

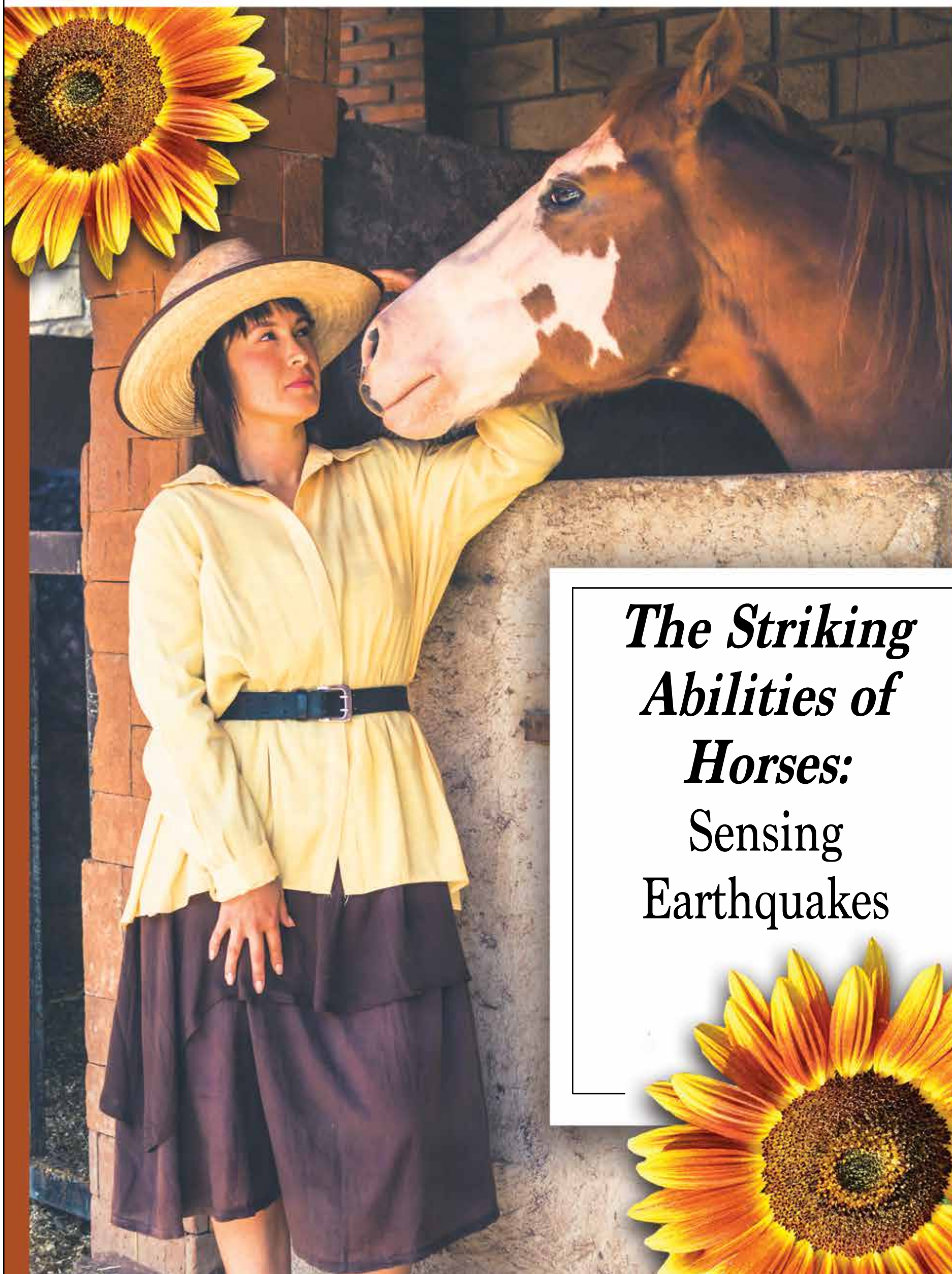
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THOUGHT OF THE MONTH:

“Summer is kind of like that bottle of wine you have on Sunday nights; it’s really great the first couple of glasses but by the end of the bottle and come the Monday morning hangover, you just want it to go away already!”

Top Tips for Durable Hooves

By The VHN Writing Team

Horse hooves are naturally designed to be tough and resilient, but certain factors, such as the environment and management practices, can affect their hardness. To help promote stronger and more durable hooves, consider the following easy methods:

1. **Regular Exercise:** Providing regular exercise for your horse helps promote blood flow to the hooves, which can contribute to healthier hoof growth and increased hardness.
2. **Proper Nutrition:** A balanced diet rich in essential nutrients, including biotin, zinc, copper, and amino acids, is crucial for maintaining healthy hooves. Consult with a veterinarian or equine nutritionist to ensure your horse's diet meets its specific needs.
3. **Good Hoof Care:** Regular hoof care, including trimming and cleaning, helps maintain the hooves' health and prevents issues like cracks or splits that can lead to softer hooves.
4. **Adequate Turnout:** Allowing horses to spend time outdoors, especially on natural terrain like grassy pastures or gravel, can help promote natural hoof wear and harden the hooves.
5. **Hoof Boots or Shoes:** If your horse has particularly sensitive hooves or is prone to hoof issues, using hoof boots or shoes during riding or turnout can provide extra protection.
6. **Avoid Over-Wetting:** Hooves that are continuously exposed to wet or damp conditions can soften over time. Providing shelter or using drying agents can help keep the hooves dry when necessary.
7. **Regular Farrier Visits:** Scheduling regular visits from a qualified farrier ensures that your horse's hooves are properly trimmed and balanced, promoting healthy growth and overall hoof health.



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8. **Hoof Supplements:** There are various hoof supplements available that claim to support hoof health. While they may be beneficial for some horses, it's essential to consult with a veterinarian or equine nutritionist before adding any supplements to your horse's diet.
9. **Avoid Overuse of Hoof Products:** While some hoof products can be helpful, avoid excessive use of oils, creams, or dressings, as they can seal in moisture and lead to softer hooves.
10. **Consider Barefoot Hoof Management:** Some horses benefit from going barefoot, allowing their hooves to naturally harden and adapt to different terrains. This should be done gradually and under the guidance of a knowledgeable professional. And remember that each horse is unique, and hoof health can be influenced by factors like genetics and pre-existing conditions. Regular monitoring and working closely with a qualified veterinarian and farrier are crucial for maintaining your horse's hoof health and hardness.

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See you next time! - Codi Kern



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The Vulnerability of Horses to UV Rays

By The VHN Writing Team



Horses, naturally strong and powerful creatures, have been companion animals to humans for centuries. Yet, despite their resilience, they are susceptible to various health issues, including a surprising one: sunburn.

Many horse owners may not be aware that their equine companions can suffer from sunburn, as horses are typically associated with outdoor environments. Read on for the reasons behind a horse's vulnerability to sunburn, the risk factors involved, and how to prevent and treat sunburn in these gentle giants.

Anatomy of a Horse's Skin

To comprehend why horses can get sunburnt, we must first understand the composition of their skin. Like humans, horses possess a protective outer layer known as the epidermis, which shields them from environmental factors such as bacteria, moisture, and sunlight.

However, unlike humans, horses lack the ability to sweat as efficiently as we do. Instead, they primarily regulate their body temperature through panting and dilation of blood vessels.

The Sunburn Risk

The primary cause of sunburn in horses is the harmful ultraviolet (UV) radiation emitted by the sun. Excessive exposure to UV rays can cause cellular damage to the epidermis, leading to reddened, inflamed, and painful skin.

Light-colored horses and those with pink skin are particularly at risk since they have less melanin, a pigment that provides some degree of natural protection against UV radiation. Melanin acts as a biological sunscreen, shielding the skin from the sun's harmful rays.

Areas Prone to Sunburn

Certain areas of a horse's body are more vulnerable to sunburn than others. These include the nose, ears, eyelids, and areas with less hair coverage. The thinly haired regions are unable to offer adequate protection from the sun, leaving the underlying skin susceptible to UV damage.

Risk Factors

Several factors can increase a horse's susceptibility to sunburn:

1. Fair skin and light coat color: Horses with white, cream, or pink skin are more at risk of sunburn than those with darker skin.
2. Light-colored or sparse hair: Areas with less hair coverage are more exposed to UV radiation.
3. High altitude and reflective surfaces: Horses in mountainous regions or areas with snow, sand, or water surfaces can experience amplified UV exposure due to reflection.
4. Prolonged outdoor activities: Horses that spend extended periods outdoors without a covering, particularly during peak sun hours, are more prone to sunburn.

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Prevention and Management

Protecting horses from sunburn involves a combination of preventive measures and careful management:

1. Provide shade: Access to shaded areas during peak sunlight hours can significantly reduce a horse's UV exposure.
2. Equine-friendly sunscreen: Non-toxic, specially formulated equine sunscreens can be applied to vulnerable areas like the nose and ears.
3. Protective clothing: Lightweight horse fly masks and UV-blocking horse rugs can be used to shield sensitive areas from direct sunlight.
4. Limit outdoor exposure: Restrict turnout during peak sun hours (late morning to mid-afternoon) to reduce the risk of sunburn.
5. Regular inspections: Routinely examine your horse's skin for signs of sunburn or damage.

Treatment

If a horse does experience sunburn, prompt and appropriate treatment is essential:

1. Move to shade: Relocate the horse to a cool, shaded area to prevent further UV exposure.
2. Soothe the skin: Gently apply aloe vera gel or another veterinarian-approved sunburn treatment to alleviate discomfort.
3. Consult a veterinarian: In severe cases, consult a veterinarian for appropriate treatment and to rule out any potential complications.

While horses may appear resilient, they are not immune to sunburn, especially those with light-colored skin and sparse hair. As responsible horse owners, it is crucial to be aware of the risks and take proactive measures to protect our equine friends from harmful UV radiation.

By implementing preventive strategies and monitoring their skin health, we can ensure that our horses remain healthy, comfortable, and free from the discomfort of sunburn.



• Happy Trails Monthly Recipe •

Created by Chef Sharon Hauht

“Lasagna”

Prep Time: 30m Cook Time: 2h 30m Servings: 12

Ingredients:

1 pound sweet Italian sausage
 3/4 pound lean ground beef
 1/2 cup minced onion
 2 cloves garlic, crushed
 1 (28 ounce) can crushed tomatoes
 2 (6 ounce) cans tomato paste
 2 (6.5 ounce) cans canned tomato sauce
 1/2 cup water
 2 tablespoons white sugar
 1 1/2 teaspoons dried basil leaves
 1/2 teaspoon fennel seeds
 1 teaspoon Italian seasoning
 1 tablespoon salt
 1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper
 4 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley
 12 lasagna noodles
 16 ounces ricotta cheese
 1 egg
 1/2 teaspoon salt
 3/4 pound mozzarella cheese, sliced
 3/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese

Directions:

1. In a Dutch oven, cook sausage, ground beef, onion, and garlic over medium heat until well browned. Stir in crushed tomatoes, tomato paste, tomato sauce, and water. Season with sugar, basil, fennel seeds, Italian seasoning, 1 tablespoon salt, pepper, and 2 tablespoons parsley. Simmer, covered, for about 1 1/2 hours, stirring occasionally.
2. Bring a large pot of lightly salted water to a boil. Cook lasagna noodles in boiling water for 8 to 10 minutes. Drain noodles, and rinse with cold water. In a mixing bowl, combine ricotta cheese with egg, remaining parsley, and 1/2 teaspoon salt.
3. Preheat oven to 375 degrees F (190 degrees C).
4. To assemble, spread 1 1/2 cups of meat sauce in the bottom of a 9x13 inch baking dish. Arrange 6 noodles lengthwise over meat sauce. Spread with one half of the ricotta cheese mixture. Top with a third of mozzarella cheese slices. Spoon 1 1/2 cups meat sauce over mozzarella, and sprinkle with 1/4 cup Parmesan cheese. Repeat layers, and top with remaining mozzarella and Parmesan cheese. Cover with foil: to prevent sticking, either spray foil with cooking spray, or make sure the foil does not touch the cheese.
5. Bake in preheated oven for 25 minutes. Remove foil, and bake an additional 25 minutes. Cool for 15 minutes before serving.

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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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Too Hot for Riding?

By The VHN Writing Team



Riding a horse in extreme heat can be dangerous for both the horse and the rider. Horses are large, powerful animals, but they are also very susceptible to heat stress and heat-related illnesses, particularly during the harshest and hottest times of the year.

As a responsible horse owner or rider, it is essential to know when it's too hot to ride your horse and take appropriate precautions to ensure their well-being. While specific temperature thresholds may vary depending on factors such as humidity, wind, and the individual horse's health, the following guidelines can help you make informed decisions:

1. **Temperature:** As a general rule, temperatures above 90°F (32°C) can be considered too hot for riding, especially combined with other factors. In hot weather, horses find it challenging to dissipate heat effectively, especially during physical exertion. High temperatures can lead to heat exhaustion and even heatstroke in horses if they are not handled responsibly.

2. **Humidity:** High humidity can exacerbate heat stress because it reduces the horse's ability to cool down through sweating. A combination of high temperature and humidity levels is particularly dangerous and can quickly lead to overheating, which is why a drier heat can at times be considered safer. If you've ever tried even mild exercise on a hot and humid day, you've probably felt like it was almost hard to breathe from the heaviness in the air. Because horses eliminate some of their internal heat through panting and blowing air in and out of their noses, this would make it even easier for them to become sick.

3. **Heat Index:** The heat index, which takes into account both temperature and humidity, is a more accurate representation of how the weather actually feels to the horse. A high heat index indicates a greater risk of heat-related issues, and riding should be avoided or minimized during such conditions.

4. **Time of Day:** The hottest part of the day is usually between late morning and early afternoon. It's best to avoid riding during these peak hours and consider riding during the cooler parts of the day, such as early morning or late evening.

5. **Horse's Condition:** Consider your horse's fitness level, age, and overall health. Older horses, very young horses, and those with pre-existing health issues may be more susceptible to heat stress.

6. **Acclimatization:** Horses that are not accustomed to hot weather may have a harder time coping with extreme heat. Gradually acclimate your horse to hotter temperatures by starting with shorter rides during milder weather.

7. **Terrain:** Riding on hot surfaces such as asphalt or sandy trails can intensify heat exposure. These surfaces trap and emit heat for long periods of time. Black top for example will absorb the sun and heat over the course of a day and radiate that same heat back up while you are riding. Opt for cooler, shaded paths when possible and if riding in an arena, consider wetting it down with water to cool both the surface as well as the air for a short period of time.

Signs of Heat Stress in Horses:

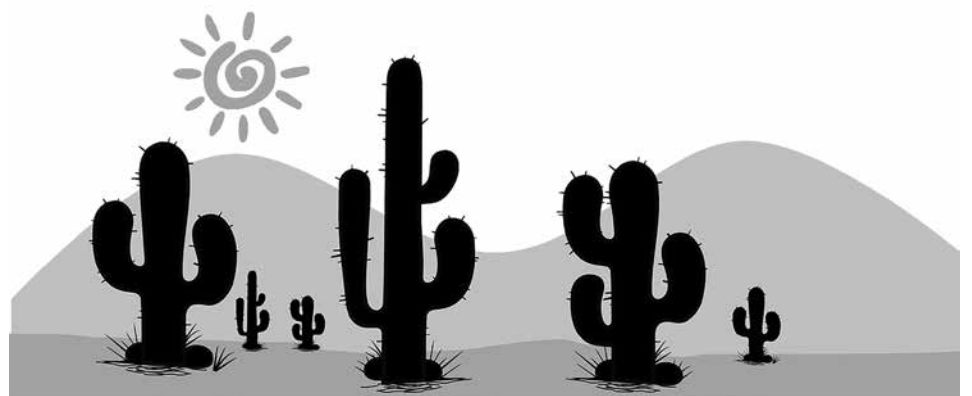
- Excessive sweating or lack of sweating
- Rapid breathing and panting

- Elevated heart rate
- Dry, tacky gums
- Thickened saliva
- Lethargy or weakness
- Muscle tremors or spasms
- Dull or glazed eyes
- Difficulty keeping up with the usual pace
- Refusal to drink water

If you observe any of these signs, stop riding immediately, move the horse to a shaded area, and provide access to fresh, cool water. Use water to cool the horse's body gradually, and consider consulting a veterinarian if the symptoms persist or worsen.

Always monitor your local weather for changes or notices of heat waves, so that you can prepare ahead of time and keep an eye on those horses that are at an increased risk for over heating. If you need to provide relief during heat waves, consider using large towels placed in cool or even icy water. Place the towels over your horse's body to give their system a break and allow them to relax. Wet or dampen them as many times as needed. Also condition your horse's coat and skin to prevent itchiness, and allow them to dry out once they are comfortable.

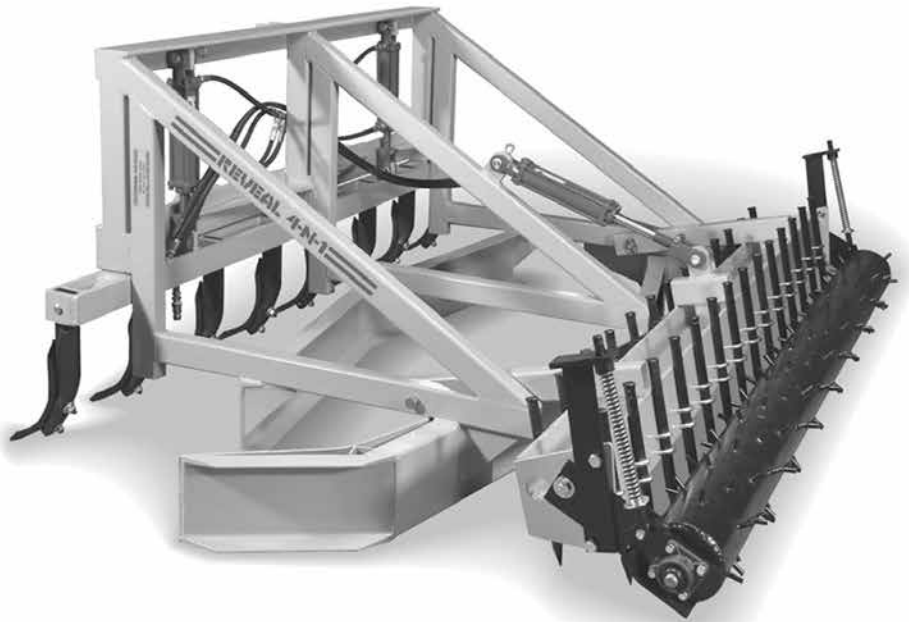
Ultimately, the welfare of the horse should always be the priority. If the weather conditions are too hot and pose a risk to the horse's well-being, it's best to postpone riding or find alternative ways to exercise and interact with your horse that are less physically demanding. Remember that prevention is key to ensuring a happy and healthy equine companion.



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Is Horse Grazing Better at Nighttime?

By The VHN Writing Team



Grazing horses at nighttime, also known as “night turnout,” can offer several benefits for the well-being and management of horses.

However, it’s essential to consider individual circumstances, horse health, and environmental factors before implementing any changes in their turnout schedule.

Here are some potential benefits of nighttime grazing:

1. **Cooler Temperatures:** During the hot summer months, nighttime grazing allows horses to avoid the peak heat of the day, reducing the risk of heat stress and dehydration. Many horses have less of an appetite when the weather turns extremely hot. For horses that need a calorie boost and a break from the heat, night grazing can offer a booster to calorie consumption and allow a break from heat stress.

2. **Reduced Insect Activity:** Many biting insects, such as mosquitoes and flies, are less active at night. These insects tend to come out during monsoon season and when the temperatures climb. Nighttime turnout can provide relief from these pests, leading to a more peaceful environment for the horses.

3. **Natural Behavior:** Horses are naturally crepuscular animals, meaning they are most active during the dawn and dusk periods. Allowing them to graze at night aligns with their natural behavior patterns and gives them a change to indulge in their natural instinct to forage and munch over an extended period of time.

4. **Social Interaction:** Horses are social animals and tend to be more active and interactive during nighttime turnout, promoting herd dynamics and reducing boredom. This allows them to have “room to roam” while playing and socializing in a more natural and free setting.

5. **Avoidance of Sunburn:** Horses with sensitive skin or light-colored coats may benefit from nighttime grazing, as it helps them avoid prolonged exposure to direct sunlight, reducing the risk of sunburn.

If you live in an area that tends to have a lot of sunlight especially during the summer time, night time grazing could be beneficial.

6. **Reduced Competition for Food:** In group turnout situations, horses might experience less competition for food at night when compared to daytime turnout when all horses are active.

7. **Nutrient Utilization:** Some studies suggest that horses may have improved nutrient utilization when grazing at night, as certain grasses can have higher nutrient levels during this time. This also plays a role in the health of your pastures and how they can be maintained with regular grazing and the time your horses are put out.

8. **Daytime Rest:** Horses grazing at night may rest more during the daytime hours, allowing for better recovery and relaxation.

This can be combined with an evening or nighttime exercise regimen for the hottest days of the year, so that your horse can stay in top shape while also remaining rested, healthy, and comfortable.

Despite these benefits, it’s crucial to note that nighttime grazing might not be suitable for all horses or management setups. Factors such as pasture safety, availability of adequate shelter, and horse health should be carefully considered.

A safe pasture is essential for the health and well-being of all livestock, such as cattle, sheep, and horses. To make sure that your pasture is safe for your horses at night, consider these areas. Several factors contribute to making a pasture safe:

- Fencing
- Nighttime Light Source
- Location for Security
- Absence of toxic plants
- Adequate water source
- Adequate forage
- Appropriate terrain and dependable drainage
- Shelter
- Avoid hazardous materials in construction
- Regular Monitoring, especially with large acreage
- Parasite Control
- Grazing Rotation
- Avoid overcrowding

Additionally, horse owners should monitor their horses closely during the transition to nighttime grazing to ensure they adapt well to the new schedule and that it aligns with their specific needs and lifestyle.

Consulting with a veterinarian or equine nutritionist can also be helpful in determining whether this turnout schedule is appropriate for your horses.



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Hey, What's All This Hay About?

By Brad Kloss

This year's forage samples are starting to roll in. It's customary for me to take dozens of samples every year to determine the quality of forages being sold in the region. I focus on the most common hays being fed: alfalfa, orchard, orchard mixes, timothy, and bermuda.

Everyone has a reason for feeding their hay of choice — and there is a good argument for feeding each of the hays listed above. Even though they are all forages, they will act differently in the horse's digestive tract, which is important to understand based on the breed, exercise level, and health conditions.

Let's look at this chart of hay samples [below] and do a simple "What does all this stuff mean?" analysis.

We can break forage samples down into three big categories: protein, energy, and minerals.

All samples are listed on a dry matter (DM) basis and most hays here are between 90 to 95% DM. That means between 5 to 10% of the bale of hay you purchased is water, which is very normal. It's when hay is above 13% moisture that you should start to be concerned with mold or heat damage. Of all the samples I analyzed this year, moisture levels were between 4 to 7%.

Protein

Crude protein is the total amount of protein available from the feed. Soluble protein is the soluble fraction of the protein that is readily available. It contains some amino acid chains and NPN (non-protein nitrogen).

In most cases, 25 to 35% of the protein should be soluble in hay. Typically, the higher the quality alfalfa, the higher the NPN — as seen in our feed samples. High-quality alfalfa at 18.8% protein and 39.7% solubility provides a high level of amino acids, but also a high level of nitrogen.

Case in point: A stall from a horse fed high-quality alfalfa smells of much more ammonia than one being fed bermuda grass. If a horse is not active, too much protein will cause too much nitrogen production, leading to irritability and more sweating.

Energy

Energy values are driven by the forage fractions and the starch and sugar content of the hay. You should be aware of the abbreviations "ADF" and "NDF," which stand for "acid detergent fiber" and "neutral detergent fiber," respectively. They are measures of feeds' cell walls, or structural carbohydrate components.

ADF refers to the forage cell wall components that are composed of lignin and cellulose, a main indicator of forage digestibility. The common theory is that as ADF rises, the digestibility of the forage (and therefore energy yield) typically decreases.

However, over the past several decades of testing forages, digestibility of the forages do not always follow ADF values. For example, alfalfa digests very quickly and has low ADF compared to grasses.

But compared to high-quality grasses that digest slower and have higher ADF values, grasses may actually be more healthy and nutritionally advantageous for the horse.

NDF is a measure of insoluble fiber. In theory, the higher the NDF, the less a horse will eat. NDF levels under 65% are generally good for horses. Horses likely won't eat hay with NDF values over 65. NDF helps create gut fill, which I believe is a key in keeping a healthy digestive system and reduces the incidence of colic.

You will notice in the hay table that the higher the quality of alfalfa, the smaller the spread is between ADF and NDF. I watch this closely, because if I have a lower ADF level, but a wide spread between ADF and NDF, I suspect my hay is going to deliver a good amount of energy while still promoting a moderate rate of passage. See Equine DE values, where high-quality alfalfa is 1.23, high-quality orchard is 1.07, timothy is at 1.03, and mature bermuda is at .87 mcal/lb.

Starch in forages is usually higher in those that produce a seed and are more mature. Mature bermuda that has headed out (forming a grain) will have higher levels of starch. Sugars, on the other hand, usually drop as starch increases. Sugar is typically higher in quality grasses than alfalfa. The table shows this when comparing the sugar levels between alfalfa and orchard grass.

Lignin is the undigestible portion of the fiber. The more lignin in hay, the more fibrous the horse's manure is. I watch horse manure closely — it can be loose as easily as it can be very coarse. If a horse's manure tends to be loose, slowing down the rate of passage with higher NDF forage will help. If it is hard and fibrous, adding additional protein with better quality hay usually does the trick.

Minerals

Simply put, the more alfalfa, the more calcium and magnesium there is in the forage. This is why sometimes an orchard or alfalfa mix can be valuable: You get the benefit of a slower digesting fiber in the orchard while capitalizing on some of the mineral content in the alfalfa.

Timothy fits right in the middle of the road and does a good job with mineralization when comparing to straight grasses. Potassium is usually driven by the fertilization program the hay farmer uses. More fertilizer means more potassium, typically. Phosphorus is typically abundant in forages and all other feeds you might purchase.

The bottom line: In determining the best hay for your horse, consider having a nutritionist analyze your feeding program and balance a ration for appropriate protein, energy, fats, and minerals your horse needs. This will be based on the horse's breed, body condition, work load, and health conditions.



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.

Samples Taken 2023								
DM								
Proteins	Alfalfa High	Alfalfa Low	Orchard Mix	Orchard 2nd	Orchard Alf	Timothy	Bermuda 1	Bermuda 2
Crude Protein %	18.8	19	16	18.3	20.7	13.9	11.7	13.9
Soluble Protein % of Protein	39.7	38	32.5	30	39.5	33.2	30.01	34.3
Energy								
ADF	25.4	38.3	34.1	33.1	31.8	34.3	34.3	31.3
NDF	32.4	45.1	52.7	50.8	37.7	52	65.7	60.1
Starch	2.1	0.5	1.4	1.5	1.2	1.8	3.1	2.4
Sugar (Water Soluble)	7.9	8.8	11	11	8.1	9.7	7	11.1
Equine DE (mcal/lb)	1.23	1.02	1.01	1.16	1.13	1.03	0.87	0.97
Lignin	3.1	8.5	5.31	4.15	6.83	4.13	4.41	4.21
Minerals								
Calcium	1.35	1.43	0.8	0.58	1.16	0.61	0.41	0.53
Phosphorus	0.22	0.26	0.25	0.31	0.26	0.25	0.15	0.19
Magnesium	0.32	0.39	0.32	0.27	0.39	0.25	0.23	0.25
Potassium	1.89	2.42	1.81	3.09	2.64	2.69	2.03	2.11

A Striking Ability: Can Horses Sense Earthquakes Before They Happen?

By The VHN Writing Team



Throughout history, animals have demonstrated remarkable instincts that often surpass human comprehension. Among them, horses stand out for their uncanny ability to sense impending natural disasters, such as earthquakes. Long before the development of the sophisticated seismology technology that we utilize today, these majestic creatures were considered early warning systems in regions prone to seismic activity. Now, scientists are delving into this enigmatic phenomenon, seeking to uncover the secrets behind horses' seismic sensitivity.

The Ancient Connection

The bond between humans and horses dates back thousands of years, transcending mere utility and venturing into the realm of intuition. Ancient civilizations revered these animals as symbols of strength, courage, and wisdom. It was believed that horses were not just ordinary companions but, in some cases, divinely linked creatures, attuned to the very heartbeat of the Earth.

Seismic Sensitivity in Horses

Horses are highly perceptive animals, and their acute senses are not limited to the obvious sight, hearing, and smell. It has been documented with increasing interest that they possess an additional sixth sense - the ability to detect seismic vibrations. When an earthquake's subterranean movements begin, the ground emits subtle tremors, which are often imperceptible to human senses.

You may have noticed other animals showing strange behaviors shortly before an earthquake. A cat will suddenly take cover after playing, birds will vanish outside, and dogs will become uneasy and anxiously seem to wait for something. Horses are no exception to this phenomenon, with their finely tuned sensory apparatus, they can detect these minute shifts in the Earth's crust.

Behavioral Changes as Premonition

Before a significant earthquake strikes, horses have been observed displaying peculiar behavioral changes like the animals mentioned above. They might become restless, neigh frequently, or exhibit signs of anxiety, such as pawing the ground or biting their feed troughs.

Some may even attempt to break free from their enclosures, instinctively seeking open spaces where they feel safer. To us, this strange behavior would seem like a symptom of illness or pain, even casual nervousness that isn't odd to horses.

Historical Accounts

The historical records of horses sensing earthquakes are numerous. For instance, before the 1906 San Francisco earthquake, many horse owners reported their animals acting agitated and anxious in the days leading up to the catastrophic event.

Similarly, during the 2011 Tohoku earthquake in Japan, several horse owners claimed that their horses displayed unusual behavior, alerting them to the impending disaster.

Scientific Studies

While anecdotal evidence of horses sensing earthquakes has long existed, modern science is now delving into this fascinating phenomenon to discern its validity. Currently, some researchers speculate that horses might be attuned to electromagnetic changes in the environment that occur before seismic activity.

As the Earth's crust undergoes stress, it generates electromagnetic pulses that we cannot detect, which horses may sense through their metal-containing tissues, like iron in their hooves. Sensitive scientific devices, like seismograms and seismometers, measure these pulses and are the reason we know that an earthquake has occurred at a location in the first place. Seismographs are the instruments that measure an earthquake's intensity, which gives us the magnitude.

Additionally, scientists are investigating whether the horse's highly developed fight-or-flight response plays a role in their ability to detect earthquakes. The subtle ground vibrations could trigger an instinctual survival response in these prey animals, causing them to exhibit restlessness and anxiety.

And because earthquakes have occurred since the earth first formed, horses could have gained these abilities as an evolution of survival that was first necessitated by horse ancestors.

Unleashing the Secrets

Despite recent scientific advancements, horses' ability to sense earthquakes remains a subject of ongoing research and debate. Experts are determined to figure out whether or not these instances of horses "sensing earthquakes before they happen" are just coincidence or something real.

To gain further insights, scientists are utilizing advanced tracking devices and observing horses in their natural environments, as well as in controlled settings. These studies aim to uncover the mechanisms behind their seismic sensitivity and determine if it's a widespread phenomenon or unique to specific breeds or regions.

It's also possible for scientists to take a look at historical accounts of horses sensing earthquakes and combine those accounts with data on the location and related seismic activities.

The enigmatic connection between horses and earthquakes continues to captivate scientists and horse enthusiasts alike. While numerous historical accounts definitely support the notion that horses can sense impending seismic activity, understanding the underlying mechanisms requires rigorous scientific investigation.

If indeed horses possess an innate ability to detect earthquakes before they strike, it could open new possibilities for early warning systems in earthquake-prone regions.

However, until conclusive evidence is obtained, the mysterious bond between these majestic animals and the seismic tremors of the Earth shall remain a fascinating and awe-inspiring wonder of the natural world.



Topicals for Soothing an Itchy Horse

By The VHN Writing Team



As gentle giants of the animal kingdom, horses are prone to various skin irritations and itches, just as we humans are very much predisposed to them. Whether caused by insect bites, allergies, or other underlying skin conditions, itching can be distressing for these majestic creatures.

Fortunately, modern veterinary science has developed a range of topical solutions to alleviate equine itching and provide much-needed relief. In this article, we will explore some of the most effective topicals for itching in horses, helping owners understand their options and keep their beloved companions comfortable.

Antiseptic and Antibacterial Creams

Many equine skin irritations arise from insect bites, minor cuts, or scrapes that can become infected if left untreated. Antiseptic and antibacterial creams are invaluable in preventing or treating infections and promoting the healing process. These creams often contain ingredients like chlorhexidine or povidone-iodine, which help kill bacteria and disinfect the affected area.

Hydrocortisone Creams

Hydrocortisone creams are widely used to relieve itching and inflammation caused by allergies or insect bites. These creams contain a mild corticosteroid that reduces redness, swelling, and itching. When applying hydrocortisone cream to a horse, it is essential to follow the veterinarian's instructions to prevent overuse, which could lead to adverse side effects.

Aloe Vera Gel

Aloe vera gel is a natural, soothing remedy that can be beneficial for horses with itchy or irritated skin. Known for its anti-inflammatory properties, aloe vera gel can provide relief and promote healing in minor skin irritations. It is essential to ensure the product used contains pure aloe vera without any additives that might be harmful to horses. Aloe is also appropriate for sunburns.

Calamine Lotion

Calamine lotion, often used for human skin ailments like poison ivy, can also be effective in relieving itching in horses. It contains zinc oxide, which acts as a mild astringent and helps soothe irritated skin. When using calamine lotion on horses, owners should ensure that their equine friends do not ingest it, as it may not be safe for consumption.

Tea Tree Oil

Tea tree oil has natural antifungal and antibacterial properties, making it a valuable topical solution for addressing itching caused by fungal infections. However, it is crucial to dilute tea tree oil before applying it to a horse's skin, as its undiluted form can be toxic and cause skin irritation.

Oatmeal Baths

Oatmeal baths are a classic and gentle remedy for soothing itching in horses. Ground oatmeal is added to a bucket of warm water, creating a soothing

solution that can be applied to the affected areas. Oatmeal helps moisturize and soothe the skin, reducing irritation and itching.

Manuka Honey

Manuka honey, derived from the nectar of the Manuka tree in New Zealand, is renowned for its natural healing properties. It possesses antimicrobial and anti-inflammatory qualities, making it an effective topical treatment for various equine skin issues. Applying Manuka honey to itchy areas can help reduce inflammation and promote healing.

Witch Hazel

Witch hazel is a gentle astringent derived from the witch hazel plant. When applied topically, it can help reduce swelling and soothe itchy skin in horses. It is essential to choose witch hazel products without alcohol, as alcohol-based formulations can be too harsh for equine skin.

Itchy skin can be a significant source of discomfort for horses, impacting their overall well-being and quality of life. Thankfully, a variety of topical solutions exist to address equine itching, ranging from antiseptic and antibacterial creams to natural remedies like aloe vera gel and oatmeal baths.

If your horse is struggling with itching and none of these topicals are soothing it, you should consider that your horse is suffering from an ailment with itching as a symptom.

If your horse is suffering like this, consider these conditions that could be the reason for your horse's itching and scratching:

1. Sweet Itch (Culicoides Hypersensitivity) or Summer Seasonal Recurrent Dermatitis, caused by an allergic reaction to the bites of Culicoides midges
2. Equine Allergic Dermatitis, from allergens like dust, dust mites, pollen, insect bites, and molds
3. Equine Atopic Dermatitis, which is a more chronic inflammatory disease caused by a hypersensitivity to the above substances and others
4. Equine Insect Bite Hypersensitivity, usually a more specific and intense reaction to the bites of insects like mosquitoes or horseflies
5. Ringworm (Dermatophytosis), Ringworm is a fungal infection and not a worm or parasite, it's known as ringworm because of the ring type or circular lesion it creates
6. Rain Rot (Dermatophilosis), a bacterial infection from Dermatophilus congolensis
7. Mange, comes in different forms caused by mites such as Chorioptic mange or Sarcoptic mange
8. Allergic Reactions to Medications or Topical Products

While these topicals can definitely help to soothe the itching and irritation from these diseases, they can only help with that symptom. The key to long term improvement is treating the actual disease while keeping your horse comfortable with the above topicals. When faced with persistent or severe itching, it is crucial for horse owners to consult with a qualified veterinarian for a proper diagnosis and treatment plan. A horse that is faced with an itch, especially long term, can often times cause a lot of damage to their own coats and skin, and deeper.

By using appropriate topicals and providing prompt veterinary care, horse owners can help their equine companions find relief and ensure their skin stays healthy and itch-free.



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Kinesiology Tape for Horses

By The VHN Writing Team



There have probably been a few times where you've been watching sports on tv, maybe even the Olympics, and you've noticed the athletes with funky colored stripes on their skin.

It's not paint or anything like that. It's actually known as Kinesiology Tape.

This tape is usually applied in a pattern around muscles, say along the arms of a swimmer, or the legs of a basketball player.

Kinesiology tape, also known as Elastic Therapeutic Tape and Kinesio Tape, is a strip of elastic cotton with an acrylic based adhesive. Its purpose is to treat pain, injuries, and athletic disabilities.

The tape, depending on how it's applied, will either pull the skin away from the tissue or compress the skin, changing the way pain signals register in the brain. It provides support and stability to effected areas, relieves inflammation, and aides the body's natural healing.

Some people are Kinesio Tape enthusiasts and others are not. Most will say it's all in the way the tape is applied for whether or not it will actually work.

Kinesio tape is now being used as an alternative therapy for horses.

Owners can use the tape to help muscle soreness and relaxation, and when put on correctly, it can also reduce swelling.

If you would like to use kinesio tape on your horse as a means of therapy either long or short term, it's best to talk with your vet first. Kinesio tape needs to be used properly. If it is not placed correctly or used in the wrong way, it can be damaging to the body.

As kinesio tape can aid in fluid circulation, there are instances where this affect can be detrimental to health, say with a blood clot. Though this may be a rare occurrence, it should be practiced with caution and supervision.

For horses, it's important to think about where and when you will use the tape. With the aid of a vet, you can use the tape on your horse's trouble areas either before or after a workout.

You should keep in mind however, that many shows will not allow a horse to wear kinesiology tape in the arena, whether he is competing or just riding around for practice before a show. You can still place it on your horse afterward, when the saddle is off.

It's very simple to purchase kinesiology tape for you and your horse. They come in different colors and sizing depending on your needs.

As with any new therapy and any new material placed on the body, it's best to do it with veterinarian supervision and to test a small area first for any potential negative reaction to the material.



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Anonymous

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A creature strong, with grace it owns,
With flowing manes that catch the breeze,
In sunlight's glow, it runs with ease.

Oh, horses wild, your spirit free,
A symbol of strength and majesty,
Your hooves, they beat upon the ground,
A rhythmic dance, a thunderous sound.

With eyes so deep, like pools of night,
You sense the world, its hidden light,
In meadows wide, you gently graze,
As sunsets paint the sky ablaze.

Through history's pages, you have strode,
As comrades in battles of old,
Your loyalty, a bond so rare,
With hearts unbridled, souls laid bare.

Majestic steed, you bear your load,
As riders guide on paths untold,
Through valleys low and mountains high,
Together, we touch the endless sky.

In canter swift or trot so light,
In moonlit darkness or daylight bright,
You carry dreams upon your back,
Through joys and sorrows, love you lack.

From dusty trails to city streets,
In every heart, your spirit meets,
A symbol of untamed desire,
In you, we find a piece of fire.

Oh, horses dear, you bring us near,
To nature's heart, so pure and clear,
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A gentle touch, a sense of peace.

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5 Easy Ways to Get Your Horse to Drink Water

By The VHN Writing Team



Encouraging a horse to drink water is essential for maintaining their hydration and overall well-being, especially during hot weather or after physical activity.

Here are five easy ways to entice a horse to drink water:

1. Clean and Fresh Water: Ensure the water provided to the horse is clean, fresh, and free from any contaminants. Horses can be sensitive to changes in water taste and smell, so regularly clean and refill their water buckets or troughs to maintain its quality.

2. Add Electrolytes: Electrolyte supplements can make the water more appealing to horses, especially after intense exercise or during hot weather when they lose essential minerals through sweat. Commercially available equine electrolyte mixes can be added to the water according to the manufacturer's instructions.

3. Offer Warm Water in Cold Weather: During colder months, horses might be less inclined to drink cold water as it will feel uncomfortable to drink routinely. Offering slightly warm water can be more appealing to them and help maintain hydration during winter.

4. Wet Their Feed: Mixing some water into the horse's feed can be an effective way to increase their water intake. This is especially helpful for picky eaters who may not drink enough water independently. Some horses will also eat better with moistened feed or hay as they find it tastier.

Another benefit of wetting your horse's hay is that it gets rid of excess dust and allergens.

5. Frequent Watering Opportunities: Ensure that your horse has access to water at all times, whether in the pasture or stall. If your horse is stabled, offer water in multiple buckets throughout the stall to encourage them to drink regularly.

You'd be surprised how your horse might prefer a bucket in one location but not in the other. And make sure that your horse's water source, especially buckets with uncycled water, do not sit in full sunlight throughout the day if possible. If you keep the water in the shade, the water will stay cooler and fresher for longer.

Bonus Tip: Some horses are more inclined to drink from running water sources like streams or bubbling fountains.

If possible, offer your horse access to a clean and safe running water source, as this can be particularly enticing for some individuals. Automatic waterers are a great solution and are relatively easy to install.

Remember that horses have individual preferences, so it may take some experimentation to find the method that works best for your specific horse. Also, be patient and observant of your horse's drinking habits, as any

sudden decrease in water intake could be a sign of underlying health issues that may require veterinary attention. Proper hydration is crucial for the horse's overall health and performance, so making an effort to ensure they drink enough water is vital for responsible horse care.

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—Tilly Jeniski, a professional rodeo athlete and horse trainer



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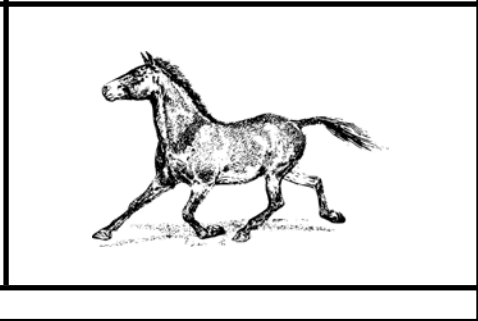
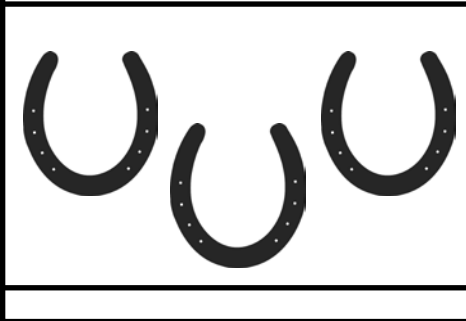
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		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	<p>8</p> <p>NSHA GENERAL MEETING 7pm Olive Garden - 1361 S. Decatur Blvd. 702-645-2988</p> <p>POSS GENERAL MEETING 7pm @ SHOWPOSS.VPWEB.COM for time and place Pahrump 775-727-9576</p>	<p>9</p> <p>HCON MONTHLY MEETING 7pm Doc's Saddlery 6185 Elkhorn RD LV, NV 702-361-5456</p> <p>BCH of UTAH WASATCH FRONT CHAPTER 7:00pm American Legion 345 Depot st Clearfield, UT Info. 801-773-9419</p>	10	11	12
13	<p>14</p> <p>APACHE LAND APPALOOSA CLUB Meeting 7:00pm, Horse- shoe Restaurant, Benson AZ; Contact Fred @ 520-384-5332</p>	<p>15</p> <p>SSPHC MONTHLY MEETING 7pm IHop Cheyenne & Rainbow 702-373-2673 paintmee@aol.com</p>	16	<p>17</p> <p>BCH BRISTLECONE CHAPTER Meeting @ 6:00 pm Thirsd Thursday of Every Month BCHNVB.com for details</p>	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	<p>28</p> <p>S. NV REGIONAL TRAILS 4701 N Torrey Pines Dr., LV Contact Ed @ 702-645-1791 editoredd@juno.com</p>	29	30	31		

SEPTEMBER 2023 CALENDER OF EVENTS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
<p>VALLEY HORSE NEWS DEADLINE 15th of EVERY MONTH valleyhorsenews@gmail.com</p>						
3	4	5	6	7	8	<p>9</p> <p>Southern Nevada Hunter Jumpers Association Horseman's Park snhja.com</p>
<p>10</p> <p>Southern Nevada Hunter Jumpers Association Horseman's Park snhja.com</p>	<p>11</p> <p>APACHE LAND APPALOOSA CLUB Meeting 7:00pm, Horse- shoe Restaurant, Benson AZ; Contact Fred @ 520-384-5332</p>	<p>12</p> <p>NSHAV GENERAL MEETING 7pm Olive Garden - 1361 S. Decatur Blvd. 702-645-2988</p> <p>POSS GENERAL MEETING 7pm @ SHOWPOSS.VPWEB.COM for time and place Pahrump 775-727-9576</p>	<p>13</p> <p>HCON MONTHLY MEETING 7pm Doc's Saddlery 6185 Elkhorn RD LV, NV 702-361-5456</p> <p>BCH of UTAH WASATCH FRONT CHAPTER 7:00pm American Legion 345 Depot st Clearfield, UT Info. 801-773-9419</p>	14	15	16
17	18	<p>19</p> <p>SSPHC MONTHLY MEETING 7pm IHop Cheyenne & Rainbow 702-373-2673 paintmee@aol.com</p>	20	<p>21</p> <p>BCH BRISTLECONE CHAPTER Meeting @ 6:00 pm Thirsd Thursday of Every Month BCHNVB.com for details</p>	22	23
24	<p>25</p> <p>S. NV REGIONAL TRAILS 4701 N Torrey Pines Dr., LV Contact Ed @ 702-645-1791 editoredd@juno.com</p>	26	27	28	29	30

Farm 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: Horses, Donkeys, Mules, Miniature Horses, Cattle, Piggies, Goats, Sheep, Chickens, Ducks, Geese, Farm Fowl, Rabbits, Alpaca, and Llamas! Any farm animal in need has a place in this section for as long as they need it!



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 & Equestrian Properties

#1 In Acreage Properties



Cindy Parker
702-528-1048

Terri Gamboa
702-528-5473

~ LAS VEGAS, MOAPA, PAHRUMP, LOGANDALE ~



5709 Mossman Ave. Great property w/ upgrades. Extra large 1/3 acre lot, large backyard, huge back patio. 4 Bed + casita 5 Bed total. Great family home/ investor prop. w/ excellent tenant willing to stay on. \$430K



4185 Nevada 168. In Moapa NV. Horse Property on almost 7 Acres w/ Water Rights. Renovated. Pastures, Round Pen, Hay Storage, Extra Corrals \$995,000



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



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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

Cindy Parker
702-528-1048

Terri Gamboa
702-528-5473

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

3716 Greencrest Dr.

Gorgeous Home in Highly Sought after Paradise Crest. Lushly landscaped beautiful neighborhood. Truly a paradise in the desert! NO HOA. Single story w/ guest house. 5 bedrooms in main house. Guest House has full kitchen, private entry, fireplace, washer/dryer & sauna. 6 total bedrooms for this property + additional flex space for office/gaming etc! Incredible income producing potential here w/ guest house. Amazing floor plan w/ inclusive kitchen w/ double ovens and new dishwasher. Wood burning fireplaces. Tons of storage. Full RV hookups, parking. Huge pool w/ entertaining spaces & covered patio. 0.30 acre lot. Great location, easy access to airport, freeway, shopping & restaurants. **\$775K**



712 Fife St.

Incredible Equestrian Property with 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 and 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. **\$875,000**



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#1 In Horse & Equestrian Properties

#1 In Acreage Properties



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702-528-1048

Terri Gamboa
702-528-5473

~ NW LAS VEGAS ~



NEW!



6265 N Fort Apache Road

Spectacular 1.94 Acre Ranch Estate Santa Fe style with large 4 BR Main House (Master downstairs) & 2,200 sf Guest House with HUGE Master Bedroom & Bathroom, could be connected to main house, Pool & Spa, 8 Car Garage, 5 Stall Barn w/ runs & tack room, 4 add. large shade stalls, Large Arena w/ lights excellent footing, beautiful mature landscaping surrounding property. Property is 2 separate parcels of .97 Acres each. Property being sold in As-is condition, no fix-ups will be done by seller, needs TLC and repairs so priced well to sell quickly. Great opportunity to purchase this incredible one-of-a-kind Estate!! Perfect for Car & Horse enthusiasts. **\$2,250,000**

7790 Scottie St.

Gorgeous 4,382 sq ft log built house on 2.27 acres. 4 Bed, 3 Bath + Huge loft. Incredible 360 degree views of surrounding mountains & elevated valley views. Private well w/ 3,500 gallon tank. Fully owned solar w/ battery bank. Inclusive kitchen, beautiful granite & walk-in pantry. Multiple large bedrooms + bathrooms downstairs. Contemporary heat, A/C for home plus commanding floor to ceiling stone hearth w/ rustic wood stove. Full outdoor kitchen, entertaining spaces. Storage shed. 55 x 30 RV garage/shop, 14' automatic roll up door. Fully fenced & gated. Plenty of room for horses, toys etc. Trail riding from property! 10 Min. to Las Vegas shopping & 25 min. to Mt Charleston. **\$1,490,000**



NEW PRICE!



PENDING!



5313 Braemar Dr.

Luxury Home in Country Club Golf Community. In guard gated Los Prados. Spacious home w/ luxury finishes. Living room w/ beautiful arches, tall ceilings, wet bar, stone fireplace. Stunning kitchen w/ 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 modern bathroom with soaking tub. Private heated pool/spa, covered patio, direct guest bathroom access, no rear neighbors. Community clubhouse, tennis courts, golf courses, RV parking and more! **\$672,500**



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