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THE INTERNET: FACT OR FICTION?

The World Wide Web can be a wealth of knowledge, but have you ever wondered why some websites are more accurate than others? As with any popular topic, there are many websites vying for your attention as a pet owner. From attempting to diagnose your pet's problem to advertising products that claim to cure all, we are literally bombarded with websites and advertisements that profess to know what is best for your pet.

So how do you know which website has accurate or even current information? Taking the time to research 'who' is really behind a website (and the credentials that make that person a bona fide specialist) is a critical first step in evaluating a website's validity. In addition, ask us for website information that we trust. As your veterinarian, we can serve as your informed sounding board and resource.

The following are some websites that we recommend:

www.animalmedicalnc.com – our hospital website contains information about our hospital, current health topics, information on specific diseases and links to other recommended websites.

www.veterinarypartner.com – general health and training tips; information on specific diseases.

www.doggonessafe.com – information about dog behavior and understanding the body language of dogs. Also has good information about teaching children how to safely interact with dogs.

www.healthypet.com - pet care resources from the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA) featuring articles, blogs, ask-a-vet, adoptable pets, community events and more.

Other good websites other than that that you may not know about and have minimal advertising or sponsorship include:

The [American Veterinary Medical Association](http://www.avma.org) – public section

The education section of [ASPCA](http://www.asPCA.org)