate number of clinical signs have been selected.

OR

3. As Strings

a. Enter a **string** of word fragments or complete words, **separated by semicolons**.

b. Click **Search**.

c. **Choose** additional signs from the lists if any related symptoms are displayed.

d. Click **Add to Signs**.

Search by Signs

Species: Equine

Sign Keyword: weight loss; fever; thirst; vom

Search Sign List

Search for Signs

weight loss: Weight loss
fever: Fever, pyrexia, hyperthermia
thirst: Polydipsia, excessive fluid consumption, excessive thirst
 Decreased, absent thirst, hypodipsia, adipsia
vom: Vomiting or regurgitation, emesis
 Hematemesis, vomiting blood

Add to Signs

OR

4. Combination

a. Use **any combination** of methods 1, 2 or 3 above.

Then, when all of the signs have been chosen, click **Search for Diagnoses** to view the list of diagnoses corresponding with that particular combination of clinical signs.

Search by Signs

Species:

Sign Keyword:

Signs: Vomiting or regurgitation, emesis
 Fever, pyrexia, hyperthermia
 Polydipsia, excessive fluid consumption, excessive thirst
 Weight loss

Click on any of the diagnoses listed to see the **description**, **species** affected, associated **clinical signs**, **references**, and **Web links**.

Polydipsia, excessive fluid consumption, excessive thirst
 Weight loss

4 Possible Diagnoses

[Arsenic toxicity in large animals](#)
[Hepatic encephalopathy, in dogs, cats, and horses, kernicterus in foals](#)
[Meningoencephalitis, meningitis, meningoventriculitis, encephalomyelitis, meningomyelitis, myelitis](#)
[Peritonitis](#)

ARSENIC TOXICITY IN LARGE ANIMALS

Description Arsenic is used as a herbicide and exposure to arsenic can lead to toxicity. Acute colic can occur in horses and cattle.

Species Bovine, Equine, Caprine, Ovine, Porcine

Signs **A**galactia, **A**lopecia, **A**norexia, **A**taxia, **B**lindness, **B**loat in ruminants, **B**loody stools, feces, hematochezia, **C**old skin, **C**olic, **C**oma, **C**ongestion oral mucous membranes, **C**racked skin, **C**yanosis, **D**ehydration, **D**iarrhea, **D**ryness of skin or hair, **D**ullness, **D**ysmetria, **D**yspnea, **E**pistaxis, **E**xcessive salivation, **F**ever, **G**eneralized lameness or stiffness, **G**eneralized weakness, **G**rinding teeth, **H**ematuria, **H**emorrhage of any body part or clotting failure, **H**yperkeratosis, **H**ypothermia, **I**nability to stand, **I**ncreased respiratory rate, **M**elena or occult blood in feces, stools, **P**ain on external abdominal pressure, **P**ale, **P**araparesis, **P**olydipsia, **P**olyuria, **R**eluctant to move, **R**ough hair coat, **R**umen hypomotility or atony, **S**eizures or syncope, **S**kin scales, **S**kin ulcer, **S**udden death, **T**achycardia, **T**etraparesis, **T**rembling, **T**remor, **U**nderweight, poor condition, thin, emaciated, unthriftiness, ill thrift, **V**omiting or regurgitation, **W**eak pulse, **W**eight loss

References **Poppenga RH.** Commercial and Industrial Chemical Hazards for Ruminants. Veterinary Clinics

Helpful Hints

- Use the **BACK** button on your browser to go back to **previous screens**
- Click on the **N & N** (New & Noteworthy) link at the top of most pages at the site to access a **rolling list of important articles** from the veterinary literature on new disorders or with content of special interest. **Check regularly.**

Cornell University
College of Veterinary Medicine

Search by Diagnosis Search by Signs **N & N** Search

New & Noteworthy

Some of the literature on the classification, diagnosis, treatment, prognosis, prevention, and explanation of disease describes new disorders or has content of special interest. The material below, selected from articles entered into Consultant, highlights New & Noteworthy information.

Porcine. Byra C et al. Decreased mortality of weaned pigs with Streptococcus suis with the use of in-water potassium penicillin G. Can Vet J 2011;52:272-276 [Web Reference] 3 Jun