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THOUGHT OF THE MONTH:

Happy Easter!

The Best Tools for Spring Shedding

By The VHN Writing Team



Now that Spring has managed to find its way here, it is time for the another very well-known transition: shedding. That's right, the time for jeans, shirts, boots, hats, and isle ways to be littered with hair tumbleweeds and fuzz galore has come again.

While the mess of hair is inevitable for the season, there are some tools that can make this messy transition easier.

Here are the top 5 tools for shedding:

1. Clippers: some of your horse's fuzzy areas will need to be cleaned up with clippers regardless of how much you groom and brush or how much he sheds. So areas like the legs, ears, bridal path, and others can have a clean sweep from the clippers after a nice bath to get rid of patches and other thick build up.

2. Good old fashioned bristle brush: Since your horse's coat is still thick, it's okay to use a firmer bristled brush to work up the dust and old hair. At this point, it won't irritate his skin and just might feel really good to get that itch taken care of. To make the job easier, consider getting rid of old, bent brushes, and investing in a new set. Find some brushes that fit your hand snug and have some grip to it so you can really work up that elbow grease without having a sore arm.

3. Specially designed shedding tools: Many of these tools have a long flat handle at the top or sides to grip and a set of teeth at the bottom along a metal or rigid strip. Similar to the curry comb below, they come in all shapes and designs. The idea is it basically works as a brush and comb at the same time. This might be a good tool for larger areas with a lot of shedding.

4. Grooming gloves: These fun gloves are a great way of combining your hand with a tool. Instead of gripping a brush to do the work, the glove lets you have free motion with the flexible spikes sewn into it. For those with arthritis or joint issues, this might be a bit more comfortable of a solution than a brush you have to squeeze for long periods. Bonus: they can also be used during bath time to get a deep clean. Buy one for each hand and the work can be done in half the time.

5. The tried and true curry comb: There's something very satisfying about using a curry comb on your horse's shedding coat. Not only does it take away clumps of hair at a time, it also works up the old dirt and dander that has sat under the heavy coat through the winter. Curry combs also comb in different styles, with one blade or multiple depending on your preference.

All of these grooming essentials can be found at your local tack and feed stores, and can help to make the process of shedding season a little less hairy and a lot more satisfying.

You might want to invest in a lint roller or some other type of hair remover for your clothes and vehicle until hair shedding season has ended.



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See you next time! - Codi Kern

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The Reality of Riding on the Beach

By The VHN Writing Team



You would be hard pressed to find a horse enthusiast that hasn't dreamed in one way or another of riding their equine on the beach. The sound of the ocean waves crashing in and out, the fresh air along the water, and you can't beat the look of an ocean sunset.

The imagination can create a very pretty picture of a sunset beach ride when given the chance. Beach rides can be wonderful and exotic experiences, but there are a few things that get left out of our daydreams.

The beach and rolling waves are very, very different to other kinds of riding. The beach and the ocean are not like a lake or river. It's not like riding out in the woods or especially in an arena. It's a very different experience not only for you but your horse.

It sounds different, smells different, tastes different, feels different, and looks different from anything else your horse has been exposed to. The rushing in and out of water around your horse's feet, the sound of crashing waves and splashing water, the feel of waterlogged sand. It's all an intense trip for your animal, so naturally there will be nervousness, even to the point of losing control.

If your day dream included a rented horse this might not apply to you but if it did include your equine, it's important to remember that a first for you is a different kind of first for him and all possible reactions, both positive and negative, should be anticipated.

You should also think about the type of footing your dealing with. Sure in the movies, horseback riding in slow motion looks majestic and easy. In reality, that sand is water soaked and heavy. A horse that isn't used to this footing or that isn't very fit will tire out fairly quickly. Nothing ruins the beach ride bucket list like a horse that tuckers out after only ten minutes of beach time.

There are also a lot of things you can't see. In the water and buried in the sand, there are all kinds of things that could turn your ride into an emergency situation. Everything from broken glass and plastic, to fishing lines and large pieces of reef or rock can be hidden beneath the sand. If you're riding, particularly galloping along the water's edge, you might not see any of these things waiting in your horse's path. The best thing to do is keep your eyes open and keep them a few paces ahead to watch for obstacles.

This also prevents the possibility of sea sickness while riding.


While there are plenty of hazards you can't see, there are also a lot that you can. And if you can see them, so can your horse. The look of waves slipping quickly up the beach towards your horse's feet might appear like something out of a nightmare for him.

All kinds of new colors and shapes, like floaties, towels, beach balls and toys will be on the beach. And not to mention that those movie scenes with horseback riding on the beach seem to always leave out one major thing: people.

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Beaches are filled with lots and lots of people, depending on where you go. And kids running in and out of the water as well as people walking the same path you are riding can all be too much stimulation for your horse to handle.

You do have the option of a more private beach, but just remember, the trip loses a bit of its peace and serene quality when there's tons of people around you.

If you decide to enter the water with your horse be aware of currents, drop offs, and rip tides as you go. A confused and frightened horse that is both trying to swim and maintain his sense of direction can quickly become overwhelmed. The last thing you need is for him to panic or lose his footing and go under.

As with anything new to your horse, preparation and time to adjust is key to making the trip positive and fun. When in doubt, practice. Practice with water, with sand, with new colors and sounds. Practice with less populated beaches and with someone who has experience.

If your horse isn't that big of a fan with water, test it out before hand at a lake or a smaller body of water. Get your equine accustomed and acclimated to a very similar environment before going ahead.

And with a little practice and patience, before you know it, your beach trips with your equine can begin to look like that bucket list daydream you've wanted all along.



• Happy Trails Monthly Recipe •

Created by Chef Sharon Hauht

“Baked Chicken Schnitzel”

Prep Time: 20 mins Cook Time: 10 mins Servings: 6

Ingredients:

1 tablespoon olive oil, or as desired
6 chicken breasts, cut in half lengthwise (butterflied)
salt and ground black pepper to taste
¾ cup all-purpose flour
1 tablespoon paprika
2 eggs, beaten
2 cups seasoned bread crumbs
1 large lemon, zested

Directions:

Preheat oven to 425 degrees F (220 degrees C). Line a large baking sheet with aluminum foil and drizzle olive oil over foil. Place baking sheet in preheated oven.

Flatten chicken breasts so they are all about 1/4-inch thick. Season chicken with salt and pepper.

Mix flour and paprika together on a large plate. Beat eggs with salt and pepper in a shallow bowl. Mix bread crumbs and lemon zest together on a separate large plate. Dredge each chicken piece in flour mixture, then egg, and then bread crumbs mixture and set aside in 1 layer on a clean plate. Repeat with remaining chicken.

Remove baking sheet from oven and arrange chicken in 1 layer on the sheet. Drizzle more olive oil over each piece of coated chicken.

Bake in the preheated oven for 5 to 6 minutes. Flip chicken and continue baking until no longer pink in the center and the breading is lightly browned, 5 to 6 minutes more. An instant-read thermometer inserted into the center should read at least 165 degrees F (74 degrees C).

Notes:

You can also use panko or season your own bread crumbs.



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About Happy Trails Kitchen



Sharon Hauht is the owner of Happy Trails Kitchen that specializes in baking and artfully decorated custom celebration cakes, cupcakes, cookies and sugar art for your special occasion. Sharon is an award winning cake decorator who has more than 40 years experience. Sharon competed with her team, Gouly Goblins, on Season 10 of Food Network’s Halloween Wars and was featured on the Road to Halloween Wars, which aired on September 13, 2020.

Happy Trails Kitchen (HTK) is registered by the Southern Nevada Health District (SNHD) as a cottage food operation, which means HTK’s food labels have been approved by SNHD, applicable recipes have been lab-tested for shelf stability (pH and water activity), and Sharon Hauht has been approved to bake and decorate cakes out of her home. She can print edible images (logos and Photographs) on your confections. She has her food handler’s card for food safety.

You can see pictures of some of her recent projects on her website: www.happytrailskitchen.com. You can contact Sharon through her website or by emailing her at happytrailskitchen@gmail.com or call (702) 277-8000. HTK is also on Facebook and Instagram under HappyTrailsKitchen.



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On the Flip Side: What You Shouldn't Keep in Your Barn

By The VHN Writing Team



In previous editions, we have featured articles talking about all of the things you should be keeping in your barn on a regular basis, from first aid and medications, to feed amount and dollar store horse care finds.

For all of the great and useful things we should be keeping in our barns round the clock, there are also some things that we need to ditch or fix up to keep our barns in tip top shape.

1. Expired or improperly stored feed, supplements, and medication. It's a very good idea to regularly inspect your horse's feed and supplements. If it smells off, has gotten wet or exposed to pests, or is moldy, chuck it now rather than later. Medication past expiration should be tossed now too to avoid confusion should you need it suddenly.

Also, double check how things should be stored, as temperature fluctuations as well as humidity can have a serious effect on many forms of medications, rendering them spoiled or less effective.

2. Cracked or busted tack. Any tack that is compromised becomes a danger to use, whether it's a halter, bridle, girth, lead line, or more. Most often tack that is broken cannot be fixed, especially if it's made of leather.

Once leather splits, there's no way of bringing it back to life and the faults in the leather could suddenly tear during use. Repairs can also be costly, so depending on pricing, it might be worth your while to just toss it completely.

This also goes for any metal tack items that have rusted, as they can be a liability to both you and your horse.

3. Old cords. Busted extension cords can be a danger to use when the wires become exposed through the casing and should be thrown away and replaced. This also goes for any appliances that are broken or have exposed wiring. If the break in the casing is relatively small, you may be able to fix it with electrical tape or another covering, but this is only temporary.

4. Dirty Saddle pads and wraps. Your dirty pads and wraps should all be washed up quickly to prevent fungus from forming. Any other cloth items that come into contact with water and sweat should be either washed or tossed if they're past the point of saving.

5. Tack that you haven't used in forever. If you have tack items that you never, ever use, as well as other equipment, it should be gotten rid of to make space for things you really do need. You can either sell them or donate them to a horse organization that could use them. Many horse groups repurpose items to either raise funds or care for the animals they manage.

6. Excess baling twine. Us horse people tend to hoard baling twine like no tomorrow. Yes, it's very useful for any number of things, from repairs to DIY rugs, but there is such a thing as too much. Yes, we're sure.

If you constantly add more to your baling twine stock than you use up, consider clearing away some to avoid clutter. Or you can finally attempt that crafty idea you have and lighten your load.

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7. Dead plants, both potted and in the ground. Having flowers and other greenery around your barn can be both beautiful and uplifting to have. That said, every plant will eventually wilt and be beyond saving. So throw out those too far gone flowers and invest in some bright new ones to spruce up your barn. Dead vegetation can also be a calling card for pests if left too long.

8. That extra jacket, pair of socks, or flip flops. The barn tends to be a place where things are left and then remain to collect dust. We've all removed a jacket after getting hot, changed to clean socks, or switched to boots from slip ons. But how many times did we not feel like bringing these things back home or just plain forget? All of those items can finally make that return trip to be cleaned and organized (at least until we wear them again... and forget again... yea, you get the picture.)

9. That item that's not actually yours. So, you had a friend over for a ride and they left their hoof pick at your barn. Or you borrowed a new type of bit to try and you've been meaning to return it for, oh, about three months. However the item came to you, it's time to return it. Then you can use that spot for another item that'll be moved in your next spring cleaning.

10. Any old bits and pieces of things, like used batteries, wood scrap, old horseshoes. etc. We all tend to have a scrap pile of things that we think might come in handy (hello baling twine.) You use some of it for a project but then it gets left behind and just sits taking up room. Get rid of any old scrap laying about the barn, and really ask yourself if you'll finish using it or will it just continue to sit.

After you've tossed all of these things and taken stuff home where it belongs, your load will be much lighter and your barn will be refreshed. You can keep this reminder list handy for any spring cleaning as well as previous lists for what you can add to your supply.



The Appearance of White Hair Spots

By The VHN Writing Team



Our equines can be full of all kinds of mysteries, from behavior to biology. Most of the time these unique processes only add to their unique charm, while others can leave us scratching our heads and simply asking, “But, why?”

One oddity of our equines’ biology is the appearance of random white spots in their coats. These spots aren’t due to getting older or a natural overall color shift because of breed and genetics. And they can be quite stark if you have a darker colored horse.

These spots tend to pop up after an injury, on any color horse as well. If your horse suffered from a scrape or a cut, chances are the hair that grows back after healing could turn white. It might be only a few single hairs, or it might be a complete splotch of white that grows back in. Other times still, the hair might grow back in the same color as the rest of your horse and you would never know.

So, what gives?

In your horse’s skin exists special types of cells that produce pigment or melanin, the same substance that gives humans our eye, hair, and skin color. This pigment is responsible for your horse’s coat color too. They are called production cells and unfortunately, they are quite easy to damage.

You might be prepared for a nice, hairless scar to appear after a wound heals or for the hair to return as normal.

But you’ll be a bit miffed when a bright, prominent splash of white crops up instead, and the reason is due to these very same production cells being damaged to the point of no return. When the hair grows back in without these cells, there is no pigment to color the hair so it remains white.

What’s extra tricky about these color producing cells and how easy they can be to damage is that it doesn’t always take a wound with broken skin to cause the loss of pigmentation.

Your horse can have white splotches appear due to a fall that doesn’t cause a laceration. The impact and bruising from the fall can be enough to kill the cells melanin production. This also goes for ill-fitting tack. Riders may notice that white spots pop up right where a saddle rests or rubs on their horse’s back. This can be a sign that you need a different saddle fit for your horse to be comfortable.

Freeze brands are also a good example of this pigment loss as the brand typically stands out white against a horse’s color.

Another much more well known example of this effect is in horses that express specific genes that cause them to shift from one color to white.

The Lipizzaner or Lipizzan breed of horse is famous for this very feature. When born, the foals are typically black or bay in color. Over the course of their younger years, they gradually turn white because their cells stop making the melanin for their coats.

When they reach between 6 and 10 years of age, they will have become the dazzling white Lipizzan color they are so famous for.

There is also the autoimmune disorder Vitiligo that affects humans as well as horses. With vitiligo, the immune system actually targets the melanocytes in the cells so that depigmentation occurs. This usually presents as lots of pink or pale splotches in the skin as well as the hair and in areas like the muzzle, eyes, and ears.

Vitiligo is really just a cosmetic issue rather than anything serious, so treatment will be based on that fact.

For those of us that do not have a Lipizzan or a horse with vitiligo, well your horse could start to turn white, but it would most likely be from old age or a very small shift in a horse that already has white hair color.

As for what you can do to prevent these white spots from popping up, there’s not much to be done to control it. It’s impossible to prevent every injury that our horses sustain but providing adequate healing techniques can be beneficial. The longer a wound festers or takes to heal, the messier the end result will be and the larger the amount of white hair that could sprout.

If you need to hide a white spot, say for a competition or photoshoot, temporary coloring can be applied. It’s best to check on the rules and regulations in this instance.

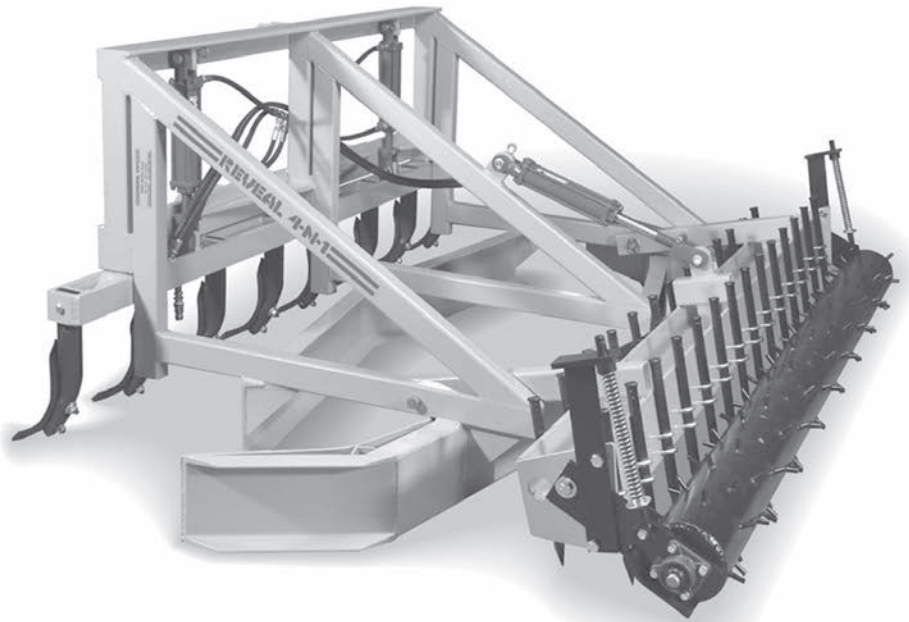
Besides that, the only thing you could do is invest in white horses in the future, which is a bit funny as lots of horse owners favor other colors over white since they get dirty and stain so easily. When it comes to our horses, there’s just no predicting what could happen next, so we might as well just go along for the ride.



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Easing the Aches and Pains After a Long Ride

By The VHN Writing Team



Though it may not look like it on the outside or to those who have never done it, horseback riding can take a toll on your body. This is especially true if you've ridden horses for years and years. Every discipline requires a lot of strength, balance, stamina, and flexibility. There are days when you do a quick 15-minute ride, and other days where you may have multiple riding competitions/ classes or a 5-hour trail ride over rough terrain.

Whether you compete with your horse, show your horse, train horses, or simply ride for pleasure, any time in the saddle can come with its own aches and soreness. Most often a rider's hips, lower back, knees, and ankles will be the main areas of pain. And as many will confess, the older the rider, the taller that horse seems to be – both getting on and off.

So how do you combat the aches and pains from the saddle whether you're a beginner or a seasoned horseperson?

Try the prevention and treatment routine.

Take steps to prevent the pain as much as possible, and then the pain that still lingers can be treated in the way that best fits the individual.

First, try stretching. Stretch before, stretch after, stretch at home on your off days, even stretch on and with your horse. Preparing your body for the positions it will be in and making sure your muscles are warmed up will help stifle any tenderness during and after a ride. Being limber can also help you get up on that saddle that suddenly seems a little higher today than usual.

Make sure your tack not only fits your horse, make sure it fits you as well.

Tack that does not feel right for you could actually do damage to your body over time and place added strain on the areas that are already sore. Your tack is your gear, just like a well-fitting pair of shoes, you need tack that supports you where you need it. If that means you need to invest in new tack, or tack with more cushion, so be it.

Stay hydrated on and off the saddle. Drinking enough water will help your muscles heal faster and shield against soreness and inflammation. Your body will bounce back faster after a longer, more difficult ride if you keep enough water in your system each day.

Perhaps you suffer from arthritis or other types of bone and joint pain. There could be tack specifically made for your pain. Doing a quick internet search could yield some surprising results on saddles, blankets, boots, chaps, and other gear that could help cushion and reinforce the areas that are the weakest or most painful.

So what do you do when you've gone overboard on your horse and done way more than you probably should have in one ride?

There's no shame in taking a pain reliever. While you never want to over-use a painkiller, it can help soothe overly painful muscles that are getting used to a new exercise. Speaking with your doctor about what type of pain reliever is best can help solve any worry about side effects. If you don't want a pill, try a topical pain relief, like a sport/ muscle rub that is designed to relax and ease overworked muscles.

Try an ice pack for swelling and inflammation. Are your ankles a little puffy? Knees maybe a size bigger than usual? Ice can help tone that down, just be sure to use a towel between the ice and your skin and don't fall asleep with it on you.

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Some other things you can try are exercises like swimming to build your muscles without the harsh impact. A hot tub can do wonders for an aching body too.

If you have areas with injuries or weak joints, investing in a good brace say for your knees or back can help support these areas.

Lastly, if there was ever an excuse to indulge, here's one: get a massage. Massage therapists know exactly how to help your pain, that is what they are trained for. So take a trip to a spa or perhaps try bribing your wonderful, loving, best in the world spouse/ partner for an at home massage. Acupuncture could be a natural way of dealing with pesky pains that don't work with any other treatments.

Whatever you choose to try, you don't have to sit and deal with pain in the saddle, out of the saddle, or let it prevent you from riding in the first place.

Here is a quick reference list of materials and ways to help ease your riding pains:

1. Ice and heat cycles.
2. Topical muscle rubs.
3. Braces for trouble areas/ joints.
4. New tack.
5. Better cushioning on your gear.
6. OTC pain relievers (checked by your doctor if necessary)
7. Massage
8. Chiropractic adjustments
9. Acupuncture
10. Swimming to build muscle.
11. Stretching throughout the day.
12. Muscle supplements.
13. Elevating swollen areas.
14. R&R with a day or two off.

Stuffed Famous Horses: Life, History, Honor, and Legacy

By The VHN Writing Team



The term taxidermy defines as “the art of preserving an animal’s body via mounting [...] or stuffing, for the purpose of display or study.” (Taxidermy – Wikipedia)

The concept of taking a deceased animal and preserving it tends to diverge on the feelings of both macabre and fascinating depending on who you ask. Most of us will have seen taxidermy in one form or another, either as adults or even as children.

Hunters and sportsman often have taxidermied animal trophies of their kills displayed in their homes, like deer and elk. These trophies are often only busts, meaning from the shoulders up. Animal owners are also starting to have their pets preserved by means of taxidermy as a keep sake.

You can also find taxidermied animals in Natural History Museums across the country, showcasing animals from all over the world and all different biomes. The purpose of showcasing them in this way is to bring to viewers front and center with an animal that nine times out of ten the visitor will never see in person in their lifetime.

For an individual who has never seen a tiger, a giraffe, a bison, a grizzly bear, or any other large, rare, and wild animal in person, the experience can be both awe inspiring and educating.

Perhaps one of the biggest points in favor of taxidermy is the long-term preservation of a species that no longer exists in our world. Being able to physically see what an animal looked like that no longer walks this earth is truly amazing and serves as a teaching tool for every person to utilize.

You may have also seen taxidermy used in new and trending art forms across social media. Artists are now using naturally sourced animals in their taxidermy pieces to create works that you definitely do not see in nature. As long as things are ethically sourced, then to each their own when it comes to interest and taste in taxidermy.

How ever you are exposed to taxidermy, most of us agree it can be a bizarre experience especially at first. We know this animal is not alive, and probably hasn’t been alive for some time, yet with the skill from the taxidermist the animal looks as if it could walk right up to you and blink.

What furthers that sense of oddness is when the taxidermied animal is famous and has been preserved and displayed as a tag for a page in history.

That fine line of feeling intrigued more than disturbed is blurred even more when the animal lifelessly staring back at you from a glass case is a horse. We can’t help but envision our own horses and our own animals staring back at us.

Yes, the whole thing is downright unnerving if we think about it too hard. But if we can stop and appreciate just what the animal signifies and why it deserves to be displayed and appraised decade after decade, it makes it a little easier to enjoy for what it really is: life, history, honor, and legacy.

If you are intrigued by the idea of seeing historical equines in all of their preserved glory, here are a few you can either visit in person or via a google trip.



CC: Insomnia Cured Here - Flickr.com

Roy Roger’s Trigger: The Western Star Roy Roger’s golden horse Trigger passed in 1965 at the age of 33 after many years of silver screen time with his beloved owner. Along with his dog, Bullet, and Dale Evan’s horse Buttermilk, Trigger was preserved and mounted in his famous rearing pose and displayed at the Roy Rogers and Dale Evans Museum in Branson, Missouri. When the museum had to close in 2009 due to financial difficulty, the preserved animals were auctioned off and Trigger was purchased for a whopping \$266,500 by RFD-TV.



CC: George Lane - Flickr.com

Comanche: The mustang Comanche was made famous because of American History. Comanche was an American mustang purchased in 1868 for just \$90. His legend is being the only survivor of the Battle of Little Big Horn. And when we say survivor, it was not without some serious wounds. The mustang suffered four shrapnel wounds to his shoulder, bullet wounds in his back legs, and also through his hoof. Even with so many wounds, Comanche survived and recovered to become a lasting symbol of the U.S. Cavalry until he passed in 1890. He was given full military honors and then donated and mounted to be displayed behind a glass case. The case is humidity controlled, so he is remarkably well preserved.



CC: BrokenSphere/ Wiki Commons

Napoleon Bonaparte's Le Vizir: The gray stud that belonged to Napoleon is assumed to be a purebred Arabian, given as a gift by the Ottoman Empire Sultan Mahmud II. The horse survived his owner by eight years, dying in 1829. After he passed, Le Vizir was preserved as one of the earliest examples of taxidermy, as the practice was very new in the 1830's.

This early time of taxidermy is probably why poor Le Vizir looks a little rough. While his proportions aren't quite right, it's still a marvel to think of what this horse experienced alongside Bonaparte and how long his preservation has lasted. He is now on display at the Musee d'Armee de l'Hotel des Invalides in Paris.



CC: Froggerlaura Flickr.com

Phar Lap: The Australian racehorse Phar Lap is perhaps one of the best preserved and displayed historical horses out there. Phar Lap was a very successful racehorse, winning 32 of his 35 races, his first being the Melbourne Cup in 1861. Phar Lap died mysteriously in 1932 at just five years old. At the time of his death, he was the third highest stakes winner in the world. The racehorse's death is something of a conspiracy theory as it was sudden. Rumors spread that American Gangsters poisoned him on purpose because of his win streak, some said it was insecticides, others said it was acute gastroenteritis.

The final claim so far is that he died by arsenic poisoning after his hair was studied and compared to other poisonings. As to who could have poisoned him and if it was on purpose, history will never know. While the end of Phar Lap is truly heartbreaking, every effort was taken to preserve his legacy. His heart (pictured top right), an anatomical miracle, weighed 14 pounds, almost twice that of the average horse's. It's second only to Secretariat's heart size. This is what inspired the phrase "a heart as big as Phar Lap's".

The heart is now preserved at the National Museum of Australia. His skeleton was sent to New Zealand's National Museum, and his hide was mounted for the Melbourne Museum (above). Every display of Phar Lap is truly incredible, from the size of his heart to the lifelike appearance of his mounted form in Melbourne.



CC: AYArktos - Wiki Commons

George Washington's Blueskin: (Below) If you've ever seen a painting of Washington at Valley Forge, then you will have seen his horse Blueskin included. (Also on cover.) There is a display at Mount Vernon that showcases a stuffed horse with Washington astride. The figure is wax while the horse only represents Blueskin. Even though the mounted animal was only a lookalike found at the time of Blueskin's actual death, it still represents a famous animal and gives a better picture of what Washington and his steed would have looked like in the cold of the American Revolutionary War.



CC: Tim Evanson - Flickr.com

Some other famous equine's that are preserved around the country and world are Misty the Chincoteague from Marguerite Henry's 1947 novel of the same name, Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson's Little Sorrel, Civil War Union General Phil Sheridan's horse Rienzi (later named Winchester), and the horse General who is said to have been one of the heaviest horses in history weighing in at 2,850 pounds.

There are plenty more horses that have been preserved for viewing, some for historical acts and others as representations of species and evolution. No matter your views on the practice of taxidermy, it must be admitted that the preservation of such animals has a deep rooted value in science and history for every generation so far and that has yet to come.

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And live in fear because
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Warning Signs of an Infected Wound

By The VHN Writing Team



It's nearly a guarantee that every horse will suffer from a wound at some point in its lifetime. Horses have a knack for hurting themselves in one way or another and this can result in a wound as small as a one inch cut to a full on deep laceration or puncture.

They can injure themselves just about anywhere on their bodies as well, making for some interesting treatment and stories for later on. While treating a wound can be fairly straight forward, it is always best to know what to do should a wound not heal correctly and become infected.

Here are a few signs that your horse's wound has taken a turn for the worse:

1. Swelling – The swelling that occurs right after an injury is completely normal, as it's the body's natural response to fend off infection. Cells rush to the area as well as pooling fluid from surrounding tissue, causing this reaction.

Typically, swelling will reduce after a few days post injury. If, however, your horse has significant swelling after more than a few days, the swelling gets worse, or even returns after what appeared to be healing, it's time to call a vet.

2. Skin Color – As with humans, the color around a wound can give insight into how the wound is healing. Some red at the beginning stages of a wound can be normal. But if the red does not go away quickly or if the red gets deeper particularly with extending red lines to other areas, this is a serious sign of infection that needs immediate treatment.

The infection is spreading and needs an intervention. This sign can be difficult to see if your horse has darker skin under his coat.

3. Heat – Similar to a fever during a virus, when your horse sustains an injury, the body will become hot around that area as a way of defending against bacteria and infection. The heat indicates that an infection is really trying to progress.

The best way to tell if there is heat in a wound is to compare. For example, if your horse has a cut on the right leg, compare the heat to the same leg on the left side. If it feels hotter than the mirroring leg, then an infection could be present. Always be gentle when handling a wound and always do so with clean hands.

4. Odor – Another big sign of infection is an odd odor from a wound. If you notice your horse's wound suddenly has a strange smell, you should have a vet check out the cause.

5. Pain – Pain is obviously a given with a new wound but if you palpate a wound that is mostly healed or on the way and your horse gives a painful reaction, there could be an infection under the surface.

Depending on the area and if there was bruising the pain could be nothing serious but it's better to be safe than sorry when there is unexplained tenderness with a mostly healed injury.

6. Puss/ Drainage Color – Perhaps the biggest sign of infection is puss. If your horse's wound begins to ooze puss with or without applied pressure, he needs professional care as soon as possible.

If your horse's wound is draining a clearer liquid without the other signs of infection, it could just be normal drainage of dead white blood cells from the healing process. Drainage that is green, yellow, and even pink can point to a developing infection.

7. Taking Too Long to Recover – There are rarer times where there are not any of the above signs of an infection, yet your horse's wound just refuses to heal. Maybe it's taken awhile longer than you've anticipated, maybe the wound keeps opening back up, or maybe there are other signs of irritation.

This could also point to an infection or a wound that needs some extra help beyond cleansing and anti-bacterial ointments/ wrapping.

8. Off Behavior – It might seem like a surprise that your horse's behavior can point to an under the radar wound infection. If your horse has a fever, shows a general pain response, malaise, appetite loss, and other off behavior with no evidence of a viral infection or other systemic sickness, it could very well be that wound.

Our horses can't speak to us, so they can only give the impression that "something doesn't feel right" or "something doesn't feel good." A wound that has progressed to infection could cause your horse to not be himself in any of these ways.

Whenever your horse is suffering from a new wound, it's important to keep an eye on its progression each day.

Where the wound is located is also a big factor in healing, as our horse's are always surrounded by dust, dirt, and flies/ other bugs. If it's an area that is rubbed by a saddle, blanket, halter, boot, or fly mask, it can also delay or complicate recovery.

There's also some confusion when it comes to covering wounds. Some will say that a wound needs to be covered to keep it clean and free from irritation. Others say that a wound needs air to heal properly.

Neither is truly wrong as it depends on the wound's severity and location as well as the possibility of infection.

Your vet can give you a better idea on the optimal way to heal a wound so that it doesn't become infected or scar. Sometimes doing sutures can help a wound heal cleaner and less noticeably so if the wound is in an area that's visible for shows, this could be a good option to look into.

No matter the seriousness of your horse's wound, dedicated monitoring and clean treatment practices are best for a quick and successful recovery.

And don't be afraid to seek a vet's assistance for a difficult injury, even if it's a small one.



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From Valley Horse News

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| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|---|--|--|---|---|--|
| VALLEY HORSE NEWS DEADLINE 15th of EVERY MONTH valleyhorsenews@gmail.com | | | | 1 INTERMOUNTAIN REINING HORSE SHOW 9 am Hurricane, UT Washington County Regional Park | 2 INTERMOUNTAIN REINING HORSE SHOW 8 am Hurricane, UT Washington County Regional Park | 3 INTERMOUNTAIN REINING HORSE SHOW 8 am Hurricane, UT Washington County Regional Park |
| 4 INTERMOUNTAIN REINING HORSE SHOW 8 am Hurricane, UT Washington County Regional Park | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 LVGA Henderson Saddle Association www.lasvegasmkhanaassociation.com |
| 11 | 12 APACHE LAND APPALOOSA CLUB Meeting 7:00pm, Horse-shoe Restaurant, Benson AZ; Contact Fred @ 520-384-5332 | 13 NSHA GENERAL MEETING 7pm Olive Garden - 1361 S. Decatur Blvd. 702-645-2988 POSS GENERAL MEETING 7pm @ WULFY'S Hwy 160 Pahrump 775-727-9576 | 14 HCON MONTHLY MEETING 7pm Doc's Saddlery 6185 Elkhorn RD LV, NV 702-361-5456 BCH of UTAH WASATCH FRONT CHAPTER 7:00pm American Legion 345 Depot st Clearfield, UT Info. 801-773-9419 WASHINGTON COUNTY FAIR 6 pm Hurricane, UT Washington County Regional Park | 15 WASHINGTON COUNTY FAIR 2 pm Hurricane, UT Washington County Regional Park | 16 WASHINGTON COUNTY FAIR 2 pm Hurricane, UT Washington County Regional Park | 17 SNGA Horsemen's Park http://www.snga.biz WASHINGTON COUNTY FAIR 10 am Hurricane, UT Washington County Regional Park |
| 18 SNGA Horsemen's Park http://www.snga.biz | 19 | 20 SSPHC MONTHLY MEETING 7pm IHop Cheyenne & Rainbow 702-373-2673 paintmee@aol.com | 21 LVAHA GENERAL MEETING, 7:15pm; Marie Calenders - 8175 W. Sahara Info: keppes@cscinfo@aol.com | 22 DIXIE JUNIOR LIVESTOCK SHOW 7:30 am Hurricane, UT Washington County Regional Park | 23 DIXIE JUNIOR LIVESTOCK SHOW 8 am Hurricane, UT Washington County Regional Park | 24 LVGA Henderson Saddle Association www.lasvegasmkhanaassociation.com DIXIE JUNIOR LIVESTOCK SHOW 10 am Hurricane, UT Washington County Regional Park |
| 25 | 26 S. NV REGIONAL TRAILS 4701 N Torrey Pines Dr., LV Contact Ed @ 702-645-1791 editoredd@juno.com | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | |

MAY 2021 CALENDER OF EVENTS

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--|---|---|---|-----------|-----------|--|
| *The scheduling of events for all organizations and locations is currently under constant change due to COVID-19. For the most up to date schedules, attendance, and virtual show dates/ info please regularly visit the corresponding websites.* <i>Thank You</i> | | | | | | 1 LVGA Henderson Saddle Association www.lasvegasmkhanaassociation.com |
| 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 SNGA Horsemen's Park http://www.snga.biz |
| 9 SNGA Horsemen's Park http://www.snga.biz | 10 APACHE LAND APPALOOSA CLUB Meeting 7:00pm, Horse-shoe Restaurant, Benson AZ; Contact Fred @ 520-384-5332 | 11 NSHAV GENERAL MEETING 7pm Olive Garden - 1361 S. Decatur Blvd. 702-645-2988 POSS GENERAL MEETING 7pm @ WULFY'S Hwy 160 Pahrump 775-727-9576 | 12 HCON MONTHLY MEETING 7pm Doc's Saddlery 6185 Elkhorn RD LV, NV 702-361-5456 BCH of UTAH WASATCH FRONT CHAPTER 7:00pm American Legion 345 Depot st Clearfield, UT Info. 801-773-9419 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16 | 17 | 18 SSPHC MONTHLY MEETING 7pm IHop Cheyenne & Rainbow 702-373-2673 paintmee@aol.com | 19 LVAHA GENERAL MEETING, 7:15pm; Marie Calenders - 8175 W. Sahara Info: keppes@cscinfo@aol.com | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
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How to Decide When It's Time to Change Barns

By The VHN Writing Team



For a horse owner there are two main places of refuge. There's your home, where you find comfort in being with your family and being yourself whenever you feel like it.

And then there's the second place where you keep your equine buddy and enjoy your animal. Sometimes these are the same location if you have horse property with your house, but for many they are always separate.

A lot of owners board their horses at facilities by renting a pen or stall for a monthly fee. This can also include routine care, like mucking out stalls, feeding at certain times of the day, and maybe even turn out time by an employee or caretaker.

By boarding your equine, you come into contact not only with other horses but naturally other owners. They are doing the same thing you are by renting a spot for their horse to live.

When a boarding facility is good, it can be a really great experience all around. You have the comfort of other horse people around you with a sense of comradery, the fun of shared interests with horses, the safety of many eyes and ears, and the support your horse needs when you can't be around 24/7.

Having a facility that not only provides what you need but does so when needed and as promised is beyond ideal for a horse owner, as it's not just business but also personal. The perfect fit of a facility isn't easy to find, but when you do it can lift a huge weight off your shoulders and add some happiness to your life at the same time.

On the other hand, it is entirely possible to find on more than one occasion a facility that doesn't work for you in the long run.

Perhaps it started out just fine and steadily got worse or perhaps your own individual circumstances changed, but for whatever reason it doesn't feel right anymore.

Making the decision to move your horse and start over again is a difficult and lengthy choice to make, as there is a lot depending on that choice. Your horse's health, safety, and wellbeing hang in the balance, but coming to the decision that you need to move is the first step.

So how do you know that it's time to go?

At first, it may be just a feeling, a sense of uneasiness or anxiety. Maybe you're feeling extra stressed and on edge and haven't really stopped to think about why. Those closest to you might have even noticed a change.

When you take the time to consider why you feel so off and out of sorts, you might come to find out some things:

- You don't really get along with the other boarders or even the owner of the facility. You might have in the beginning, but now not so much. This is completely normal and it's alright. People don't always mesh well and while our horse enthusiasm should unite us, it doesn't always work out that way.

- You are in a financial pit and paying rent is only making it worse and worse. Finances are never fixed and horse bills, including rent, are not cheap. At first you may have been fine handling the cost but now you feel stretched. You could have lost or changed jobs, have new bills that you didn't anticipate, or any number of personal problems. The price of the facility could have gone up too or your just having trouble budgeting.

No matter why you feel past your money comfort zone, it's important to realize that it's not a place you want to be, mentally and emotionally. Few things affect us as badly as stressing about money and it can wreak havoc on our health.

- You dread going to the barn or it's becoming a task you have to complete rather than something you look forward to. You're a horse person, you love your animal, you love riding and the whole lifestyle, yet you feel unhappy when you think about barn time. It's gone from being something you enjoy to something you just have to do.

- Your horse seems to get sick a lot or is always injured/ recovering from an injury. This isn't to say that your horse is being neglected by the facility (that's a much more serious issue), rather that his current environment just isn't compatible with him and his needs as a horse. He could need more room to roam or a different stall set up.

- You don't get along with your trainer or any other person that regularly cares for your horse. These relationships need to work to get the most out of your equine hobby and to provide your horse with the training he needs. When you're at odds with the person that's guiding you, it can be a giant roadblock to progress and to your confidence. It can also create unnecessary drama between horse owners, resulting in a pretty toxic place to remain.

- You're making too many sacrifices to stay where you are at. Maybe it's too much money. Maybe it's too far to drive and prevents you from visiting as often as you would like. Maybe there's not enough space, trails, or arenas. Maybe it's too crowded or doesn't provide the services you really rely on.

If you find yourself wishing you had more of really anything, or you feel like you're making a lot of compromises, then you're limiting yourself as well as your horse when you might not have to. Write out a list of pros and cons, and the things you really need. These should be what you cannot do without. If the place starts to have way too many cons or very little in the need category, consider a switch.

Perhaps the biggest and most prominent way to know that it's time for change is when you don't feel safe or you feel like your horse isn't safe at the location. It doesn't matter if it's something very small, it doesn't matter if there's been apologies or reasons/ excuses for behavior or dangerous incidents, it doesn't matter if it's only happened once.

If you feel like you are not safe at the facility you board, it's time to leave. Not in a little bit, not later, not after you've given chance after chance after chance.

Now.

Because the last thing you want is to look back and regret that you didn't leave sooner. And if you feel like you can't think about it logically or unbiased, or if you feel guilty about even considering leaving, talk with a friend outside of the facility. Someone who knows you and that you trust but doesn't have any connection to the location.

They can offer some support and real feedback on what you should do and if they were in your shoes. Sometimes that's all it takes is a fresh pair of eyes and real opinion.





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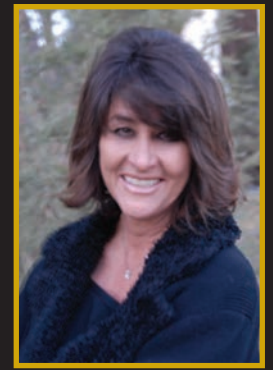
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