

American Veterinary Medical History Society

"Devoted to the Diffusion of Veterinary History"

Vintage Veterinary Instrument #2

Horse Drench – circa. 1720



This pewter spoon-like object was used to blow medications into the mouths of horses and cattle. It was also used to give castor oil and powders to children. It measures 5 in. long. The original patent was issued to English farrier William Gibson (1680?-1750) in 1718. He also authored a number of early books of diseases of horses and farriery.

It is a good example of a different kind of instrument used in both animals and humans.

This old veterinary instrument is currently on display with the VET2011 Exhibit at the Michigan State University College of Veterinary Medicine in East Lansing (<https://cvm.msu.edu/vetschool-tails/a-horse-of-course>). It is on loan from the Veterinary Museum at the Galloway House & Village, Fond du Lac, Wisconsin.

Instrument and description provided by Fred J. Born, DVM (Fond du Lac, Wisconsin) January 29, 2018.