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The 8 Best Tools to Have in Your Grooming Kit

By The VHN Writing Team



Our horses take a lot of maintenance and require a huge number of supplies, for their bodies, minds, and spirits.

With the Spring season finally here, it's a great time to take a look at your grooming kit to see if you have the best items for grooming your equine this shedding season.

1. A hard bristle brush: This brush is the perfect kind to really get the dirt and grime worked up and out of your horse's hair, especially while his winter coat still hangs on.
2. A curry comb: Speaking of that lingering winter coat, your horse will start to shed his layers and a curry comb is the next best thing to getting rid of all that hair without completely clipping your buddy.
3. A soft bristle brush: You might think that every body brush is create equal, but that's not the case. After a thorough brushing with a harder brush, a soft brush will really fine tune the hair, gently disperse your horse's natural oils, and make him shiny.
4. A double sided mane and tail comb: A double sided comb is perfect, and there's a reason why. A comb with wider spaced teeth is great for picking apart knots, and a comb with teeth closer together is perfect for actually brushing the mane and tale. Many horse combs will be two sided so you can have the best of both worlds.
5. Coat Spray: Every horse's coat can use some extra care, and a conditioning spray is the perfect helper between bath times and actual conditioner that gets rinsed out. Most conditioning sprays can stay on and have a mixture of coat enhancers and can even help your horse keep his color vibrant in the sun. They also make him smell a little less, well, horsey in the summer heat.
6. A massaging mitt: A rubber or silicone massaging mitt is great for a scrubby bath or even to work in a hair conditioner or spray. The massaging bumps or teeth will really work the conditioning agents into the hair and skin and get to the root of your horse's coat. It also promotes blood flow, which benefits your horse coat, skin, and more.
7. Itch Spray/ Hair Growth Spray: Most horses will end up having a spot or two that just itches. It could be in the mane, in the tail, along their butt, or at the front of their chest. These spots tend to get irritated and bald from all the rubbing they do, especially during shedding season. Using an anti-itch spray or ointment will help soothe the irritation and using a hair growth spray will help to correct the hair loss that comes with the itching. By treating these things immediately, the problem can resolve short term.
8. Hoof polish: While this doesn't pertain to horse hair and shedding, your horses hooves need some extra TLC. Hoof polish can help to maintain their health, keep them hydrated, and make them stronger.



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Codi A. Kern
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*See you next time! - **Codi Kern***

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Do Horses Get Cavities?

By The VHN Writing Team



The simple answer? If there's a tooth, it can have a cavity.

Horse cavities, also known as dental caries or tooth decay, can be a significant problem for horses. Contrary to what we might perceive, horses can develop cavities much easier than anticipated, though they do not need to brush their teeth daily like humans do.

Cavities occur when the enamel on a horse's tooth is damaged or eroded, just as in humans, exposing the softer dentin underneath. This can lead to bacterial growth, which can cause pain, inflammation, and infection.

There are several factors that can contribute to the development of cavities in horses. One of the primary factors is diet. Horses that consume a diet high in sugar and starch, such as grains or sweet feed, are more susceptible to cavities. The bacteria that cause cavities thrive in these types of diets and can rapidly multiply, leading to the formation of cavities. This same trend of sweets leading to cavities is true for humans as well, so our mothers were not lying when they said that candy will rot your teeth.

Another factor that can contribute to the development of cavities in horses is poor dental hygiene. Horses that do not receive regular dental care, such as teeth cleaning and filing, are more likely to develop cavities. This is because plaque and tartar can build up on the teeth, creating an environment for bacterial growth.

Horse cavities can be difficult to detect, as horses often do not show obvious signs of pain or discomfort. A horse cannot tell his owner that he has a tooth ache. However, there are some signs that horse owners can look for that may indicate the presence of cavities. These include bad breath, drooling, difficulty chewing, and changes in behavior or eating habits.

If a horse owner suspects that their horse has a cavity, they should consult with a veterinarian or equine dentist. The dentist can perform a thorough examination of the horse's teeth, using a dental mirror and light to inspect the teeth for signs of decay. If a cavity is detected, the dentist may recommend treatment options, such as filling the cavity or extracting the affected tooth.

Preventing horse cavities is key to maintaining good dental health in horses. Horse owners can take several steps to help prevent cavities in the first place. One of the most important steps is to provide a healthy diet that is low in sugar and starch. Horses should also have access to plenty of clean, fresh water, as dehydration can contribute to the formation of cavities.

Regular dental care is also essential for preventing cavities in horses. Horses should receive regular teeth cleaning and filing to remove plaque and tartar and to prevent the buildup of bacteria.

Owners may wonder why their domesticated horses would need routine dental care, when their wild predecessors did not. The answer is twofold. Firstly, wild horses do not have the same diet as our domesticated do, which tends to be heavier in sugars. Second, wild horses would typically lose their teeth due to the inevitable decay that is unavoidable. It's a given that a wild horse at some point in its life would deal with oral pain and eventual tooth loss or malformation as a result.

Owners should also monitor their horse's eating habits and behavior to detect any changes that may indicate the presence of cavities, like hay falling from the mouth or a resistance to eating altogether.

In addition to regular dental care, horse owners can also take steps to promote good dental health in their horses. This includes providing toys and other enrichment activities that encourage chewing, such as hay nets or treat balls. Chewing helps to promote saliva production, which can help to neutralize the acid in the mouth and prevent the buildup of bacteria.

In conclusion, horse cavities can be a significant problem for horses, domesticated or not, leading to pain, inflammation, and infection. Preventing cavities in horses requires a combination of a healthy diet, regular dental care, and promoting good dental health habits. Horse owners should work closely with their veterinarian or equine dentist to develop a dental care plan that meets the unique needs of their horse. By taking these steps, horse owners can help to ensure that their horses maintain good dental health and are free from annoying and painful cavities.

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Created by Chef Sharon Hauht

“BBQ Pulled Pork Enchiladas with Chipotle Ranch and Crispy Onions”

Cook Time: 25-35 min. Servings: 2 servings

Ingredients:

1 oz. Shredded Cheddar-Jack Cheese
 1½ fl. oz. Chipotle Ranch Dressing
 6 Small Flour Tortillas
 4 oz. Mixed Diced Peppers
 ½ oz. Crispy Fried Onions
 1 Tbsp. Chipotle Pesto
 3 oz. Smoky BBQ Sauce
 8 oz. Fully Cooked Pulled Pork

You Will Need:

Salt
 1 Mixing Bowl

Directions:

Steak and Pork 145° F (rest cooked meat, 3 minutes) |
 Seafood 145° F | Chicken 165° F |
 Ground Beef 160° F | Ground Turkey 165° F |
 Ground Pork 160° F

Prepare the Ingredients

Turn oven on to 400 degrees. Let preheat, at least 10 minutes. Thoroughly rinse any fresh produce and pat dry. Combine pulled pork, ⅓ the BBQ sauce (reserve remaining for topping), chipotle pesto, diced peppers, and a pinch of salt in a mixing bowl. Place tortillas on a clean work surface. Divide pulled pork mixture evenly on tortillas, placing on center. Roll tortillas tightly and place in provided tray, seam side down. Enchiladas will fit tightly.

Bake the Enchiladas

Cover tray with foil. Bake covered in hot oven until pulled pork is heated through, 10-12 minutes. Carefully remove from oven and remove foil. Top enchiladas with remaining BBQ sauce and cheese. Bake again until cheese is melted, 3-5 minutes.

Finish the Dish

Carefully remove from oven. Top enchiladas with dressing (to taste) and crispy onions. Bon appétit!

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and more above!*

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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A Mother's Milk: Nursing Mares and Nursing Humans

By The VHN Writing Team



Horse milk, also known as mare's milk, is firstly suited for newborn horse babies or foals as we call them. But, like cow's milk, horse milk has been consumed for thousands of years by humans in various cultures across the world, including Mongolia, Kazakhstan, and parts of Russia.

While it may not be as widely consumed as cow's milk and there are many questions about the ethics of its consumption, horse milk has several unique properties that can make it a valuable food source and an even more worthwhile substance of study.

One of the most notable differences between horse milk and popular cow's milk is the composition of the milk. Horse milk contains less fat and lactose than cow's milk, making it easier to digest for individuals who are lactose intolerant. Additionally, horse milk contains more vitamin C and iron than cow's milk, which are essential for maintaining a healthy immune system and preventing anemia.

Horse milk is also known for its medicinal properties. In traditional medicine, horse milk has been used to treat a variety of ailments, including digestive issues, respiratory problems, and skin conditions. Research has also shown that horse milk may have anti-inflammatory and immunomodulatory effects, which could be beneficial for individuals with autoimmune disorders.

Despite its nutritional and medicinal benefits, horse milk is not as widely consumed as cow's milk. One reason for this is that horses produce much less milk than cows, making it a more expensive and less efficient food source.

It's also questioned whether the mass collection of horse milk would be ethical because of this lower production and other non-humanitarian concerns. Additionally, the taste of horse milk may be off-putting to some individuals, as it has a slightly sour and tangy flavor.

Horse milk could be a valuable food source that has been consumed for centuries by various cultures around the world. While it may not be as widely consumed as cow's milk, horse milk has several unique properties that make it a nutritious and potentially beneficial addition to one's diet.

As research on the health benefits of horse milk continues to grow, it will be interesting to see how this unique food source is used in the future, and hopefully will be done with the species welfare in mind.

While there are possibilities for its use in humans, mare's milk is, naturally, best suited for its intended purpose, feeding babies. And there are quite a few similarities between a breastfeeding human's milk and a mare's milk's job even though the compositions are different.

Foals, or baby horses, are born completely reliant on their mother's milk for the first few months of their lives, just as in human babies. The mare's milk is rich in essential nutrients that are necessary for the foal's growth and development. Foals begin drinking mare's milk within hours of birth and will continue to nurse for several months until they are weaned, much the same as we would with our own children.

Mare's milk has a naturally higher protein and mineral content, which is essential for the foal's rapid growth and biological need to keep up with their mothers and their herd. Additionally, mare's milk is much lower in lactose than the popular cow's milk humans drink into adulthood, making it easier for the foal to digest.

The first milk that a mare produces after giving birth is known as colostrum. Nursing human mothers produce a first milk of the same name. Colostrum is essential for the foal's immune system as it contains antibodies that protect the foal from disease. Foals should nurse colostrum within the first few hours of life to ensure that they receive these essential antibodies. A nursing human mother will also need to feed her baby just after birth to ensure her newborn receives these same benefits at just the right time.

As the foal grows, its nutritional needs will change, and the mare's milk will adapt to meet these needs. A human mother's milk also adapts to the individual needs of her babe as it grows. Milk from the first month can be greatly different in composition compared to say month three or four.

During the first month of life, a foal will drink up to 25% of its body weight in milk each day. As the foal grows, it will drink less milk, but the milk will become more concentrated in nutrients.

Foals will continue to nurse from their mother for several months until they are weaned. Weaning is the process of gradually separating the foal from its mother's milk and introducing solid food, such as hay and grain. Weaning typically occurs when the foal is between four and six months old. Similarly, around six months is the earliest that human babies can start to try adult foods alongside breastmilk.

In conclusion, mare's milk is essential for the growth and development of foals, much the same as breastmilk is essential and unique to human babies. The milk provides important nutrients that are necessary for the foal's and human's rapid growth and development, and the antibodies in the colostrum protect both babies from disease.

It is interesting to see just how similar a mother's journey can be for feeding her babies, whether she is human or equine.

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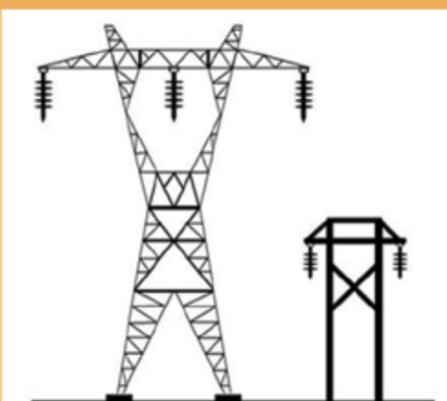
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How to Buy and Store Hay: An Animal Nutritionist's Top Advice

By Brad Kloss

Over the last two years, we have seen hay prices escalate to levels never seen before. The cost of hay can often exceed \$10 per day for each horse you own. With this significant investment in our horses' diets, we want to make sure we purchase and store clean, dry hay.

What Type of Hay to Buy

When buying hay, most people make their decision based on looks and smell. Timothy is a great hay source and is considered the king of choices by many horse owners. Grass hays like orchard grass with a small amount of alfalfa are a local favorite as well. However, alfalfa seems to be the most common hay I see in most barns across the valley. I believe this is largely due to perception, availability, and price.

My most recommended hay is a grass with some alfalfa. We underestimate the quality of grass hays grown in the Western regions: Grass hays here, unlike in the Midwest and Eastern United States, are irrigated and grown on a strict cutting cycle. Because of tightly controlled growing days, irrigation, and fertilization, grass hays are typically higher in protein than what is seen east of the Mississippi River.

Grass hays here are between 15 to 20 percent protein, whereas most alfalfa is 18 to 20 percent protein. Any hay above 13 percent protein will provide enough protein from forages to most horses.

Energy levels are also very high in grass hays grown in the West. We analyze hays for Equine DE (Digestible Energy) and we look for how much of the fiber in the hay is actually broken down and utilized as energy for the horse, versus being dumped in your very expensive Republic Service dumpster.

Alfalfa will be around 1.03 DE, whereas grass hays are about 1.01 — nearly the same. The advantage of the grass hay energy is that it hangs around a lot longer in the gut than alfalfa does. Alfalfa has a faster rate of passage with a lower rate of digestibility, even though the energy is a bit higher. Grass hays have a slower rate of passage, but a more complete digestibility rate. It sounds confusing, I know! But ultimately, you want your horse to have good gut fill, keeping the digestive tract healthy and full.

Adding yeasts will help your hays become more efficient as well. We have seen that by adding certain yeast products, and through research data, that a quality yeast product will increase the energy efficiency of the forage by at least 10 percent. It's kind of like getting more miles per gallon with a fuel additive for your car.

Your choice of hay is to some degree economical, but also has to do with the intended exercise load of the horse, stressors in the horse's daily routine, and each horse's way of digesting forages. I always suggest talking with a nutritionist to make sure your forage and supplement program is right for your horse.

How to Store Hay Properly

Here's the key I always tell owners: Whichever hay you choose, make sure it's clean and stays that way. There should be no signs of mold, which can include a white dusting in the hay, brown caramelized hay, and an unusual smell. If you see any signs of this in your hay, it has likely been damaged by moisture.

When hay gets wet, it ferments, causing a microbial action to take place that produces mold. Those molds, as a result, produce toxins. Even if hay is no longer wet after moisture damage, it can still harbor many dangerous toxins.

Horses are very sensitive to toxins, unlike cows, who have rumens and rumen bacteria that destroy a lot of bad things in the stomach. When horses ingest feed high in toxins, it will be absorbed quickly into the bloodstream and can be detrimental to their health. There are many toxins present in contaminated feeds, some worse than others.

Here are key tips for storing your hay during the wet season we've experienced recently:

1. Never store hay on the ground, since moisture can migrate upward into the bale.
2. Cover your hay when it rains (both the tops and sides), and ensure the bottoms are off the ground.
3. Make sure you buy hay that was covered previously. Look, smell, and feel for any signs of moisture or damage.
4. Open a bale when you buy a load. The outside might look great, but the inside can have heat damage and show signs of mold.
5. If you see damaged hay, stop feeding it. The cost of the bale is small relative to the veterinarian bill or value of your horse.
6. Watch moisture in new crop hay. If you get newly cut hay and you have a shed or barn to put it in, do not cover it. Hay has to breathe, and it expires moisture after it is baled. If you trap this under a tarp right after it was baled, you can cause the hay to heat. Hay farmers call this the "curing period." If hay gets warm, it ferments and grows bad bugs, which develop into molds and produce those nasty toxins.
7. If you know someone who has a forage probe, have your hay tested by a certified laboratory. One lab that provides an equine forage analysis is Dairyland Labs in Arcadia, Wisconsin. Its website is www.dairylandlabs.com

Brad Kloss is an animal nutritionist with more than 38 years of experience. He's also the founder of Symphony by A Horse of Course Nutrition.

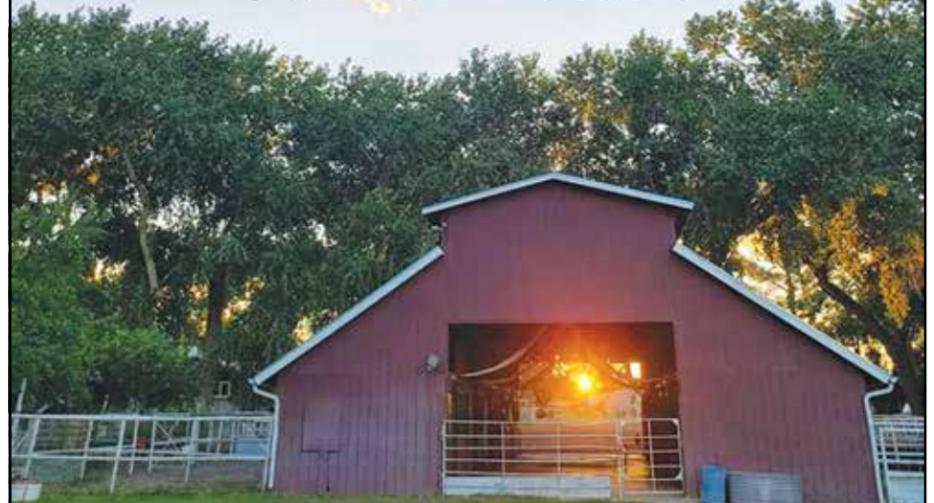


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Front Cover Picture Credit: Alastair Rae - Chinggis Khan -
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Genghis Khan, also known as Temujin, was born in 1162 in the heart of the Mongolian steppe. His early life was marked by hardship and conflict, as his father was poisoned by a rival tribe when Temujin was just nine years old, leaving him and his family vulnerable and destitute.

Despite these early difficult circumstances, Temujin showed remarkable resilience and resourcefulness from a young age. He quickly learned how to hunt and survive in the harsh and unforgiving landscape of the steppe and began to assert his authority over other young boys in his tribe.

As he grew older, Temujin began to emerge as a natural leader in his own right, forming alliances with other tribes and establishing a reputation for his bravery and cunning in battle. He also married at a young age, taking several wives over the course of his life and fathering many children. In a study, it was found that Temujin or Genghis Khan as he would become, is the ancestor of a very large population. As much as 16 million men carry the DNA of this renowned conqueror.

Temujin's rise to power was not without its challenges, however. He faced constant threats from rival tribes, as well as internal divisions within his own family and clan as they all tried to attain dominion. But he remained steadfast in his determination to unite the Mongolian people and establish a powerful and unified empire.

In 1206, at a gathering of Mongol leaders known as the kurultai, Temujin was proclaimed Genghis Khan, or "universal ruler," and was recognized as the supreme leader of the Mongol Empire. Under his leadership, the Mongols embarked on a series of military campaigns that would eventually lead to the largest contiguous empire in history, until it was only surpassed in the twentieth century by the British Empire. Genghis Khan is still considered to be the leader that "almost took over the world."

Genghis Khan, who became the founder of the Mongol Empire, is best known for his military prowess and strategic brilliance, as they are the tools that gained him his enormous empire. He's also viewed as a ruthless conqueror, having killed an estimated 40 million people during his military campaigns to expand his territory. But what is often overlooked is his deep love and admiration for horses, which played a vital role in his historic conquests.

The Mongolian horse, also known as the "heavenly horse," was highly valued by Genghis Khan and his army. These horses were smaller and hardier than other breeds, able to survive harsh weather and travel long distances without food or water.



They were also incredibly fast and agile, making them ideal for the swift and mobile style of warfare employed by the Mongols.

Genghis Khan recognized the importance of having a strong and reliable cavalry, and he made it a priority to breed and train the best horses for his army. He established strict laws to protect the Mongolian horse, forbidding anyone from selling or giving them away to foreigners.

To ensure that his horses were of the highest quality and stayed that way, Genghis Khan employed a team of experts to oversee the breeding and training process. These experts, known as "horse whisperers," had a deep understanding of the psychology and behavior of horses and were able to train them to be obedient and fearless in battle.

The horses were not just a means of transportation for Genghis Khan and his army; they were also a source of pride and status. The most prized horses were adorned with ornate saddles and bridles, and their owners would often decorate them with jewels and other precious materials.

Genghis Khan himself was said to have been an excellent horseman, a skill that is exemplified in many monuments dedicated to him, as he was able to ride for hours on end without rest. He was also known for his generosity when it came to horses, his most prized possessions, often giving them as gifts to his most loyal followers.

The legacy of Genghis Khan's horses can still be felt in Mongolia today. The country is home to thousands of wild horses, as shown above, many of which are believed to be descendants of the horses bred by Genghis Khan and his army. The Mongolian horse remains a symbol of strength, courage, and freedom, and is revered by the people of Mongolia.



Genghis Khan's horses played a vital role in his military conquests and were a source of pride and status for the Mongol Empire which lasted for 162 years, a pride that has endured well beyond his lifetime.

His love and admiration for horses is a testament to the deep connection between humans and animals, and the enduring legacy of the Mongolian horse serves as a reminder of the importance of preserving our natural heritage.

The Mongolian people have gone to great lengths to preserve and celebrate this heritage by erecting many monuments to this leader. One such monument comes the closest to encapsulating the incredible and far reaching power that Genghis Khan attained during his life, particularly because of its sheer size and its location in the Mongolian countryside.



The Chinggis Khan Statue Complex is a majestic monument built in 2008 and located just outside the capital city of Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. Standing at an impressive height of 131 feet or over 10 stories tall, it is the tallest statue of Chinggis Khan in the world. It is also the largest equestrian statue in the world.

The statue is made of stainless steel and depicts Chinggis Khan, or as most people refer to him, Genghis Khan, astride his trusty steed, gazing out towards the distant horizon. It is a powerful and awe-inspiring sight, evoking the strength and determination of one of history's most legendary figures. The statue is both majestic and yet imposing, with its shiny exterior and immense size.

Visitors are able to enter the statue at the base, travel up the hind legs by elevator, travel through the horse's chest and walk up its neck and mane to the open air by its ears and see the land.

The Chinggis Khan Statue Complex is not just a monument, however. It is also home to a museum dedicated to the life and legacy of Chinggis Khan, as well as a number of cultural exhibits and performances.



The museum features a range of artifacts and exhibits related to Chinggis Khan and his era, including weapons, clothing, and other items from the time. Visitors can also learn about the customs and traditions of the Mongolian people, as well as the history of the Mongol Empire and its impact on world history.

In addition to the museum, the Chinggis Khan Statue Complex also offers a range of other activities and experiences for visitors. These include horseback riding, archery, eagle handling, and traditional Mongolian wrestling, as well as opportunities to sample local food and drink.

Perhaps the most unique feature of the Chinggis Khan Statue Complex, however, is the panoramic view it offers of the surrounding landscape.

From the top of the monument, visitors can see for miles in every direction, taking in the stunning beauty of the Mongolian steppe and the distant mountains. It is this same view and steppe that founded this historical man and everything he would accomplish. It's even said that the statue was erected in the spot where Genghis Khan found a special golden whip, at least according to legend.

The statue itself reportedly cost over \$4.1 million to construct. The gothic style architecture that the statue sits atop is made to represent Khan's ability to rule the world. He is "standing on" Europe with his military campaigns. Towards the East, visitors can see a statue of Khan's mother, erected as if she is greeting him and welcoming him home.

A mother of seven children, that would have first known him as Temujin, a name that means "of iron" or "blacksmith." These are very fitting meanings for what the young man would grow to become.



For all the monuments and portraits that seem to exist of Genghis Khan, it's not truly known what the conqueror looked like. No artwork has survived that could be legitimate in origin. It's thought based on a very limited amount of information that Khan was tall, with long hair and a long, bushy beard.

And while he could be a ruthless conqueror, depleting the world population by almost 11 percent during his reign, he was also a very tolerant ruler of those he had conquered. He embraced the diversity of religion, and even started the first "Pony Express." Known as "The Yam," he set up a system of post sites where letters and goods could be transported reliably by talented and hardy riders. The Yam also protected important visitors during travels to see the Khan.

For such a well known figure in history, it's odd to think that no one knows how the conqueror died or where he was buried. No trustworthy account exists telling what happened to him. Some say he died of malaria, others say he died from falling off a horse. It would make sense that a man of such magnitude would want his legacy to live on with a bit of myth and legend and to keep his dignity as well.

As for where his remains were ultimately placed, anyone who witnessed this transport of his remains was said to be executed to protect the secret of his final resting spot. Horses were ridden over the grave to help in its concealment, a fitting final tactic. Most likely, it exists somewhere in Mongolia, but where that is exactly has never been determined.

Overall, the Chinggis Khan Statue Complex is a must-see destination for anyone interested in history, culture, and the natural beauty of Mongolia, as well as the history of the Khan himself. The visit is sure to envelope anyone in the richness, mysticism, and long history of the land and its most famous son. The site is an awe inspiring testament to the enduring legacy of Chinggis Khan and the Mongol Empire, as well as a celebration of the rich and vibrant culture of the Mongolian people, a people that still view Genghis Khan as a revered national hero.



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Prepping for the Coming Hot Days

By The VHN Writing Team

We've enjoyed some nice, albeit slightly dramatic weather recently with temperatures climbing and then falling back into a cold frenzy. It's that funky time of year where your jacket is still necessary at certain hours and then you're stripping before you bake to death in the sun. You don't know if you should keep the heat on, turn it off, or test your air conditioning.

But one thing is for sure, summer will be approaching with a vengeance, or what some of us can basically label pre-summer where the temperatures still get hot just not record breaking like they will be, come June.

So now is the perfect time to prepare for the inevitable hot days making their way here.

Our horses can definitely agree with us that the transition to hot temperatures is no fun, and depending on how much of a left turn the weather takes, the transition can be anything but smooth.

First and foremost, make sure you have all the materials you will need for the warmer weather. Check all of your water buckets. If they have seen better days or have become chipped or cracked, consider investing in some new ones. Always have backup water buckets available as well as you never know when you may need them.

Also be sure to check your hose for repairs, your horse's fly sheets and mask, automatic waterers, any fans in your barn, and all of your emergency materials for restocking. Now is a great time to double check expiration on all supplements and medications. You can also invest in some electrolyte powder in case your horse has a hard time adjusting his water intake with the heat. There are many flavors as well to encourage your horse to drink more throughout the day.

If you tend to clip your horse before the heat turns up, make sure your clippers are in good working order. You can start clipping your horse as soon as the temperatures get reasonably high and begin with small sections and work your way up.

It's important to think of yourself as well, especially if you care for your horse throughout the day. As the temperatures get more volatile, you need to find ways to keep yourself cool and hydrated. Always make sure you are adequately prepared before working in the sun and heat, that way you don't risk suffering from heatstroke or sunburn.

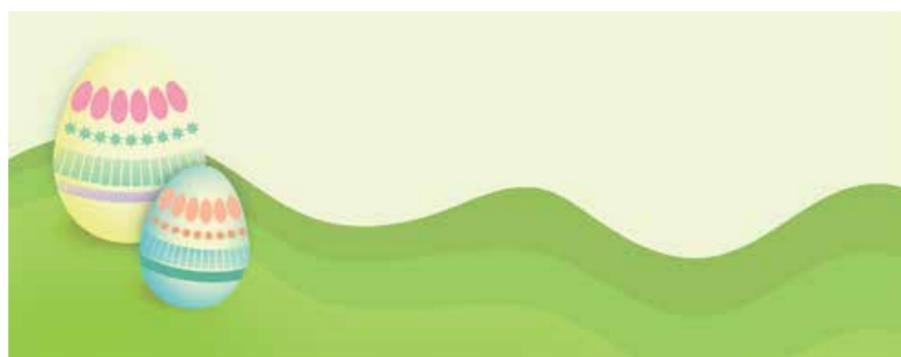
If your horse has a means of shade, check to make sure it is stable and consider expanding it if you feel your horse would benefit.

Adjust your horse's workouts to times of the day when the heat is at its lowest, like earlier in the morning and after the sun is setting. Your equine may need a different routine and activity level until his body acclimates to the new temperature.

As your horse ages, he will need more prompt and even specialty care during the summer, as his body will not respond as well as it did when he was younger. Your veterinarian can help you stay on track

While the temperatures increase, be sure to keep an eye on how your horse is adjusting and make note of any excessive sweating, lack of sweating, or puffing during the day. These can be signs that your horse's body is in overdrive and needs some help. Also check your horse's stool and his urination habits to make sure everything is functioning properly with the change.

Lastly, have a list of contacts should you need to call your vet, farrier, or a friend for help. The previous summer seasons will have helped you get a better idea of how your horse handles the heat, but as his body ages and his needs change, his tolerance will fluctuate.





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**A Simpler Life
By Anna Dunstone**

I wish we were not complex things
 With thoughts like pouring rain
 I know there is a purpose, but
 It's never laid out plain
 To never think of where to step
 Just step there, and proceed
 I wish to bloom like flowers but
 I feel like garden weeds
 I wish to be as worry-free
 As doves perched on a pole
 I want to be as innocent
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 The racing thoughts, the worried mind
 Too complex still to take
 It makes us human, but sometimes
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Preventing Damage from Your Neighborhood Easter Bunnies

By The VHN Writing Team



Horse properties tend to attract a number of random, wild critters. We often see quail, mice, rats, owls, chipmunks, as well as snakes and other creepier crawlies. One animal that we tend to see very frequently are wild rabbits. As we get into the spring season, the number of rabbits you'll see on your horse property will inevitably increase.

And while the sight of some adorable baby wild rabbits is fun and heartwarming, it's also important to remember that wild rabbits can cause quite a bit of damage and costly repairs or replacements.

Wild rabbits can cause significant damage to gardens, crops, and landscaping if left unchecked. They can eat at stores of hay and grain, dig burrows in pens, arenas, and turnouts, and they create quite a few bunny turds where they frequent. However, there are ways to prevent rabbit damage in a humane and environmentally friendly way, so that you can continue to enjoy the visits of your local Easter bunnies and spare the strain on your property and wallet..

One effective method for preventing rabbit damage is to create physical barriers.

This can include fencing or netting around gardens or crops to prevent rabbits from accessing them. If you have plants that tend to get nibbled or munched completely, fencing that is both tall with smaller holes is the best bet. It is important to make sure that the barriers you put up are at least two feet high and buried six inches deep to prevent rabbits from burrowing under them.

And don't be shocked at how determined a hungry little rabbit can be! Try a few different methods of barriers before moving onto the next steps.

Another method for preventing rabbit damage is to use repellents. There are many natural repellents available, including predator urine, garlic spray, and hot pepper spray. These can be sprayed on plants, wood slats and poles, or around the perimeter of a garden or crop to deter rabbits from coming near.

Be careful with certain smells or tastes around your horses. They could make them sick or unintentionally antsy, like with the predator urine or sprays they could ingest.

It is also important to create an environment that is less attractive to rabbits. This can include removing hiding places such as brush piles or tall grass, as well as removing any food sources such as bird seed, fallen fruit, or fallen hay. Fake predators, like owls or hawks could keep rabbits from getting close, but move them regularly so they appear real.

If wild rabbits are causing significant damage, it may be necessary to consider trapping and relocating them. However, it is important to follow local regulations and use humane trapping methods. Once trapped, rabbits should be relocated to a safe and suitable location, preferably with the help of a wildlife rehabilitator or conservation organization.

It is important to remember that your local Easter bunnies are an important part of the ecosystem and play a vital role in the food chain. Therefore, it is important to take steps to prevent damage in a humane and environmentally friendly way.

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APRIL 2023 CALENDER OF EVENTS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> <p>VALLEY HORSE NEWS DEADLINE 15th of EVERY MONTH valleyhorsenews@gmail.com</p> </div>						<p>1 SNGA Horsemen's Park http://www.snga.biz LVGA Henderson Saddle Association www.lasvegasmkhanaassociation.com</p>
<p>2 SNGA Horsemen's Park http://www.snga.biz</p>						
<p>9</p>	<p>10 APACHE LAND APPALOOSA CLUB Meeting 7:00pm, Horseshoe Restaurant, Benson AZ; Contact Fred @ 520-384-5332</p>	<p>11 NSHA GENERAL MEETING 7pm Olive Garden - 1361 S. Decatur Blvd. 702-645-2988 POSS GENERAL MEETING 7pm @ SHOWPOSS.VPWEB.COM for time and place Pahrump 775-727-9576</p>	<p>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</p>		<p>14 Southern Nevada Hunter Jumpers Association Horseman's Park snhja.com</p>	<p>15 Southern Nevada Hunter Jumpers Association Horseman's Park snhja.com</p>
<p>16 Southern Nevada Hunter Jumpers Association Horseman's Park snhja.com</p>		<p>18 SSPHC MONTHLY MEETING 7pm IHop Cheyenne & Rainbow 702-373-2673 paintmee@aol.com</p>		<p>20 BCH BRISTLECONE CHAPTER Meeting @ 6:00 pm Parkway Tavern, 4930 W. Flamingo Road, 89103</p>		<p>22 NSHA V OPEN BREED SHOW 8am Horseman's Park LV www.nshav.com</p>
	<p>24 S. NV REGIONAL TRAILS 4701 N Torrey Pines Dr., LV Contact Ed @ 702-645-1791 editoredd@juno.com</p>					<p>29 LVGA Henderson Saddle Association www.lasvegasmkhanaassociation.com</p>
<p>30</p>						

MAY 2023 CALENDER OF EVENTS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>
<p>7</p>	<p>8 APACHE LAND APPALOOSA CLUB Meeting 7:00pm, Horseshoe Restaurant, Benson AZ; Contact Fred @ 520-384-5332</p>	<p>9 NSHAV GENERAL MEETING 7pm Olive Garden - 1361 S. Decatur Blvd. 702-645-2988 POSS GENERAL MEETING 7pm @ SHOWPOSS.VPWEB.COM for time and place Pahrump 775-727-9576</p>	<p>10 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</p>			<p>13 SNGA Horsemen's Park http://www.snga.biz LVGA Henderson Saddle Association www.lasvegasmkhanaassociation.com</p>
<p>14 SNGA Horsemen's Park http://www.snga.biz</p>		<p>16 SSPHC MONTHLY MEETING 7pm IHop Cheyenne & Rainbow 702-373-2673 paintmee@aol.com</p>		<p>18 BCH BRISTLECONE CHAPTER Meeting @ 6:00 pm Parkway Tavern, 4930 W. Flamingo Road, 89103</p>		
<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>28</p>	<p>29 S. NV REGIONAL TRAILS 4701 N Torrey Pines Dr., LV Contact Ed @ 702-645-1791 editoredd@juno.com</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>			

Farm Animal Adoptions



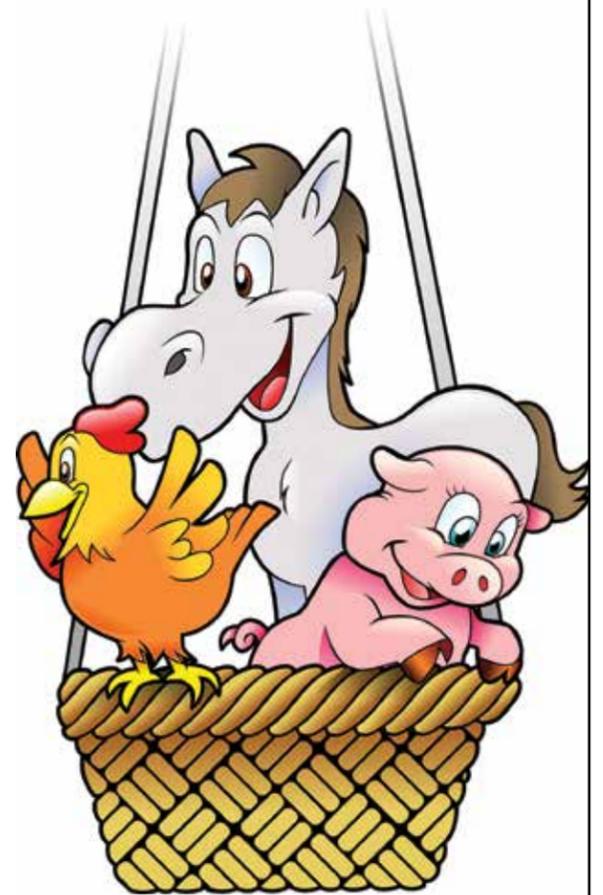
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or email janice@windys.org and thank you for considering adoption, we have a great need for homes.

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Welcome all rescues, sanctuaries, and non-profits!

Now is the chance to give farm animals in need of adopting and fostering an extra spotlight - **on the house**.

Valley Horse News will now have an adoptions section solely for farm animals at shelters and organizations that need to find a loving, forever home. On this page, every month, you will find photos and information about wonderful animals that could be the perfect addition to your home or farm. You will also find the organization that they come from and how you can get in contact.

This section will remain in the paper *indefinitely*.

As long as there is an animal that needs it, it will be open for listings. With COVID on the decline many animals are in need of new homes, so here will be the space to feature them.

Are you an organization or know of an organization that helps farm animals? Contact now for more information and to be featured on this page every month. Remember, this page is for **adoptions only**.

Animals for sale by owner must be advertised in other sections.

Please spread the word far and wide about this section so we can facilitate as many adoptions as possible. These precious animals need and deserve all the help we can get. It is a personal goal to make this section explode every single month! A home for every animal that comes on this page is not only a worthwhile but completely possible goal.

Just imagine what could be done by this time next year. So let's make it happen!

Have questions? Email us at valleyhorsenews@gmail.com or call 702-808-7669

We will provide all of the information you need and answer any inquiries you may have.

TERRI GAMBOA TEAM

REAL ESTATE AGENCY

#1 In Horse and Equestrian Properties

#1 In Acreage Properties



Cindy Parker
702-528-1048

Terri Gamboa
702-528-5473

Sommer McDaniel
702-370-2404

~ COLD CREEK, PAHRUMP, LOGANDALE ~



97 Hidden Lake Ave. Incredible cold creek prop. Solar, dual gens, propane & wb stoves - completely off grid, .81 acre lot 2,406SQFT / 3 bed + den. 360 views of mtns, valley, lake & ponds, trail riding. 40 min from Vegas \$639,000



1341 East Nevada Highway 372. 1.03 Acres Commercially Zoned in Pahrump. Great Location Right by NV State Rd 160 & Stores. 1 Hour From Las Vegas \$249K



15 Acre Moapa Valley Blvd. Own 15 Acres of Prime Land in Logandale. Rural Living 50 Minutes From Las Vegas. Beautiful Area. 2 Parcels Sold Together \$575,000



136 N Lisbon St. Huge 1.25 Acre Parcel. Beautiful location & views! Close to Lake Mead. \$280,000

2161 W Charleston Park Ave. 4+ Acres in Pahrump. \$89K



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~ SE & HENDERSON ~



7080 S Pecos Rd.

3.9 Acre Secluded Property in Very Popular Tomiyasu Area of Billionaires, Casino Owners, Celebrities, the Old Wayne Newton Ranch, Multi-million Dollar Homes. Private Electric Gate Entry. Block Wall and Wrought Iron, Approx 10 Car Garage Converted Horse Barn, Small 2 BR, 2 BA House Perfect To Live In While Building Then Use as Guest House. Over 100 Tall Pine Trees. Fabulous Location, a Piece of Paradise Close to the Strip & Airport. **\$1,975,000**

3716 Greencrest Dr.

Gorgeous Home in Highly Sought after Paradise Crest. Lushly landscaped beautiful neighborhood w/ wide streets & parks. A paradise in the desert! NO HOA. Single story w/ 5 bedrooms in main house. Guest House has full kitchen, private entry, fireplace, washer/dryer & sauna. 6 total bedrooms on property + add'l flex space for office/gaming etc! Income producing potential. Amazing floor plan, inclusive kitchen w/ double ovens, new dishwasher. Full RV hookups/ parking. Large space for chicken coops. Huge pool with entertaining spaces & covered patio. 0.30 acre lot. Great location, easy airport access, freeway, shopping & restaurants. **\$824,900**



712 Fife St.

Incredible Equestrian Property w/ all Horse Amenities in Place. 3,097sq ft single story house. 3 bedrooms + Den & extra office space. Oversized 3 car garage. Massive 72' X 17' covered RV/Boat parking. Stamped concrete circular driveway. Gorgeous pool. 5 stalls. Large arena. 3 tack rooms. Covered hay storage. Wash rack. Multiple access gates with direct pull through. Trail riding right from the property! Beautiful strip & mountain views from most areas in the home and outdoor entertaining areas. This is an impeccably kept and welcoming property that instantly feels like home. **\$939,000**



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702-370-2404

~ NW & SW LAS VEGAS ~



7111 S Valley View Blvd.

Fantastic Horse Property! Incredible opportunity - 7 stall, giant breezeway brick barn w/ zoning for 7 horses! Boarding & Training Opportunities. Tack room, Wash rack, Large arena. Immaculate single story 3 bed + Den/Office ranch-style house move in ready. New exterior/ interior paint, fridge, dishwasher, washer & dryer. Oversized 2 car garage. Circular driveway. Second gate access to back of property. Chicken coop, Dog run, Shed. Designated space for garden or pasture. Riding distance to Western Trails Equestrian Park w/ multiple arenas, round pens, warm up trail. Highly desirable location in south part of valley - 5 min. to Town Square with shopping!
\$649,000

5313 Braemar Dr.

Luxury Home in Country Club Golf Community. Located in guard gated Los Prados. Spacious home w/ luxury finishes. Living room w/ beautiful arches, tall ceilings, wet bar, stone fireplace. Stunning kitchen w/ white floor to ceiling custom cabinets, marble countertops, backsplash, stainless steel appliances, breakfast nook w/ built-in bench, wood-like tile flooring. Master Suite w/ sitting area, tall ceilings, fireplace, walk-in-closet, separate built-in vanity and a beautiful modern bathroom with soaking tub. Private heated swimming pool/spa, covered patio, direct guest bathroom access, no rear neighbors. Community clubhouse, tennis courts, jogging paths, golf courses, RV parking and more! **\$675,000**



4335 N Fort Apache Rd.

1/2 Acre Lot in Private 4 Lot Cul-de-sac. Cul-de-sac Has Complete Block Wall Perimeter & Can Be Gated. Highly Sought After Location - Blocks From Lone Mountain Regional Park - Minutes to I215 & I95. Power Is Approx 10' Away, Water Is Approx 20' Away. Investment Opportunity as Well for Build & Sell. **\$249,900**



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