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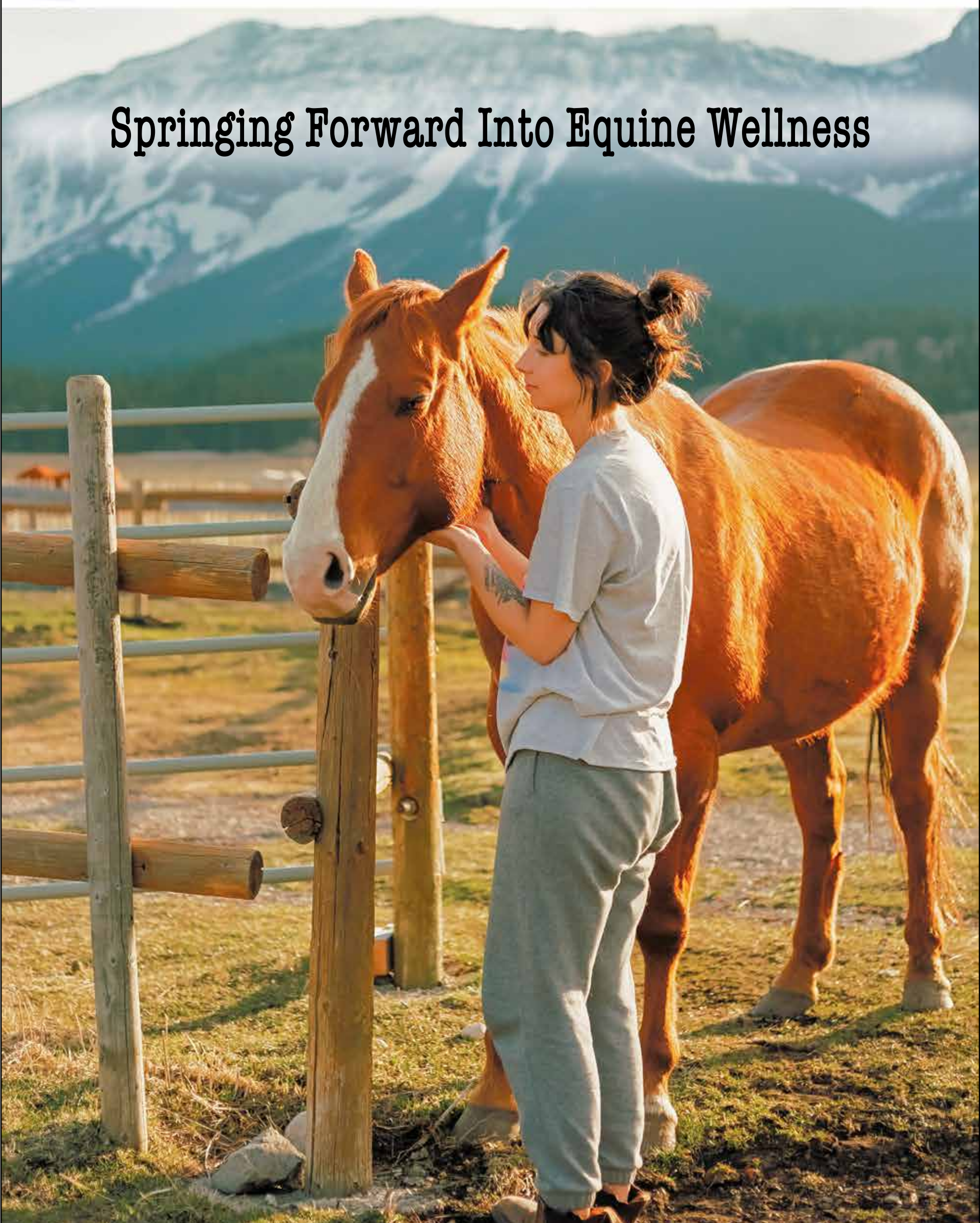
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THOUGHT OF THE MONTH:
 “One joy can scatter
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The Protective Nature of Mules: A Blend of Instinct and Environment

By The VHN Writing Team

Mules, the offspring of a male donkey (jack) and a female horse (mare), have long been esteemed for their strength, endurance, and reliability. However, one question that often arises in discussions about mules is whether they possess a natural protective instinct. To explore this topic, we must delve into the unique characteristics and behaviors of mules, examining both their innate traits and the influence of their environment.

At first glance, mules might not strike observers as particularly protective animals. Unlike some breeds of dogs bred specifically for guarding purposes, mules lack the overt aggression or territorial behavior commonly associated with protective instincts. However, beneath their seemingly stoic demeanor lies a complex blend of traits that can manifest as protective behavior in certain situations.

One aspect of mules' behavior that hints at their protective nature is their strong sense of self-preservation. Mules, like their donkey ancestors, are known for their keen awareness of their surroundings and their ability to assess threats. In the wild, donkeys often serve as sentinels for their herd, alerting others to the presence of predators with their distinctive braying. This vigilance can translate into protective behavior when mules perceive a threat to themselves, their handlers, or their companions.

Furthermore, mules are renowned for their intelligence and problem-solving abilities. Unlike horses, which tend to rely more on flight as a primary defense mechanism, mules are more inclined to stand their ground and assess a situation before reacting. This deliberative approach can result in what appears to be protective behavior, as mules may position themselves between perceived threats and those under their care.

Another factor that influences mules' protective instincts is their social nature. While not as gregarious as horses, mules still form strong bonds with their handlers and pasture mates.

This social bond can foster a sense of responsibility towards their companions, prompting mules to intervene in situations they perceive as potentially harmful. This protective behavior may manifest as herding behavior, where mules gather their charges and guide them away from danger.

However, it's essential to recognize that the expression of protective behavior in mules can vary widely depending on individual temperament and past experiences. Just as with humans or any other animals, some mules may exhibit a more pronounced protective instinct than others. Factors such as early socialization, training methods, and previous exposure to stressful situations can all shape how a mule responds to perceived threats.

Moreover, the environment in which a mule is raised and trained can significantly influence the development of its protective instincts. Mules raised in environments where they encounter potential dangers, such as predators or hazardous terrain, may develop a heightened sense of vigilance and protective behavior. Conversely, mules raised in controlled environments with minimal exposure to perceived threats may be less inclined to exhibit overtly protective behavior.

Despite these considerations, it's essential not to anthropomorphize mules or expect them to behave exactly like other protective animals, such as dogs. Mules have their own unique set of instincts and behaviors shaped by their evolutionary history and domestication. While they may not exhibit protective behavior in the same way as some other animals, their inherent awareness and intelligence can still make them valuable allies in situations where protection is needed. While mules may not possess the same overtly protective instincts as some other animals, they nonetheless exhibit behaviors that suggest a capacity for protection. Their keen awareness, intelligence, and social bonds can prompt them to intervene in situations they perceive as threatening to themselves or their companions. However, the expression of protective behavior in mules is influenced by a variety of factors, including individual temperament and environmental influences. Understanding and appreciating these nuances is essential for recognizing and fostering the protective potential of these remarkable animals.

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Recognizing the First Signs of Stress in Your Horse

By The VHN Writing Team



Understanding and responding to a horse's emotional state is essential for promoting their well-being and maintaining a positive relationship between horse and handler. Horses, like humans, experience stress, which can manifest in various ways.

Recognizing the early signs of stress is crucial for preventing escalation into more serious behavioral or health issues. Here, we'll explore the subtle cues that horses display when experiencing stress, enabling owners and handlers to intervene effectively and provide appropriate support.

1. Body Language:

A horse's body language is a primary means of communication and can provide valuable insights into their emotional state. Some early signs of stress to watch for include:

- **Tension in Muscles:** A stressed horse may exhibit tension in their muscles, particularly in the neck, shoulders, and back. These areas may appear rigid or tight, indicating discomfort or anxiety.
- **Tail Movement:** Pay attention to the horse's tail movement. A horse that frequently swishes its tail or holds it tightly against its body may be experiencing stress.
- **Ears:** The position of a horse's ears can also indicate their mood. While forward-facing ears generally signal attentiveness and curiosity, pinned-back ears or constant flicking can indicate agitation or discomfort.
- **Eye Expression:** The eyes are often referred to as the "window to the soul," and this holds true for horses as well. Wide eyes with prominent whites or a "worried" expression may indicate stress or anxiety.
- **Gait:** Changes in a horse's gait, such as stiffness, reluctance to move, or irregular movements, can be signs of stress or discomfort.

2. Behavioral Changes:

Stress can also manifest through changes in behavior, which may be subtle but significant indicators of underlying distress:

- **Altered Eating Habits:** A horse that suddenly loses interest in food or exhibits picky eating behavior may be experiencing stress. Conversely, overeating or rapid consumption of food can also be signs of stress.
- **Social Withdrawal or Aggression:** Changes in social behavior, such as withdrawing from herd mates, excessive aggression towards other horses or humans, or an increase in submissive behaviors, can all indicate stress.
- **Excessive Vocalization:** While some vocalization is normal in horses, excessive whinnying, screaming, or constant nickering can be signs of distress.
- **Increased Restlessness:** A stressed horse may display increased restlessness, pacing, or repetitive behaviors such as weaving or cribbing.

3. Environmental Responses:

Horses are highly sensitive animals that can react strongly to changes in their environment. Signs of stress related to environmental factors include:

- **Startling Easily:** A horse that becomes easily spooked or reacts excessively to minor stimuli may be experiencing heightened stress levels.
- **Seeking Solitude:** Some horses may seek solitude or attempt to hide or escape from perceived stressors, such as loud noises or unfamiliar objects.

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- **Refusal to Enter or Leave Areas:** Horses may become reluctant to enter or leave certain areas, such as trailers, stalls, or arenas, if they perceive them as threatening or uncomfortable.

4. Physical Symptoms:

In addition to behavioral and body language cues, stress can also manifest in physical symptoms that may be indicative of underlying health issues:

- **Increased Heart Rate and Respiration:** Monitoring a horse's vital signs can provide valuable insights into their stress levels. An elevated heart rate or rapid breathing may indicate acute stress or discomfort.
- **Sweating:** Excessive sweating, particularly in areas such as the neck, flanks, or under the saddle, can be a sign of stress, especially in the absence of physical exertion or hot weather.
- **Digestive Disturbances:** Stress can disrupt the horse's digestive system, leading to symptoms such as colic, diarrhea, or ulcers.

Responding to Signs of Stress:

Once the early signs of stress are recognized, it's essential to respond promptly and appropriately to alleviate the horse's discomfort and prevent further escalation. Strategies for managing stress in horses include:

- **Identifying and Removing Stressors:** Determine the underlying cause of the horse's stress and take steps to eliminate or minimize the trigger whenever possible.
- **Creating a Safe Environment:** Provide a calm, predictable environment for the horse, with opportunities for mental and physical stimulation and access to food, water, and shelter.
- **Implementing Relaxation Techniques:** Incorporate relaxation techniques such as massage, grooming, or turnout in a safe paddock or pasture to help the horse unwind and release tension.
- **Seeking Professional Help:** Consult with a veterinarian, equine behaviorist, or other qualified professionals for guidance and support in managing the horse's stress effectively.

It's never easy to see our animals in pain or discomfort. And our horses can be great maskers of underlying issues until things are at an advanced level. They are also very stealthy with how they show their pain compared to their typical behaviors that we know so well. Taking the time to remember these changes in your horse and making it a habit to watch your animal more carefully can help to alert you when something is off.

By understanding and recognizing the first signs of stress in horses, owners and handlers can take proactive measures to support their equine companions' well-being and foster a positive and trusting relationship. Through attentive observation, compassionate care, and proactive intervention, we can ensure that our horses thrive physically, mentally, and emotionally.



• Happy Trails Monthly Recipe •

Created by Chef Sharon Hauht

“Tangy Lemon Garlic Shrimp”

Prep Time: 10 mins Cook Time: 10 mins Servings:
Servings: 4

Ingredients:

16 large shrimp - peeled, deveined, and tails on, or more to taste
3 large cloves garlic, smashed, or more to taste
1 teaspoon crushed red pepper, or to taste
2 teaspoons seafood seasoning (such as Old Bay®), or to taste
salt and ground black pepper to taste
2 tablespoons lemon juice
3 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley
3 teaspoons lemon zest

Directions:

Heat a large skillet over medium-low heat until warm, about 3 minutes. Add shrimp, garlic, and crushed red pepper all at once and stir together. Add seafood seasoning, salt, and black pepper. Mix everything together.

Cook over medium heat until shrimp are fully cooked, 3 to 5 minutes. Pour lemon juice into skillet and stir again. Reduce heat to low; add parsley and lemon zest. Transfer only shrimp to a serving platter.



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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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Managing Your Horse's Winter Coat: What to Do If Shedding Doesn't Happen

By The VHN Writing Team



As the days grow longer and temperatures begin to rise, horse owners eagerly anticipate the shedding of their equine companions' winter coats. Shedding is a natural process that allows horses to adapt to changing seasons, shedding their thick, insulating winter fur to make way for a lighter, sleeker coat suitable for warmer weather.

However, there are instances when a horse's shedding process may not proceed as expected, leaving owners wondering what steps to take. In this article, we'll consider the reasons why a horse may not shed its winter coat and provide guidance on what to do in such situations.

Understanding the Shedding Process

Before delving into what to do if your horse doesn't shed its winter coat, it's essential to understand the shedding process itself. The shedding cycle is influenced by various factors, including daylight length, temperature, nutrition, and the horse's health.

Typically, as daylight hours increase with the onset of spring, horses' bodies receive signals to begin shedding their winter coats. This process, known as photoperiodism, triggers hormonal changes that stimulate the shedding of the old coat and the growth of a new one better suited to warmer conditions. Additionally, rising temperatures prompt the horse's body to release oils that help loosen and release the winter hair.

Reasons for Delayed Shedding

Despite the natural triggers for shedding, there are several reasons why a horse may experience delayed shedding or fail to shed its winter coat altogether:

- 1. Nutritional Deficiencies:** Adequate nutrition is crucial for maintaining a healthy coat. If a horse lacks essential nutrients, such as protein, vitamins, and minerals, its coat quality may suffer, leading to delayed shedding or abnormal hair growth.
- 2. Health Issues:** Underlying health issues, such as hormonal imbalances, metabolic disorders, or skin conditions, can disrupt the shedding process. Conditions like Cushing's disease (PPID) or hypothyroidism can interfere with the horse's hormonal regulation, affecting its coat.
- 3. Environmental Factors:** Environmental conditions, such as prolonged exposure to artificial lighting or fluctuations in temperature, can disrupt the natural shedding cycle. Horses kept under artificial lighting for extended periods may experience alterations in their hormonal rhythms, affecting their ability to shed.
- 4. Stress or Anxiety:** Stressful events, such as changes in routine, transportation, or social dynamics within the herd, can trigger hormonal fluctuations that interfere with the shedding process. Additionally, horses experiencing chronic stress or anxiety may exhibit abnormal hair growth patterns.
- 5. Age:** Older horses, particularly those with compromised health or hormonal imbalances, may experience delayed shedding or abnormal coat growth as part of the aging process.

What to Do If Your Horse Doesn't Shed

If you notice that your horse is not shedding its winter coat as expected, it's essential to take proactive steps to address the underlying cause. Here are some strategies to consider:

- 1. Evaluate Nutrition:** Ensure that your horse's diet is balanced and provides adequate levels of protein, vitamins, and minerals essential for coat health. Consult with a veterinarian or equine nutritionist to assess your horse's diet and make any necessary adjustments.
- 2. Address Health Concerns:** Schedule a veterinary examination to rule out any underlying health issues that may be affecting your horse's coat. Blood tests and other diagnostic procedures may be necessary to identify hormonal imbalances or metabolic disorders.
- 3. Provide Environmental Enrichment:** Minimize stressors in your horse's environment and provide opportunities for mental and physical stimulation. Allow for ample turnout time in a natural pasture setting, and ensure that your horse has access to companionship and social interaction with other horses.
- 4. Manage Lighting:** If your horse is exposed to artificial lighting, consider adjusting the lighting schedule to mimic natural daylight patterns. Providing periods of darkness at night can help regulate your horse's circadian rhythms and promote a more natural shedding cycle.
- 5. Consult with Professionals:** Seek guidance from equine professionals, such as veterinarians, equine nutritionists, or experienced trainers, who can offer personalized advice based on your horse's specific needs and circumstances.

While the shedding of a horse's winter coat is typically a natural and straightforward process, there are instances when it may not occur as expected. Understanding the factors that influence shedding and taking proactive steps to address any underlying issues are essential for ensuring your horse's health and well-being. By evaluating nutrition, addressing health concerns, providing environmental enrichment, managing lighting, and consulting with professionals, you can help support your horse through the shedding process and promote a healthy coat year-round.

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New Age Horse Jobs: Evolving Opportunities in the Equine Industry

By The VHN Writing Team



The equine industry has a rich history deeply intertwined with human civilization, from serving as transportation and labor to companionship and sport. However, as society evolves and technology advances, new opportunities arise within the realm of horse-related professions. We'll delve into the realm of "new age" horse jobs, exploring emerging roles and innovative careers that reflect the changing landscape of the equine industry.

Equine Therapy Practitioner

Equine-assisted therapy, also known as equine therapy or hippotherapy, has gained recognition as a valuable therapeutic intervention for individuals with physical, cognitive, emotional, or behavioral challenges. Equine therapy practitioners work with clients in various settings, including therapeutic riding centers, rehabilitation facilities, and private practices. These professionals utilize interactions with horses to address a wide range of therapeutic goals, such as improving balance, coordination, communication skills, and emotional regulation. Equine therapy practitioners may be certified therapists, psychologists, social workers, or special education teachers with additional training in equine-assisted interventions.

Equine Assisted Learning Facilitator

Equine-assisted learning (EAL) is an educational approach that incorporates interactions with horses to promote personal and professional development. EAL facilitators design experiential learning activities that engage participants in hands-on interactions with horses, fostering teamwork, leadership, communication, and problem-solving skills. These facilitators work with diverse populations, including corporate teams, youth groups, and individuals seeking personal growth. EAL facilitators may come from various backgrounds, including education, coaching, counseling, or equine training, and often undergo specialized training and certification in equine-assisted learning techniques.

Equine Nutritionist

As our understanding of equine nutrition continues to evolve, the demand for qualified equine nutritionists has grown. Equine nutritionists specialize in formulating balanced diets and feeding programs tailored to individual horses' needs based on factors such as age, breed, activity level, and health status. These professionals work closely with horse owners, veterinarians, and feed manufacturers to optimize horses' nutrition and support their overall health and performance. Equine nutritionists may hold advanced degrees in animal science, nutrition, or veterinary medicine, and often pursue additional certifications or credentials in equine nutrition.

Equine Technology Specialist

With the advent of technology, the equine industry has seen a rise in specialized roles focused on leveraging digital tools and data-driven solutions to enhance horse care, management, and performance. Equine technology specialists work at the intersection of equine science, data analytics, and software development to develop innovative solutions for the equine industry. These professionals may be involved in developing equine health monitoring devices, designing management software for equine facilities, or creating virtual training platforms for equestrians. Equine technology specialists typically possess a background in computer science, engineering, or equine science, with a passion for applying technology to improve horse welfare and performance.

Equine Welfare Advocate

As awareness of equine welfare issues grows, there is a growing need for advocates dedicated to promoting humane treatment and responsible stewardship of horses. Equine welfare advocates work with organizations, government agencies, and the public to raise awareness of equine welfare issues, advocate for policy reforms, and provide support for at-risk horses. These advocates may engage in a variety of activities, including lobbying for legislative changes, conducting outreach and education initiatives, and coordinating rescue and rehabilitation efforts for horses in need. Equine welfare advocates come from diverse backgrounds, including animal welfare, law, advocacy, and veterinary medicine, united by their commitment to improving the lives of horses.

Equine Content Creator

With the rise of social media and digital platforms, there has been a surge in demand for equine content creators who produce engaging and informative content related to horses. Equine content creators may include bloggers, vloggers, podcasters, photographers, and social media influencers who share their passion for horses with a global audience. These creators produce a wide range of content, including educational articles, training tips, product reviews, and behind-the-scenes glimpses into the equestrian lifestyle. Equine content creators often collaborate with brands, sponsors, and fellow equestrians to create compelling content that resonates with their audience and promotes positive engagement within the equestrian community.

The equine industry is continually evolving, presenting new opportunities for individuals passionate about horses to pursue meaningful and rewarding careers. From equine therapy practitioners and nutritionists to technology specialists and content creators, the realm of "new age" horse jobs reflects the diverse and dynamic nature of the modern equine industry.

Whether you're drawn to helping others through equine-assisted interventions, advancing equine science through technology, or sharing your love of horses with the world, there's a wealth of possibilities awaiting those who embrace the exciting frontier of new age horse jobs.

Whose to say what new equine jobs will emerge within the next decade. What will they look like in fifty or even a hundred years?

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Equine Perception: How Horses React to Different Colors

By The VHN Writing Team



Horses, with their keen senses and acute awareness of their surroundings, perceive the world in ways that may differ from humans. Among the various stimuli that influence equine behavior, color plays a significant role.

Understanding how horses react to different colors can provide valuable insights for horse owners, trainers, and riders. And many times a horse's reaction to stimuli is heavily based upon their evolutionary makeup and natural instinct.

Read on to explore the fascinating world of equine perception and delve into how horses respond to various colors.

The Influence of Color on Equine Behavior:

While horses primarily rely on their senses of sight, hearing, and smell to navigate their environment, research suggests that color can also impact their behavior and emotional state.

Horses have dichromatic vision, meaning they possess two types of color receptors (cones) in their eyes, as opposed to humans who have trichromatic vision (three types of cones). As a result, horses perceive colors differently than humans do, with a greater emphasis on shades of blue and green.

Colors that Soothe and Relax:

Certain colors are believed to have a calming effect on horses, promoting a sense of relaxation and tranquility. These colors are often found in natural environments and may evoke associations with safety and security. Some colors that are generally well-received by horses include:

1. **Green:** Green, being prevalent in natural landscapes such as pastures and forests, is often associated with lush vegetation and grazing opportunities. Horses may find green surroundings soothing and conducive to relaxation.
2. **Blue:** Blue skies and bodies of water are common sights in many equine environments. Blue is often considered a calming color, evoking feelings of serenity and stability. Horses may be more at ease in environments dominated by shades of blue.
3. **Neutral Earth Tones:** Neutral colors such as brown, beige, and tan are common in natural landscapes and are generally well-tolerated by horses. These earthy tones blend seamlessly with the surroundings and may contribute to a sense of harmony and security.

Colors that Elicit Alertness and Vigilance:

On the other hand, certain colors may trigger a heightened state of alertness or vigilance in horses, potentially indicating perceived threats or unfamiliar stimuli. These colors may stand out conspicuously against the natural backdrop and warrant closer scrutiny from the horse. Some colors that may elicit increased vigilance include:

1. **Bright Red:** Red is a highly visible color that can evoke strong emotional responses in both humans and horses. In nature, red may signal danger or aggression, such as from predators or rival conspecifics. Horses may react more cautiously to objects or stimuli that prominently feature bright red hues.

2. **Yellow:** Yellow is another attention-grabbing color that can elicit heightened awareness in horses. In nature, yellow may be associated with warning signals, such as from venomous insects or toxic plants. Horses may instinctively pay closer attention to objects or surroundings that exhibit bright yellow colors.

3. **Unnatural or Neon Colors:** Colors that are uncommon or appear artificial in the natural environment, such as neon hues or fluorescent shades, may provoke curiosity or apprehension in horses. These colors may stand out conspicuously and prompt horses to investigate further or exercise caution.

Individual Variability in Color Perception:

While certain color associations may hold true for many horses, it's essential to recognize that individual variability in color perception and preference exists among horses. Factors such as age, breed, temperament, and past experiences can influence how horses perceive and respond to different colors.

Additionally, horses may habituate to certain colors over time, becoming desensitized to stimuli that initially elicited strong reactions. This can be particularly true for colors that are seen in their every day routine, like an orange cone, flashy colored winter blanket, or brightly color vehicles.

Practical Applications in Equine Management:

Understanding how horses react to different colors can have practical implications for equine management and training. For example:

1. **Stable Design:** When designing stables or turnout areas, consider using colors that promote a sense of calm and relaxation, such as muted greens and blues, to create a conducive environment for horses. Utilizing colors that elicit a more sudden, stressful, or dramatic reaction cannot only deter horses from working at their full potential, it can also cause unnecessary danger and a heightened risk of injury for both rider and animal.

2. **Tack and Equipment:** When selecting tack and equipment, opt for colors that are visually appealing to horses and promote a positive association with riding and handling activities. Avoid overly bright or contrasting colors that may distract or alarm the horse.

If you'd like to use more off the wall colors with your horse, remember that it may take time for him to get used to the color in the first place, well before the color can be placed on or near his body.

3. **Training and Behavior Modification:** When working with horses, be mindful of the colors present in the training environment and their potential impact on the horse's emotional state. Use desensitization techniques to gradually introduce horses to unfamiliar colors and stimuli, promoting confidence and adaptability.

This training for desensitization is of particular importance to show and performance horses. A horse that is around other horses and riders, as well as being outside among a number of people will inevitably bring a horse in close contact with bright and intense colors. There may be colors that a horse has never seen before until a show.

If you wish to make sure your horse is completely prepared, try desensitizing your horse to one new color at a time and see which ones need the most work.

While horses perceive the world differently than humans, color remains a significant aspect of their sensory experience. By understanding how horses react to different colors and incorporating this knowledge into equine management and training practices, horse owners, trainers, and riders can create environments that promote relaxation, security, and positive associations for their equine companions.

By paying attention to the subtle nuances of equine perception, we can deepen our understanding of these magnificent animals and strengthen the bond between horse and human.



Exploring the Benefits of Bitless Bridles for Horses

By The VHN Writing Team

Horses have been domesticated for centuries, serving as loyal companions, partners in sport, and indispensable aides in agriculture. Throughout this journey, the tools used to communicate and control these majestic animals have evolved. One significant innovation in recent times is the bitless bridle, a harness that offers an alternative to traditional bridles fitted with bits. Here we'll discuss the advantages of bitless bridles for horses, highlighting how they enhance equine welfare, communication, and performance.

Enhanced Comfort and Welfare: A fundamental advantage of bitless bridles lies in their potential to enhance the comfort and welfare of horses. Traditional bridles with bits apply pressure to sensitive areas in the horse's mouth, including the bars, tongue, and palate. This pressure can cause discomfort, pain, and even injury, leading to resistance, tension, and compromised performance. In contrast, bitless bridles distribute pressure more evenly across the horse's head, primarily engaging the poll, nose, and chin. By eliminating pressure in the mouth, bitless bridles reduce the risk of oral injuries and alleviate discomfort, allowing horses to move freely and comfortably. As a result, horses may exhibit more relaxed behaviors, increased responsiveness, and a greater willingness to engage in activities.

Improved Communication: Effective communication between horse and rider is essential for building trust, achieving harmony, and facilitating precise maneuvers. Bitless bridles promote clearer communication by allowing riders to convey cues in a manner that aligns with the horse's natural biomechanics and sensory perception. Bitless bridles operate on the principle of pressure and release, leveraging cues applied to the nose, chin, and poll. These cues mimic the way horses communicate with each other through subtle movements and pressure variations. By aligning with the horse's natural language, bitless bridles facilitate quicker comprehension and responses, enhancing the partnership between horse and rider.

Moreover, bitless bridles encourage horses to engage their bodies more effectively, promoting self-carriage and balance. Without the discomfort associated with traditional bits, horses are more inclined to soften their necks, flex laterally, and yield to the rider's aids.

This results in smoother transitions, improved collection, and a more harmonious connection between horse and rider.

Versatility and Accessibility: Bitless bridles offer versatility and accessibility, catering to a wide range of disciplines, riders, and horses. Whether engaging in leisurely trail rides, competitive events, or rehabilitation exercises, bitless bridles provide a viable option for riders seeking a gentler approach to communication and control. For riders transitioning from traditional bridles to bitless alternatives, the learning curve may vary depending on individual preferences and horse's responses. However, with proper education, training, and patience, riders can adapt to bitless riding techniques and unlock the benefits of this innovative equipment.

Furthermore, bitless bridles accommodate horses with dental issues, oral sensitivities, or past traumas that may make traditional bits unsuitable. By offering a pain-free alternative, bitless bridles ensure that horses of all backgrounds and abilities can participate in activities comfortably and safely.

Promotion of Natural Movement and Expression: Horses are magnificent creatures with innate grace, power, and athleticism. Bitless bridles promote the expression of their natural movement and behaviors by eliminating artificial constraints and discomfort associated with traditional bits. Without the inhibitions caused by bits, horses can express themselves more freely through fluid gaits, expressive head carriage, and relaxed facial expressions. This liberation fosters a deeper connection between horse and rider, allowing for a more authentic and enjoyable riding experience.

Furthermore, bitless bridles encourage riders to focus on developing a harmonious partnership based on trust, empathy, and mutual respect. By prioritizing the horse's well-being and allowing them to move and communicate naturally, riders can cultivate a deeper understanding of their equine partners and unlock their full potential.

Bitless bridles represent a significant advancement in equine tack, offering a humane and effective alternative to traditional bridles with bits. By enhancing comfort, communication, and performance, bitless bridles prioritize the welfare and well-being of horses while fostering a deeper connection between horse and rider. As more riders recognize the benefits of bitless riding, this innovative equipment continues to gain popularity, shaping the future of equestrianism with compassion and respect for the horse.



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Addressing Equine Stumbling: Causes, Prevention, and Solutions

By The VHN Writing Team



Watching a horse stumble during work or exercise can be concerning for both rider and handler. Stumbling not only poses a risk of injury to the horse and rider but also indicates potential underlying issues that need to be addressed. In this comprehensive guide, we'll delve into the various causes of stumbling in horses, strategies for prevention, and effective solutions to resolve this common issue.

Understanding Equine Stumbling:

Stumbling occurs when a horse's gait is disrupted, causing them to trip or lose their balance. This can range from a momentary misstep to more frequent stumbling episodes that interfere with the horse's ability to perform. Stumbling can occur at any gait, but it is often more pronounced at faster speeds or on uneven terrain.

Causes of Equine Stumbling:

Several factors can contribute to a horse stumbling while working. Identifying the underlying cause is crucial for implementing appropriate solutions. Some common causes include:

- 1. Physical Conformation:** Certain conformational traits, such as long toes, low heels, or a steep hoof angle, can predispose a horse to stumbling by affecting their balance and coordination.
- 2. Lack of Conditioning:** Horses that are not adequately conditioned for the level of work they are asked to perform may fatigue more quickly, leading to muscle weakness and loss of coordination, increasing the risk of stumbling.
- 3. Poor Footing:** Uneven or slippery footing, such as deep mud, loose gravel, or icy surfaces, can increase the likelihood of stumbling, especially when combined with high speeds or sudden changes in direction.
- 4. Musculoskeletal Issues:** Lameness, joint stiffness, muscle weakness, or other musculoskeletal issues can affect a horse's coordination and balance, making them more prone to stumbling.
- 5. Rider/Horse Mismatch:** A mismatch between the rider's skill level and the horse's training or temperament can lead to inconsistent cues or uneven weight distribution, disrupting the horse's balance and increasing the risk of stumbling.

Prevention Strategies:

Preventing stumbling begins with proactive management practices and careful consideration of the horse's physical and environmental needs. Here are some strategies to help minimize the risk of stumbling:

- 1. Regular Hoof Care:** Maintain the horse's hooves in good condition through regular trimming or shoeing by a qualified farrier. Proper hoof balance and support are essential for maintaining stability and reducing the risk of stumbling.
- 2. Conditioning Program:** Gradually increase the intensity and duration of the horse's exercise regimen to improve fitness, strength, and coordination. Incorporate a variety of terrain and footing to enhance proprioception and balance.

3. Footing Management: Ensure that riding surfaces are well-maintained and free from hazards such as rocks, holes, or uneven terrain. Avoid working horses on slippery or excessively hard surfaces, especially at high speeds.

4. Regular Veterinary Checks: Schedule regular veterinary examinations to monitor the horse's overall health, including musculoskeletal function and soundness. Address any underlying issues promptly to prevent them from progressing and causing stumbling.

5. Proper Warm-Up and Cool-Down: Allow sufficient time for warming up and cooling down before and after exercise to prepare the horse's muscles and joints for work and reduce the risk of stiffness or fatigue-related stumbling.

Solutions for Equine Stumbling:

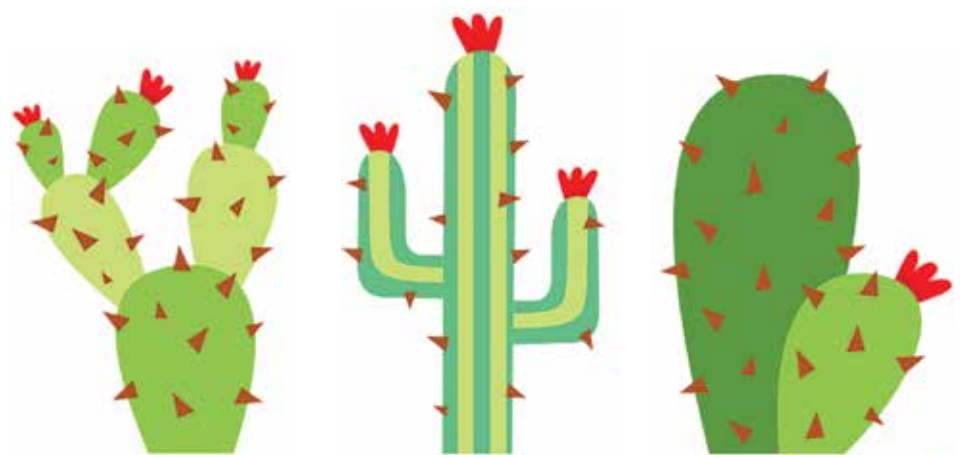
If a horse is already stumbling during work or exercise, it's essential to address the underlying cause and implement targeted solutions to resolve the issue effectively. Depending on the specific cause, solutions may include:

- 1. Hoof Care:** Work closely with a knowledgeable farrier to address any conformational issues or hoof imbalances that may contribute to stumbling. Consider using corrective shoeing or hoof supplements to improve hoof health and support.
- 2. Musculoskeletal Therapy:** Consult with a veterinarian or equine therapist to assess and treat any underlying musculoskeletal issues contributing to stumbling. This may include chiropractic adjustments, massage therapy, acupuncture, or physical rehabilitation exercises to improve strength and flexibility.
- 3. Training and Riding Techniques:** Evaluate the horse's training program and riding techniques to identify any factors contributing to stumbling, such as inconsistent cues, poor balance, or rider-induced imbalances. Seek guidance from a qualified trainer or instructor to address these issues and improve communication between horse and rider.
- 4. Footing Assessment and Management:** Assess the quality and suitability of the riding surface and make any necessary adjustments to improve traction and stability. Consider using specialized footing materials or additives to enhance shock absorption and reduce the risk of slipping or stumbling.
- 5. Equipment Evaluation:** Ensure that tack and equipment fit properly and are appropriate for the horse's conformation and level of training. Ill-fitting or poorly adjusted tack can cause discomfort or restriction of movement, leading to stumbling or gait irregularities.
- 6. Environmental Modifications:** Make changes to the horse's environment or exercise routine to minimize potential stumbling hazards. This may include avoiding excessively steep or uneven terrain, adjusting work intensity or duration, or providing additional rest breaks as needed.

Equine stumbling can be a complex issue with multiple potential causes, ranging from conformational factors to musculoskeletal issues to environmental conditions. It can be frustrating when your perfectly healthy horse suddenly has this issue with no clear cause. While it may take some time, it is possible to discover what's making your horse stumble and how to fix it.

By understanding the underlying causes of stumbling and implementing targeted prevention and treatment strategies, horse owners and handlers can help minimize the risk of injury and discomfort for their equine partners.

Working closely with qualified professionals, such as veterinarians, farriers, trainers, and therapists, is essential for accurately diagnosing and addressing the root cause of stumbling, ensuring the horse's continued health, soundness, and performance.



Back to Bucking Basics

By The VHN Writing Team



There are many of our horse's behaviors that we automatically label as "just being a horse." If a friend asks, "Hey, why's he doing that?" Most of the time our answer is probably something akin to, "Oh, that's just him."

And that very simple way of explaining the reasoning for our horse's behavior is of course accurate, while also quite simple and limited. We may not admit it very often, but our equines are quite complex animals, and there is almost always a big reason for why they are the way they are. Yes, the short of it is 'horse nature.'

But the long of it says much, much more.

For instance, it's such a natural part of being a horse as it's just what they do, but why exactly do our horses buck?

What is the psychology behind the behavior that we know so well, sometimes too well, as owners and horse enthusiasts?

The root of the bucking behavior can be traced back to wild horses. Wild horses have one thing in mind, and that is how to survive. It's a dog eat dog, or rather predator eat horse world out there in terms of the wild.

That is what they're bodies were designed for, the ultimate way of surviving their environment. It's evolution, plain and simple. The way they eat, how they travel, how they handle their natural biome, how they have babies, how their teeth are shaped and ears rotate to work, and how they evade predators. It's all because of the age old survival of the fittest.

And bucking is no exception to this design for survival.

The most basic reason that bucking became a habit for horses was to survive. And the best at evading being eaten, and by extension, bucking, are the ones that made it. Bucking meant a quick and powerful way of tossing a predator. Looking at cowboys that ride bucking broncos for a career, this makes sense. That movement, and all horses have the same one, is meant to literally pitch a person or a predator from a horse's back.

There are a few other animals that have a kind of bucking habit, but nothing like our equines. Horses have different kinds of bucking styles, from "crow-hopping" to full on rapid, sea saw "broncing."

And while it makes sense for wild horses to buck this way, as it helps them stay alive, why would domesticated horses feel the need? Clearly, they're lives are not in danger from something wanting to pounce and eat them.

So why buck at all if it's not really called for?

More often than not, a horse's bucking, particularly when it's a random occurrence, is a sign of pain, discomfort, or annoyance.

And this pain can be from a few different sources.

Like bad joints. Pain and agitation can sometimes cause our horses to lash out and be grouchy. The act of bucking from pain, like with bad joints or arthritis, is just that, acting out because it hurts, dangit.

This pain can also extend to other places, like a pinched nerve in the back, kissing spines, or gastric issues and colic. Though it is a very mild example, have you ever had an itch that itched so bad it was almost painful? It was so maddening that you could not help but dig and scratch at the spot until it went away.

Bucking from pain is kind of like that. Your horse doesn't have a way to get rid of it, so he's almost trying to stamp it out with the thrashing movement. If your horse bucks due to colic, it's the same line of thinking as them wanting to role and flop about. They just want the annoyance and discomfort to go away.

This agitation may only be skin deep. We all know that to get a bronc to buck in the rodeo, bucking straps are used. They sit really far back up under your horse's belly, closer to the groin. This spot automatically causes a horse to want to buck. Some of us may have even experienced this accidentally with saddle gear that has ridden too far back and touched that spot.

If you have a green horse, the issue of bucking could potentially be a behavior issue. There are lots of riders that have ridden a horse that they were unaware was "green broke" and perhaps had a little bit of flying time or come close to it for this very reason. Limited training and handling can be the cause of bucking.

This behavior issue can also extend to a herd response. If you have ever been riding your well-mannered horse around an arena with loose horses and they all the sudden take off in a hurry, your horse will probably feel the desire to tag along, taking you with him. He might try and canter out from under you, he may dance around a bit, or he may try to lay right into a buck.

The basic translation of this is he got excited and wanted to join in the fun, much to your chagrin. This can be especially mortifying in front of other riders, but never fear, it happens to everyone at least once.

You might even find that your old timer equine suddenly decides a good buck is in order, shocking you and maybe even himself.

The best thing you can do is steer clear of the opportunity in the first place and keep your horse's head on the two of you. And should the behavior become a nuisance, some well earned training and groundwork may be in order. Most horses will settle back to being their polite selves with this method, and if your horse doesn't settle back down to his respectful mannered ways, you'll know something fishy could be up.

A last well-known reason for bucking is extremely common during turn out and cooler weather. Your horse is feeling good and spicy and wants to let it out. This turn out and buck session is almost always accompanied by some graceful farting in the air as they let it all hang out. A truly beautiful sight to behold.

So there may be some truth to the "just being a horse" reasoning, as in the case of bucking because it feels good. But bucking that becomes a problem is a definite signifier of an underlying issue that needs to be corrected promptly, whether due to behavior or pain.

If you find yourself with a bucking horse, you must first recognize that bucking is an ingrained behavior for horses. And second, remember that there's always a reason. Whether it's a bad behavior, a manifestation of pain, or a jolt of excitement and adrenaline, your horse's oddities and idiosyncrasies can be de-mystified with a little investigation.



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Tips to Prevent Your Horse from Walking All Over You

By The VHN Writing Team



Establishing boundaries and earning respect is essential for maintaining a harmonious relationship with your horse. And every horse owner should have certain expectations when it comes to their horses behavior.

When a horse begins to disregard your authority and boundaries, it can lead to safety concerns and difficulties in handling.

Here are some effective strategies to prevent your horse from walking all over you:

1. **Consistent Groundwork:** Groundwork lays the foundation for respect and obedience in horses. Spend time on the ground with your horse, practicing exercises such as leading, yielding hindquarters, and backing up. Consistency is key; establish clear cues and expectations, and reinforce them consistently.
2. **Assertive Body Language:** Horses are highly attuned to body language, so it's essential to convey confidence and assertiveness when interacting with them. Stand tall, maintain a calm demeanor, and use assertive but non-threatening gestures to communicate your expectations. Avoid slouching or showing signs of uncertainty, as this can signal weakness to your horse.
3. **Establish Boundaries:** Set clear boundaries with your horse and enforce them consistently. This includes respecting your personal space, not allowing your horse to push into you or invade your space without permission. Use body language and vocal cues to communicate when your horse is crossing boundaries, and follow through with appropriate consequences if necessary.
4. **Reinforce Respect Under Saddle:** Respect on the ground should translate to respect under saddle. Ensure that your horse responds promptly to your cues and maintains appropriate behavior while riding. Use clear, consistent aids and reward compliance with praise and relaxation breaks.
5. **Address Behavioral Issues Promptly:** If your horse exhibits pushy or disrespectful behavior, address it promptly to prevent it from escalating. Correct undesirable behaviors immediately using appropriate discipline, such as a firm verbal command or a quick tap with a training aid. Consistency is crucial; reinforce boundaries consistently to prevent the recurrence of unwanted behaviors.
6. **Build Trust and Partnership:** Developing a strong bond based on trust and partnership is key to preventing your horse from walking all over you. Spend quality time with your horse, engage in activities that foster mutual understanding and respect, and prioritize positive interactions. Building a strong foundation of trust and partnership will strengthen your relationship and encourage your horse to respect your leadership.

In conclusion, preventing your horse from walking all over you requires consistent training, clear communication, and the establishment of boundaries. By practicing groundwork, maintaining assertive body language, and reinforcing respect both on the ground and under saddle, you can cultivate a relationship built on mutual trust and respect.

Address behavioral issues promptly and prioritize building a partnership based on trust and understanding to ensure a harmonious relationship with your horse.



How Important is Salt?

By The VHN Writing Team



As far as important minerals go, salt is one of the main minerals essential to a horse's diet but is often overlooked. Many horse owners and enthusiasts understand that salt is linked with a horse's intake of water, especially in the summer.

Understanding salt intake goes hand in hand with electrolyte usage, which is explained in the next article.

But there's a bit more to it than just water consumption. Salt is integral to the body's electrical functioning, just as it is with ours. The makeup of what we know as common salt is actually sodium and chloride, both of which are important for the body's processes.

These two substances are dissolved in the bloodstream and they are then used for the electrical signaling throughout the body. The musculoskeletal system and nervous system cannot work correctly without them. Sodium also plays an important role in hydration because of its ability to retain water in the body's tissues.

Without the proper level of sodium, dehydration becomes inevitable and it is without this function of sodium that a horse's thirst would not be triggered. This is where the association of water intake and salt becomes well known.

A bad balance of sodium can also cause blood sugar and glucose issues, leading to overall bad health. This imbalance can however take a longer period to develop and many times the signs of a deficiency are hard to recognize unless they are severe.

One interesting sign of a potential deficiency is called "pica." Pica is the behavior of licking on surfaces that may have small amounts of salt on them due to a dietary deficiency of the minerals.

Horse's will naturally seek out salt when none is readily available. Not drinking enough water can also signal a lack of salt. Experts will often recommend the addition of salt blocks to the horse diet, where the animal can consume salt at its own discretion.

If this is not enough, there are salt supplements that can be added to food. It's best to be aware that salt mixes that appear mostly or all white are not typically made of natural salt.

Pink, brown, red, or grey is a better coloring to find. If you suspect a salt deficiency in your horse, it is best to seek the advice of your veterinarian, who can confirm whether or not your horse needs extra dietary support and where to go from that diagnosis.

Without a vets confirmation on treatment, you could potentially give your horse another issue by accident, or over correct a salt deficiency.

With our equines being hard working animals, salt will always be an important part of their daily diet, just as we too need a certain amount of salt to maintain a balanced health.

If your concerned about your horse's salt intake or have questions about how to manage it, contact your vet today to get the best tips for your best buddy, before the hottest part of the year hits.

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A Horse's Dream

By Anonymous

In the quiet of night, beneath a velvet sky,
A horse lies in slumber, where dreams softly fly.
Amidst the rustle of leaves and the whisper of breeze,
He wanders through realms where no mortal eye sees.

In his dreams, he gallops through meadows so vast,
With the wind in his mane, and the sky rushing past.
His hooves beat a rhythm on the earth's gentle breast,
As he roams through the landscape, so wild and blessed.

Through valleys and canyons, he trots with such grace,
In a world where time slows, and there's infinite space.
He leaps over fences, with a bound and a leap,
And dances through fields where the wildflowers sleep.

In his dreams, he's a stallion, proud and free,
With the strength of the mountains, and the heart of the sea.
He races with thunder, beneath skies painted gold,
And his spirit soars high, as his dreams unfold.

But as dawn breaks, and the night slips away,
The horse awakens to greet the new day.
Yet in his heart, he still carries the gleam,
Of the dreams that he dreamed, in the night's silent stream.

For in those fleeting moments, when sleep holds him tight,
He's transported to worlds where his soul takes flight.
And though he may wander through fields of green,
In his dreams, he's a king, in a world unseen.

How to Safely Feed Beet Pulp

By The VHN Writing Team



Beet pulp, a byproduct of sugar beet processing, has become a popular feed choice among horse owners due to its versatility, palatability, and nutritional benefits. Rich in fiber and low in sugar, beet pulp can serve as an excellent source of energy, hydration, and digestive support for horses of all ages and activity levels.

However, proper preparation and feeding practices are essential to ensure that horses derive maximum benefit from this nutritious feed. In this article, we'll explore the benefits of feeding beet pulp to horses and provide guidelines for incorporating it into their diet safely and effectively.

Understanding Beet Pulp:

Beet pulp is the fibrous material remaining after sugar has been extracted from sugar beets. It is typically available in two forms: shredded and pelleted. Shredded beet pulp resembles fluffy, dried shavings, while pelleted beet pulp is compressed into small, uniform pellets. Both forms offer similar nutritional benefits but may require different handling and preparation methods.

Benefits of Feeding Beet Pulp:

1. **High Fiber Content:** Beet pulp is an excellent source of dietary fiber, which supports healthy digestion and maintains gut motility. The fiber content in beet pulp can help prevent digestive issues such as colic and impaction colic and promote overall digestive health in horses.

2. **Low Sugar and Starch:** Unlike some traditional grain feeds, beet pulp has a low sugar and starch content, making it suitable for horses with metabolic conditions such as insulin resistance or equine metabolic syndrome (EMS). Feeding beet pulp can help stabilize blood sugar levels and reduce the risk of metabolic disorders.

3. **Hydration:** Beet pulp has a high water-holding capacity and can absorb several times its weight in water. When soaked before feeding, beet pulp forms a soft, moist mash that can help increase horses' water intake, promoting hydration, especially in hot or dry climates or for horses prone to dehydration.

4. **Energy Source:** Despite its low sugar content, beet pulp is a valuable source of digestible energy for horses. It provides a slow-release energy source that can help fuel performance horses during intense exercise or support weight gain in underweight horses.

Guidelines for Feeding Beet Pulp:

1. **Soaking:** Before feeding beet pulp to horses, it is essential to soak it in water to soften and expand the fibers, making it easier to chew and digest. Soaking also helps prevent the risk of choke, as dry beet pulp can swell in the horse's throat if ingested too quickly.

2. **Ratio of Water to Beet Pulp:** The recommended ratio of water to beet pulp varies depending on personal preference and the desired consistency. A common guideline is to use approximately four parts water to one part beet pulp by weight. Allow the beet pulp to soak for at least 30 minutes or until it has absorbed the water and expanded fully.

3. **Monitoring Moisture Content:** When soaking beet pulp, it's essential to monitor the moisture content to ensure that it doesn't become too soupy or dry. Adjust the amount of water accordingly to achieve the desired consistency, which should be moist and easily fluffed with a fork.

4. **Gradual Introduction:** Introduce beet pulp gradually into the horse's diet, starting with small amounts and gradually increasing the quantity over several days to allow the horse's digestive system to adjust. Monitor the horse for any signs of digestive upset or intolerance during this transition period.

5. **Balancing the Diet:** While beet pulp is a valuable addition to the horse's diet, it should not replace essential forage sources such as hay or pasture. Beet pulp should be fed as part of a balanced diet that includes adequate amounts of forage, vitamins, minerals, and protein to meet the horse's nutritional needs.

6. **Considerations for Special Cases:** For horses with specific dietary requirements or health conditions, such as those prone to laminitis or gastric ulcers, consult with a veterinarian or equine nutritionist to determine the appropriate feeding regimen and ensure that beet pulp is suitable for their individual needs.

7. **Storage:** Store beet pulp in a cool, dry place away from direct sunlight to prevent mold or spoilage. Pelleted beet pulp generally has a longer shelf life than shredded beet pulp and may be more convenient for storage and handling.

How much beet pulp?

The amount of beet pulp that a horse should eat can vary based on factors such as the horse's size, age, activity level, and overall health condition. However, a general guideline is to start with small amounts and gradually increase as needed.

Typically, beet pulp is fed to horses as a supplement to their regular diet, providing additional fiber and energy. A common recommendation is to start with around 0.5 to 1 pound of dry beet pulp per feeding for an average-sized horse (approximately 1000 pounds). This can be soaked in water before feeding to prevent choking and to increase digestibility.

It's important to monitor your horse's condition and adjust the amount of beet pulp accordingly. Some horses may require more or less depending on their individual needs. Additionally, it's always a good idea to consult with a veterinarian or equine nutritionist for personalized feeding recommendations for your horse.

Can I put my horse's medication in beet pulp?

Yes, medications for horses can be mixed into beet pulp for administration, but it's important to do so carefully and under the guidance of a veterinarian. Mixing medications into beet pulp can be a helpful way to ensure that the horse consumes the medication without difficulty, especially if the medication has a bitter taste or if the horse is a picky eater.

Consider these before mixing medications with beet pulp:

Compatibility with Beet Pulp: Some medications may not mix well with beet pulp or may require specific administration methods to ensure effectiveness. Your vet can advise you on whether the medication can be safely mixed with beet pulp.

Mixing Technique: Ensure that the medication is thoroughly mixed into the beet pulp to ensure even distribution. This can help ensure that the horse consumes the entire dose of medication.

Observation: After administering the medication mixed with beet pulp, observe the horse to ensure that they consume the entire mixture and don't leave any medication behind.

Alternative Administration Methods: If the horse refuses to eat the beet pulp with medication, your vet may recommend alternative administration methods such as oral syringes, paste formulations, or other methods that ensure the horse receives the prescribed medication.

Beet pulp is a valuable feed option for horses, offering numerous nutritional benefits and versatility in feeding programs. By understanding how to safely prepare and incorporate beet pulp into the horse's diet, owners can provide their equine companions with a nutritious and palatable feed that supports digestive health, hydration, and overall well-being.

With proper handling and feeding practices, beet pulp can be a valuable addition to any horse's diet, promoting optimal health and performance for years to come.

APRIL 2024 CALENDER OF EVENTS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6 LVGA Henderson Saddle Association www.lasvegasmkhanaassociation.com
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; background-color: #e0e0e0;"> <p>VALLEY HORSE NEWS DEADLINE 15th of EVERY MONTH valleyhorsenews@gmail.com</p> </div>						
7	8 APACHE LAND APPALOOSA CLUB Meeting 7:00pm, Horseshoe Restaurant, Benson AZ; Contact Fred @ 520-384-5332	9 POSS GENERAL MEETING 7pm @ SHOWPOSS.VPWEB.COM for time and place Pahrump 775-727-9576	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	11 BCH BRISTLECONE CHAPTER Meeting @ 6:00 pm Third Thursday of Every Month BCHNVB.com for details	12	13 SNGA Horsemen's Park http://www.snga.biz Southern Nevada Hunter Jumpers Association Horseman's Park snhja.com
14 SNGA Horsemen's Park http://www.snga.biz Southern Nevada Hunter Jumpers Association Horseman's Park snhja.com	15	16 SSPHC MONTHLY MEETING 7pm IHop Cheyenne & Rainbow 702-373-2673 paintmee@aol.com	17	18 Southern Nevada Hunter Jumpers Association Horseman's Park snhja.com	19 Southern Nevada Hunter Jumpers Association Horseman's Park snhja.com	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29 S. NV REGIONAL TRAILS 4701 N Torrey Pines Dr., LV Contact Ed @ 702-645-1791 editoredd@juno.com	30				

MAY 2024 CALENDER OF EVENTS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4 LVGA Henderson Saddle Association www.lasvegasmkhanaassociation.com
5	6	7	8 BCH of UTAH WASATCH FRONT CHAPTER 7:00pm American Legion 345 Depot st Clearfield, UT Info. 801-773-9419 HCON MONTHLY MEETING 7pm Doc's Saddlery 6185 Elkhorn RD LV, NV 702-361-5456	9 BCH BRISTLECONE CHAPTER Meeting @ 6:00 pm Third Thursday of Every Month BCHNVB.com for details	10	11 SNGA Horsemen's Park http://www.snga.biz
12	13 APACHE LAND APPALOOSA CLUB Meeting 7:00pm, Horseshoe Restaurant, Benson AZ; Contact Fred @ 520-384-5332	14 POSS GENERAL MEETING 7pm @ SHOWPOSS.VPWEB.COM for time and place Pahrump 775-727-9576	15	16	17	18
19	20	21 SSPHC MONTHLY MEETING 7pm IHop Cheyenne & Rainbow 702-373-2673 paintmee@aol.com	22	23	24	25
26	27 S. NV REGIONAL TRAILS 4701 N Torrey Pines Dr., LV Contact Ed @ 702-645-1791 editoredd@juno.com	28	29	30	31	

Animal Adoptions

EXAMPLE:



EXAMPLE ENTRY:

Dolly is a six year old female goat with a warm personality. She needs companionship with other animals as she doesn't do well alone. Other goats are preferable. Needs continued training and does well with leading and small kids. She loves her food and isn't afraid to let you know. For more information call or email:
example.example@exampleonly.com
000-000-0000

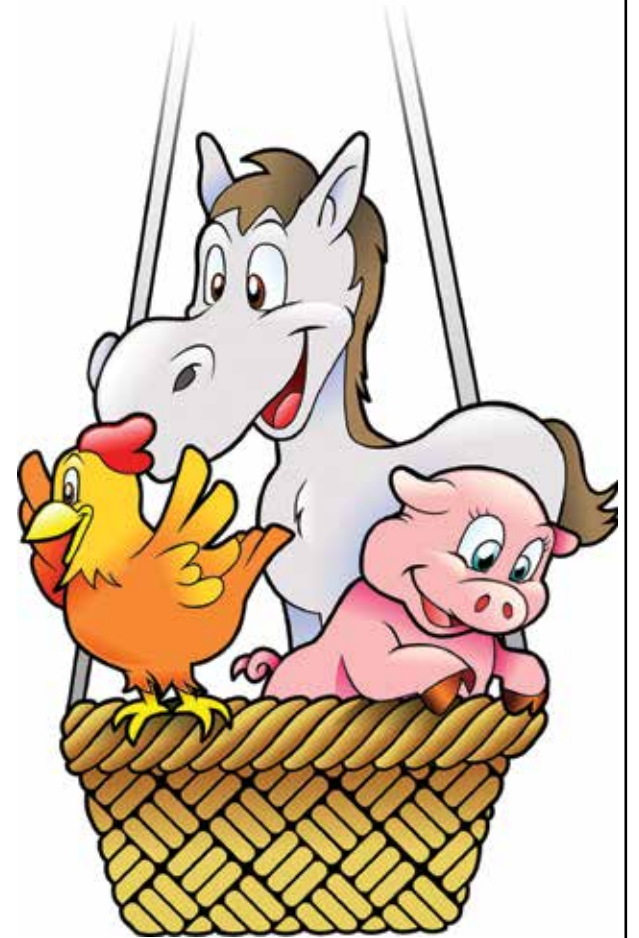
All you have to do:

Is provide a photo of the animal/ animals. Give a short description explaining why they are such a great candidate for a new home. And lastly, provide the best contact information for those that are interested. Your photo, description, and contact will go here for everyone to see and hopefully will make it to the perfect new home.

Open to ALL ANIMALS: Horses, Donkeys, Mules, Miniature Horses, Cattle, Piggies, Goats, Sheep, Chickens, Ducks, Geese, Farm Fowl, Rabbits, Alpaca, and Llamas, Birds, Dogs, Cats, Guinea Pigs, Lizards, Hedgehogs, Turtles, Hamsters, and more! Any animal can be now placed!

Any animal in need has a place in this section for as long as they need it!

NEW! NOW OPEN TO ALL ANIMALS!



Welcome all rescues, sanctuaries, non-profits, and individuals!

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

Valley Horse News will now have an adoptions section solely for animals at shelters, organizations, and individual homes 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 or place 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 the number of in need animals increasing and euthanizations on the rise, facilities are at max capacity.

We want to help! 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. First come, first serve, and animals are featured at Valley Horse News discretion.

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? Contact now! 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 & Equestrian Properties

#1 In Acreage Properties



Terri Gamboa
702-528-5473

~ LAS VEGAS, TEXAS ~



1.45 ACRE HORSE PROPERTY!



2900 Thurman Ave. Grand Equestrian Estate 3200 Sqft and Large Guest House. Main house has 2 master bedrooms upstairs. 860 sqft guest house with its own kitchenette, bedroom, bath, laundry and sitting area. Large outdoor area great for entertaining. In-ground Pool with diving board, Rooftop deck. Detached shop with 12' rollup door, additional carport or covered hay storage. 6 horse stalls, Lighted arena with sprinkler system. Round pen, wash rack, hitching post and tack room. **\$1,495,000**



IN TEXAS!

Listed with Jeremy Lock, Keller Williams



114 County Road 225, Valley View, Texas 7+ acre estate in the heart of horse country. Private gated property w/ Custom home. 13 stall show barn & arena. **\$1,049,500** CALL: 940-641-2404

LIST YOUR PROPERTY HERE!

CALL US TODAY TO BUY/ SELL YOUR DREAM HOME

LIST YOUR PROPERTY HERE!



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call **(702) 528-5473**

#: S.0066408





TERRI GAMBOA TEAM
REAL ESTATE AGENCY



#1 In Horse & Equestrian Properties

#1 In Luxury Homes on Acreage



Terri Gamboa
702-528-5473

~ SE, HENDERSON, COLD CREEK, KYLE CANYON ~



3.9 ACRES IN EXCLUSIVE NEIGHBORHOOD!

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. **\$1,875,000**



2.27 ACRE HORSE PROPERTY!

7790 Scottie St. Gorgeous 4,382 sq ft log built house. 4 Bed, 3 Bath + Huge loft. 360 degree views of mountains. Private well w/ 3,500 gallon tank. Fully owned solar w/ battery bank. Inclusive kitchen, granite & walk-in pantry. Large beds + baths downstairs. Contemporary heat, A/C plus floor to ceiling stone hearth, wood stove. Outdoor kitchen & entertaining. Storage shed. 55 x 30 RV garage/shop, Fully fenced & gated. Room for horses, toys, trail riding from property! 10 Min. to Las Vegas shopping & 25 min. to Mt Charleston. **\$1,490,000**



PENDING!

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. **\$536,000**

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TERRI GAMBOA TEAM
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#1 In Horse & Equestrian Properties

#1 In Acreage Properties



Terri Gamboa
702-528-5473

~ NW LAS VEGAS ~



6265 N Fort Apache Road. 1.94 Acre Ranch Estate Santa Fe style w/ large 4 BR Main House & Large Guest House w/ Huge Master Bed & Bath + kitchen. Pool & Spa, 8 Car Garage, 5 Stall Barn, tack room. \$1,390,000



6380 Maggie: Fantastic 2+ acre horse property in NW w/Pool & Casita, 12 Barn Stalls, 4 Corrals huge arena, RP, adj to 1500 acre Floyd Lamb Park best trail riding 2.1 M



8020 Maverick St. Beautiful 1 Acre Horse Property Estate w/ Swimming Pool! Super clean, cared for! 3 Bed/3 Bath. Large arena w/ covered horse stalls. Close to Floyd Lamb Park, for best trail riding in town! \$1,295,000



2 Acre Maggie Ave. Unique 2.22 Acres W/ Mountain Views. 2 Sides Block Walls. Corner Lot in Equestrian Neighborhood & Rural Preservation - Beautiful custom home neighborhood. Across from 1,500 Acre FLP & Trail Riding. \$895K



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TERRI GAMBOA
call **(702) 528-5473**

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