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New Year's Celebrations as a Horse Owner

By The VHN Writing Team



1. Plan ahead: New Year's Eve and New Year's Day can be a busy and chaotic time, so it's important to plan ahead and make sure you have everything you need for a fun and safe celebration with your horse. This might include supplies like feed, water, blankets, and any necessary medications.

2. Keep your horse's routine as normal as possible: While it's okay to celebrate the new year with your horse, try to keep their routine as normal as you can. This might mean keeping their feeding and exercise schedules the same, and avoiding any sudden changes that could stress them out.

3. Consider your horse's personality: Every horse is different, and some may be more sensitive to loud noises and crowds than others. If your horse tends to get anxious or spooked easily, you may want to celebrate the new year in a quieter, more low-key way.

4. Create a cozy and comfortable environment: Whether you're celebrating at home or at a stable, make sure your horse has a warm and comfortable place to spend the night. This might include a blanket, plenty of hay, and a clean and dry stall or pen.

5. Make sure your horse has access to water: New Year's Eve or any New Year's celebration can be a long and festive event, so make sure your horse has access to plenty of clean, fresh water. This will help them stay hydrated and prevent them from getting sick.

6. Keep an eye on your horse's behavior: Pay close attention to your horse's behavior and be ready to intervene if necessary. If your horse seems anxious or distressed, try to calm them down and provide them with extra attention and comfort.

7. Consider your horse's needs: If you're planning to celebrate the new year with your horse, make sure you consider their needs as well. This might mean providing them with extra hay or treats, or giving them a little extra grooming and attention. Your horse will be looking to you for leadership and familiarity when he's uncomfortable.

8. Keep an eye on the weather: The weather on New Year's Eve can be unpredictable, so it's important to keep an eye on the forecast and make sure your horse is protected from the elements. This might include providing them with a blanket or shelter if it's cold or wet outside.

9. Stay sober: While it's okay to have a few drinks to celebrate the new year, it's important to stay sober if you'll be spending time with your horse. Not only is it safer for you, but it's also important to be able to respond to your horse's needs and behaviors if necessary. This can always include a sudden trailer ride should your horse need transportation. You're not just the designated driver for yourself and family, you might also be driving your horse as well.

10. Have fun: Above all, remember to have fun and enjoy the new year with your horse. Whether you're celebrating at home or at a stable, there are plenty of ways to make it a special and memorable night for both of you. Keep this list handy for every New Year's celebration and any party or festive event that you want to have with your equine.



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Enjoying the Snow with Your Equine

By The VHN Writing Team



Horses can be sensitive to cold temperatures, more sensitive than we might think, but with the proper care and preparation beforehand, they can also enjoy playing in the snow this winter. In fact, some horses seem to really relish the opportunity to frolic in the white stuff, rolling around in it and kicking up their heels with abandon.

Others may be more hesitant at first, particularly if they've never been exposed before, but with a little encouragement and guidance, they can also learn to have fun in the snow like it's their millionth adventure.

Here are some tips for helping your horse enjoy the snow this festive season:

1. First and foremost, make sure your horse is healthy and well-fed. A horse that is in good physical condition will be better able to withstand cold temperatures and strenuous activity.

His body will be able to do its job of regulating temperature and withstanding the constant coldness of the snow. Provide your horse with plenty of hay, grain, and water to help them stay warm and maintain their energy levels.

2. Adequately protect your horse's feet. Snow and ice can be pretty hard on a horse's hooves, so it's important to take steps to protect them. Trim your horse's hooves regularly to ensure they are in good condition and consider using hoof boots or other protective footwear to help keep their feet warm and dry.

Boots with some grip or teeth on the bottom can also help to keep them from slipping around in case of icy patches.

3. Provide insulated shelter. Even if your horse is a hardy winter warrior each and every year, they will still need somewhere to get out of the cold and wind. Make sure your horse has access to a shelter that is well-ventilated and protected from the elements. Make it a habit to check this shelter regularly in the harsh season so that any repairs can be done in a timely manner.

4. Gradually acclimate your horse to the snow if he's never been around it before. If your horse is not used to being in the snow, they may be hesitant to venture out at first. After all, it's cold, it's wet, and it smells and looks funny. Start by introducing them to small amounts of snow, gradually increasing the amount as they become more comfortable.

Let them investigate and don't push them past their comfort zone. Build up your horse's trust and soon enough they'll feel confident enough to have fun.

5. Stay safe. Snow can be slippery and hazardous for both humans and horses, so take precautions to prevent accidents. Research the best places and the snow levels before going.

Wear appropriate clothing and footwear to stay warm and avoid slipping, and keep an eye on your horse to make sure they are not overdoing it. If possible, go with another person, and always have first aid and emergency supplies ready.

6. Have fun! Once your horse is comfortable in the snow, there are plenty of activities you can enjoy together while the white stuff lasts. You can take a leisurely walk through the woods, go for a winter wonderland trail ride, or even play games like "follow the leader" or "tag."

With the right care and preparation, horses can have a blast in the snow. From rolling around in the white stuff to taking a leisurely walk through the woods, there are many ways for horses to frolic in the winter weather. Just make sure to keep your horse healthy, protect their feet, provide shelter, and take safety precautions to ensure a fun and safe experience for both you and your horse.



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Created by Chef Sharon Hauht

“Banana Walnut Bread”

Prep Time: 20 min Cook Time: 1 hr Servings: Yield 1 loaf

Ingredients:

1 1/4 cups unbleached all-purpose flour
 1 teaspoon baking soda
 1/2 teaspoon fine salt
 2 large eggs, at room temperature
 1/2 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
 1/2 cup (1 stick) unsalted butter, at room temperature, plus more for preparing the pan
 1 cup sugar
 3 very ripe bananas, peeled and mashed with a fork (about 1 cup)
 1/2 cup toasted walnut pieces

Directions:

Sift the flour, baking soda and salt into a medium bowl; set aside. Whisk the eggs and vanilla together in a liquid measuring cup with a spout; set aside. Lightly brush a 9-by-5- by-3-inch loaf pan with butter. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F.

In a standing mixer fitted with the paddle attachment or with an electric hand-held mixer, cream the butter and sugar until light and fluffy.

Gradually pour the egg mixture into the butter while mixing until incorporated. Add the bananas (the mixture will appear to be curdled, so don't worry), and remove the bowl from the mixer.

With a rubber spatula, mix in the flour mixture until just incorporated. Fold in the nuts and transfer the batter to the prepared pan. Bake for 55 minutes or until a toothpick inserted into the center of the bread comes out clean.

Cool the bread in the pan on a wire rack for 5 minutes. Turn the bread out of the pan and let cool completely on the rack. Wrap in plastic wrap. The banana bread is best if served the next day.



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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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Horse Biosecurity Measures for Your Barn

By The VHN Writing Team



We have all endured the hardships and changes of a pandemic, and with sickness still very much around in our own communities, the horse community is no exception.

Sickness and disease can spread through our equines just as easily, but by implementing important biosecurity measures in our barns each day, we can help to shorten and prevent the spread of equine diseases.

Here are 15 biosecurity measures that you can utilize with your equines:

1. Keep your horses' vaccination records up to date to help prevent the spread of infectious diseases. A missed vaccination is a chance for an illness to not only become deadly but it can also spread much more rapidly.

2. Quarantine any new horses that you bring onto your property to prevent the introduction of new diseases. This rule should be set in stone, with no exceptions for any horse.

3. Regularly disinfect equipment and surfaces that come into contact with your horses to prevent the spread of disease. Like us humans, common areas and materials that are constantly touched or in use can harbor bacteria and viruses. Disinfecting regularly will help to prevent an outbreak.

4. Avoid sharing equipment with other horse owners to minimize the risk of spreading infections. It can be nice to share and help out your fellow owners, but during times of intense disease spread or when a bug is going around your barn, avoid sharing unless absolutely necessary.

5. Keep your horses' living areas clean and well-maintained to help prevent the spread of disease. Urine and poop should be removed often.

6. Avoid sharing water and feed buckets between horses to prevent the spread of infections. At the first sign of sickness, this should be a first step to prevent the spread.

7. Use separate grooming tools and equipment for each horse to prevent the spread of infections as well.

8. Avoid taking your horses to areas where they may come into contact with other horses, such as shows or public trails, if they are not fully vaccinated. Current outbreaks can be found online so every owner can be aware of areas to avoid.

9. Avoid sharing water sources with other horses to prevent the spread of waterborne diseases.

10. Dispose of manure and bedding properly to help prevent the spread of diseases. It's important to not only keep these cleaned regularly as stated above, but the way they are disposed is also important.

11. Avoid contact with other horses if your horse is sick or has been recently treated for an illness. It can seem obvious, but even the quickest or smallest exchange between horses and owners can be enough to transfer a disease.

12. Keep a clean and well-stocked first-aid kit on hand in case of injuries or emergencies. Any area with horses should have a first aid kit, and this kit should be stocked well enough for every horse present.

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13. Use personal protective equipment, such as gloves and masks, when handling sick or injured horses to prevent the spread of infections. If you must be around or touch an infected horse, treat everything on your person as a potential material for infection and transmission.

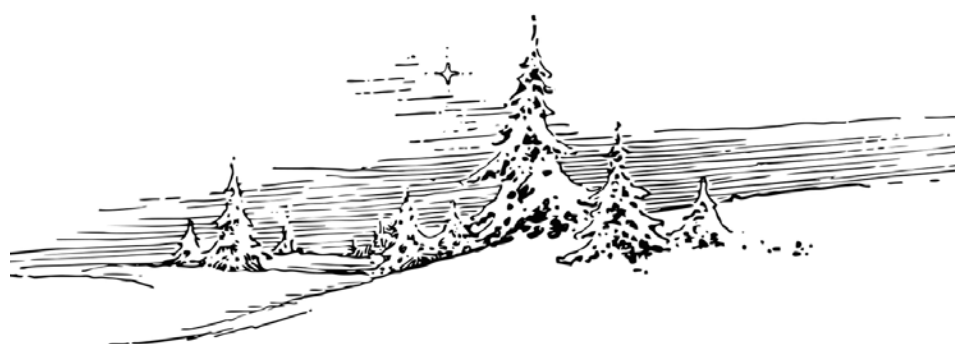
14. Follow the recommendations of your veterinarian and follow their advice on biosecurity practices. We can easily shrug off advice from our veterinarians and even state vets, but their experience and recommendations are made with every horse's safety in mind.

15. Stay informed about the latest biosecurity recommendations and guidelines, and be sure to follow them to help protect the health of your horses and the equine community. By doing your own research and keeping up to date on news of new illnesses, you can better protect your equine.

Some of these tips may feel tedious or as if you're going overboard for no reason, but as many owners can attest, when it comes to the spread of equine illnesses, all it really takes is one sick horse to create a serious problem.

Even if you do not implement every one of these tips with your own horse, try to make a few of the simpler tips a regular habit. That way the next time a horse disease has an outbreak, you'll already be doing everything possible to protect your equine from sickness.

These tips and more are proven to help in times of disease spread, and by utilizing them regularly, you can keep your equines happy, healthy, and safe during every season.



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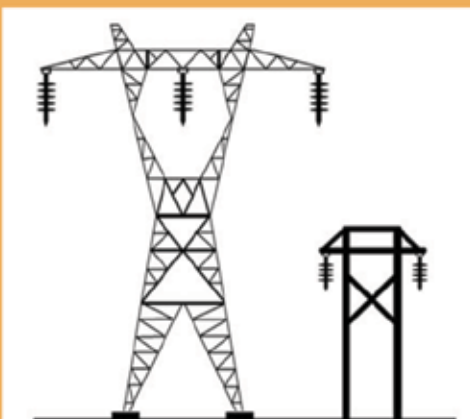
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Physical Therapy for Horses

By The VHN Writing Team



Physical therapy for horses can be a useful tool for managing pain, improving mobility, and enhancing performance in equine athletes. There are many different techniques and modalities that can be employed in a physical therapy program for horses, including massage, stretches, exercises, and the use of specialized equipment.

One important aspect of physical therapy for horses is the evaluation and assessment of the animal's movement and function. This can involve a thorough physical examination, gait analysis, and the use of imaging techniques such as X-rays or ultrasound to assess the health and condition of the horse's musculoskeletal system. Based on the findings of this assessment, a physical therapist can develop a customized treatment plan that addresses the specific needs and goals of the individual horse.

One common technique used in physical therapy for horses is massage. Massage can help to increase circulation, improve muscle tone and flexibility, and reduce muscle spasms and stiffness. It can also be helpful in promoting relaxation and reducing stress. Massage can be performed using various techniques, including Swedish massage, deep tissue massage, and myofascial release. A physical therapist for horses can also teach you massage that you can do outside of scheduled sessions, so that your horse can continue to benefit from the therapy as often as necessary.

Stretching is another important aspect of physical therapy for horses. Stretching can help to improve range of motion, reduce muscle tension, and prevent injuries. There are many different stretches that can be performed on horses, and a physical therapist can help to determine which stretches are most appropriate for a particular horse based on its specific needs and goals. With the help of the previous imaging and evaluation, your horse can receive therapy for his most needed areas, like those with arthritis, scar tissue, and old injuries. Acupuncture can be a second form of therapy to use alongside these traditional physical therapy measures.

Exercise is also an important part of physical therapy for horses. Exercise can help to improve muscle strength, endurance, and flexibility. It can also help to improve the horse's overall cardiovascular fitness and overall health. A physical therapist can work with the horse's owner or trainer to develop a personalized exercise program that is tailored to the horse's current and desired condition. A good physical therapist will understand that this therapy is meant to be a long term treatment, not a quick fix. With continued therapy, a horse can both ease current issues and prevent new ones.

There are many different types of specialized equipment that can be used in physical therapy for horses, including traditional treadmills, underwater treadmills, and therapeutic lasers. These tools can be helpful in promoting healing and improving mobility, and they can be used in conjunction with other physical therapy techniques to achieve the best results. The availability of these tools will depend on your area and your physical therapist. Physical therapy for horses can be an effective way to treat pain, improve movement, and improve performance consistency in equine athletes.

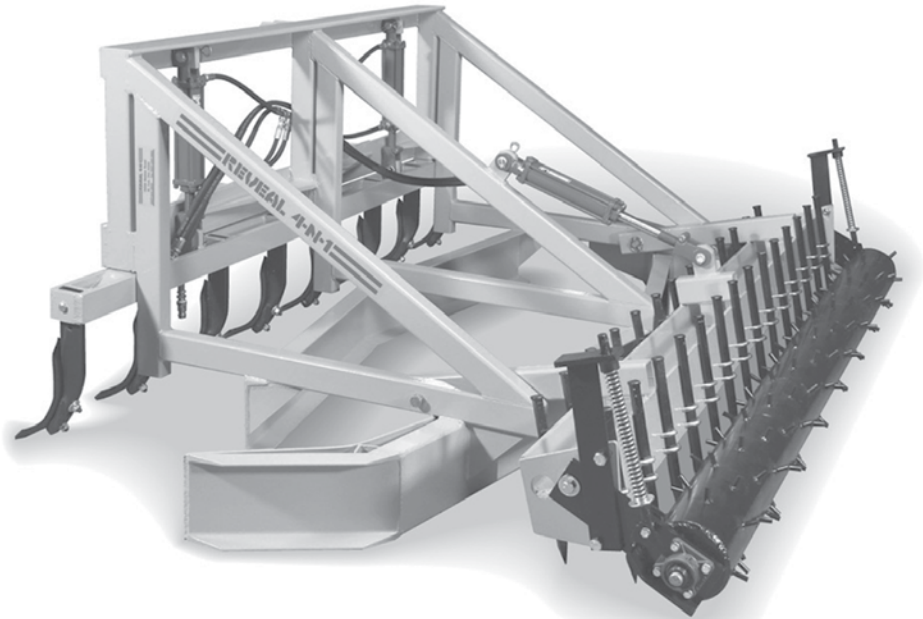
It can be a bit of an investment, with time and money spent, but it can be the perfect treatment for a horse that has few options or needs specialized help. Utilizing this therapy can work to uncover a new happier and healthier horse.

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Tips for Introducing Children to a Horse

By The VHN Writing Team



Introduction to a horse can be an exciting and memorable experience for children, but it is important to follow some guidelines to ensure the safety of both the horse and the child. And these guidelines should be considered from both the child's and horse's point of view.

It is important to choose a calm and well-trained horse for children to interact with. A horse that is nervous or easily agitated may not be suitable for children. If possible, selecting a horse with lots of exposure to people or a history with children would be best. Also, a smaller horse or pony, even a miniature horse may be more comfortable with the experience.

Children should always be supervised by an adult when interacting with a horse. It doesn't matter if the horse is penned in an arena, run, or stall, or if the horse is tied with a lead rope or in a cross-ties. It only takes a second for an accident to happen.

Children should be taught to respect the horse's personal space and to approach the horse slowly and calmly. It doesn't matter how calm the horse appears in turn, a sudden movement from a small child can be enough to startle the horse and cause a bad experience for both parties. As with any new activity, building confidence and security is paramount.

Children should naturally be taught to never approach a horse from behind or startle the horse. It can be easy for kids to forget these rules as they get excited, so a kind but constant reminder of where they shouldn't go or what they need to be careful of will help with future visits.

Children should be taught to always ask permission before touching a horse, and to touch the horse gently and with an open hand. This is especially important as a child may think that every horse will react the same way. It's also important to safeguard little hands and fingers. The first horse may have greeted the child with a calm and happy demeanor but another horse may view the child differently, thus reacting negatively with a bite or kick.

Children should be taught to never pull on the horse's tail or mane, or to poke or prod the horse in any way. While this would be common and obvious knowledge to an adult or rather an adult with horse experience, to a child whose world is very sensory and full of touch, they may not be as aware. Slow and gentle is best.



Children should be taught to never try to ride a horse without the proper supervision and instruction from an adult. Kids can get overzealous when it's time for a ride and get ahead of themselves. It's key to remind them to be patient and to be responsible.

Children should be taught to never feed a horse without permission, and to only give the horse treats that are appropriate and safe. It's easy for a child to pick up any food, treat, or object, and give it to a horse without thinking. This can be dangerous for any horse, particularly one with allergies or food sensitivities.

Children should be taught to never chase a horse or try to ride the horse bareback. Respect is another key component to instill in any child that wants to be involved with horses. Teaching this respect during the first introduction will lead to more productive and positive experiences in the following visits.

Children should be taught to always wear proper protective equipment, such as a helmet and boots, when interacting with a horse. As adults, we often will switch from proper attire to flip-flops and ball caps. But a small child should always wear the right gear when riding.

It is a good idea to start children with simple tasks, such as grooming and leading the horse, before progressing to more advanced activities. Going straight to riding or leading the horse can end with a scary interaction for either party, easing into the experience will build a better foundation.

It is also important to allow the child to move at their own pace and to not push them to do more than they are comfortable with.

Try to introduce children to the horse in a controlled environment, such as a fenced area or a round pen, rather than in an open field. The owner of the horse should always be present as well unless specific permission is given to the child's caretaker.



Make sure to teach children to always listen to the adult in charge and to follow all safety rules when interacting with a horse. They should also be taught to always be aware of their surroundings when interacting with a horse, and to stay away from any potentially dangerous objects or situations.

Children should be taught to always pay attention to the horse's body language and to look for signs of stress or discomfort. It's not always easy to tell when a horse has become stressed or defensive, and to a child these cues can go completely unnoticed. With an adult's help, they can better understand these nuances.

Above all, it is important to stress the importance of safety and to teach children to always be mindful of their actions when interacting with a horse. With proper supervision and guidance, children can have a positive and enriching experience with horses. And the horses can enjoy and learn from the experience too.



Building a Horse Obstacle Course

By The VHN Writing Team



Building an equine obstacle course can be an exciting and rewarding project for horse owners and riders. Not only can it provide a fun and challenging activity for your horse, but it can also help to improve their confidence, coordination, balance, and problem-solving skills.

In this article, we will outline the steps involved in building an equine obstacle course, including choosing an appropriate location, selecting and constructing obstacles with the right tools and materials, and training your horse to navigate the completed course.

Step 1: Choose a Good Location

The first step in building an equine obstacle course is to choose a suitable location. Ideally, the location should be relatively flat and have good drainage to prevent muddy conditions should it rain at some point. This is especially important if you want this course to be permanent in any way. It should also be large enough to accommodate the different obstacles you plan to include in the course.

If you don't have a large enough space on your property, you may be able to use a nearby field or park. Always double check to get permission rather than just building in what appears to be an open and available space.

Step 2: Select and Construct Obstacles

Once you have chosen the perfect location for your project, it's time to start thinking about the obstacles you want to include in your course. Some popular options include:

- **Hurdles or jumps:** These can be made from a variety of materials, including wood, PVC pipe, or even tires. Just be sure to make them sturdy and secure to prevent accidents. You can, of course, invest in readymade jumps if you don't feel like doing it yourself.

- **Tunnels:** Tunnels can be a fun and challenging obstacle for horses. They can be made from PVC pipe, tarp, or even old tire inner tubes.

- **Balance beams:** Balance beams can help improve your horse's coordination and balance. They can be made from wood or other materials and should be wide enough for your horse to comfortably walk on.

- **Logs or poles:** Logs and poles can be used to simulate natural obstacles that horses might encounter while trail riding. They can be placed on the ground or raised off the ground to create more of a challenge. They can be more linear and symmetrical, or for more of a challenge, you can arrange them randomly to really make your horse think on his feet.

- **Water crossings:** If your location has a stream or pond, you can include a water crossing in your course. Just be sure to make it safe and shallow enough for your horse to navigate. Be aware of any muddy spots that could give way with weight or erode over time.

- **Be very aware of any materials that could present a danger, like ropes, twine, sharp wood or plastic, or ridges and holes. Any materials could be a chance for injury or accident. Always secure every obstacle or allow it to give way properly for protection.**

Step 3: Train Your Horse to Navigate the Course

Once you have constructed your obstacles, it's time to start training your horse to navigate the course. Naturally, your horse will be nervous about the strangeness of the appearance. Some of your materials may be colorful or look extremely odd or startling. Give him time to adjust.

Start by introducing your horse to each obstacle individually, allowing them to get comfortable with it before moving on to the next one. As your horse becomes more confident, you can begin to string the obstacles together to create a full course. You may find that you need to adjust things for his comfort or allow more room for spooking/ sidestepping until his confidence builds up.

It's important to go at your horse's pace and not push them too hard. If your horse becomes nervous or hesitant at any point, take a step back and work on that obstacle until they are comfortable with it before moving on.

In addition to training your horse to navigate the course, it's also important to teach them basic obedience commands such as "walk," "trot," and "halt." These commands will come in handy as you guide your horse through the course. If necessary, consider starting from the ground and walking your horse through the course, spending plenty of time at each new thing.

This new obstacle course can be a private tool for your use on your own property or it can become a barn or community project. The more people and funds involved, the more inclusive and immersive the course can be. You could even make a series of courses that go from beginner to advanced level that everyone at your barn can use to train.

Building an equine obstacle course can be a time consuming yet very entertaining project for horse owners and riders. By choosing a proper location, selecting and constructing obstacles with some creativity, and training your horse with a little patience to navigate the course, you can create a challenging equine passtime that will help both you and your horse grow your skills. Just be sure to always prioritize your horse's safety and take things at their pace.

If you get stuck while building your obstacle course, there's a few things you can try:

Think of horse sports and the materials they use. Take to google and look up videos or pictures of barrel racing, pole bending, key hole, relays, cross country, gymkhanas, and more. So many sports implement obstacles that horses and riders have to figure out. Use them as examples for obstacles you can include.

Take a drive to home depot or another hardware store. Look at all of the materials at your disposal and how they can help to benefit your horse's athleticism. Anything that can bend, makes noise, creates complex spacing, and causes your horse to think can be a possibility.

Get out a piece of paper and a pen. Do some sketching of what you imagine an equine obstacle course to contain. Maybe it has a pattern. Maybe it has sections. Perhaps it gets progressively harder or there are multiple courses for different skills, like going over or under objects.

Ask for help or a friends perspective. Sometimes we get so focused on something that we end up blanking on ideas or what we invisioned in our heads doesn't quite turn out as well as we hoped. Ask another horse person or a friend for their take on your ideas and see what they say. They might like how it is or they can offer another perspective on what you could add or take away from your course.

It can be a bit of an undertaking and will require some serious thought on your part, not to mention a little construction skill, but if you can imagine an obstacle course for your equine, there's no reason you can't find a way to make it come to life.

With patience and practice, you and your horse will be tackling the obstacle course in no time!



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New Year's Horse Blessing

By The VHN Writing Team

May your mornings be bright and full of promise
And your saddle withstand the time.

May your journey's road be smooth and straight,
And adventures greet you with a smile.

May the wind never look you in the eye
And the rain hold off another day.

May the truck and trailer keep you safe
And hold the route back home.

May the barn stand solid in the storm
And inviting in the cold.

May the reins embody steal
And the eyes stay clear and strong.

May the horseshoes catch the luck
And the boots collect the stories.

May the hat soak up the sunshine
And the horse remember the way.

May the day be a friend to you
And the night not follow too closely.

May hello be a forever
And a goodbye be until tomorrow.

May the earth hold you steady
And the heavens take their time.

May the magic never leave you
And stars always align.





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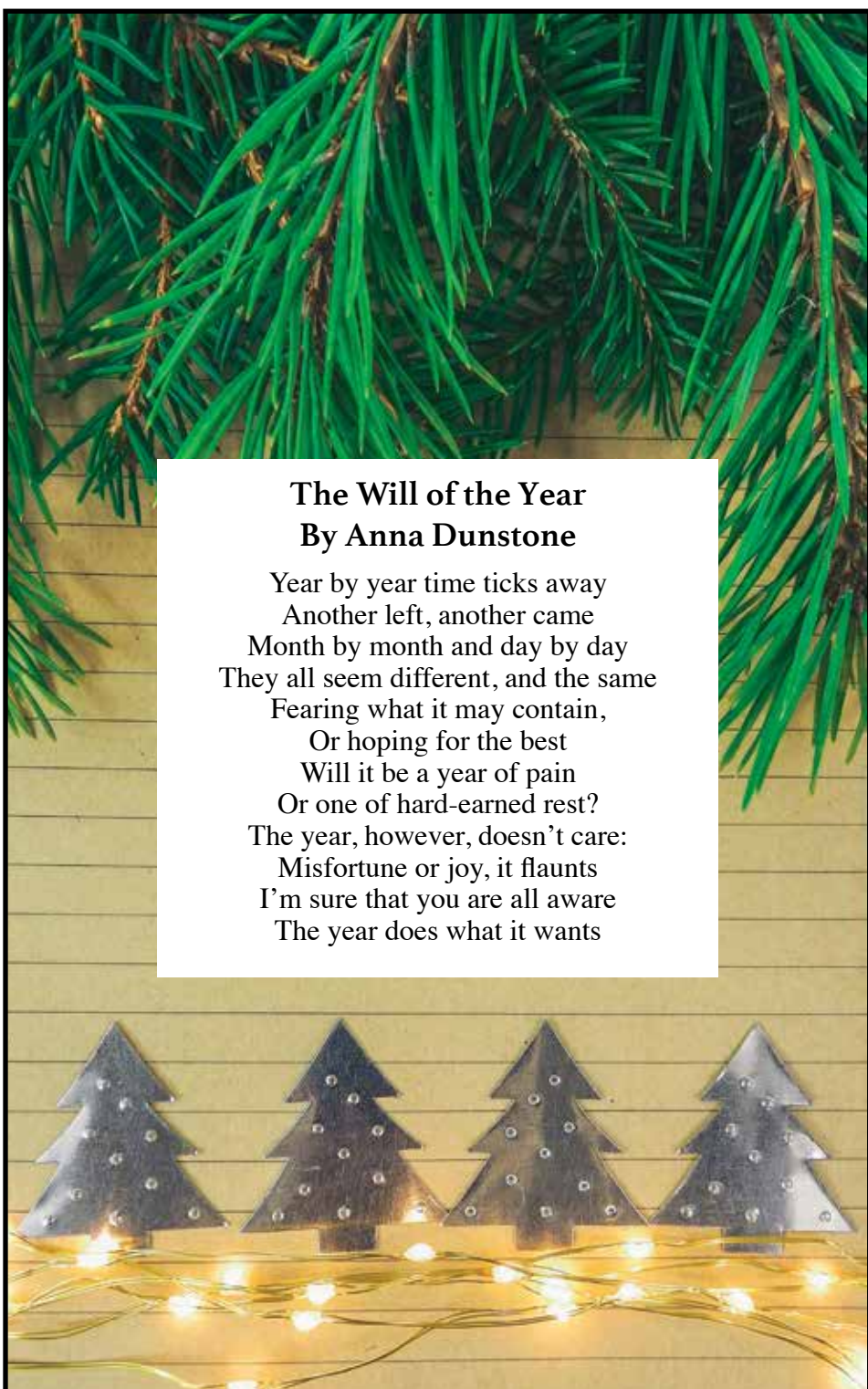
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January 21-22 Sin City Dressage Show

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**The Will of the Year
By Anna Dunstone**

Year by year time ticks away
Another left, another came
Month by month and day by day
They all seem different, and the same
Fearing what it may contain,
Or hoping for the best
Will it be a year of pain
Or one of hard-earned rest?
The year, however, doesn't care:
Misfortune or joy, it flaunts
I'm sure that you are all aware
The year does what it wants

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Livestock Outnumbers Wild Horses 125:1 On Federal Land Yet Horse Roundups Continue



The BLM claims that the number of wild horses and burros is out of control and that the animals are degrading the range. But the agency fails to acknowledge that cattle cause wide rangeland damage.

In 2022, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) rounded up 21,971 wild horses and burros from public lands in the West, permanently removing 20,169 of those animals. More than 64,000 wild horses and burros are warehoused in BLM and private holding facilities across the country - the largest number of wild horses and burros to be held in captivity since the BLM Program began.

PEER data overview

A Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER) study found that livestock outnumbers wild horses and burros on public lands by more than 125:1. PEER states that livestock grazing is the main culprit - not horses.

In March 2022, using BLM's rangeland assessment data from 1997 - 2019, PEER published an interactive map showing range conditions on 21,000 grazing allotments (for livestock, primarily cattle) covering 155 million acres of public lands in the West.

"BLM is required to conduct assessments about every 10 years, but this target has never been met," said Chandra Rosenthal, Rocky Mountain Office Director for PEER. "Many have never been formally assessed by the agency since the requirement went into effect in 1997." PEER's map shows that in 2021, 27% of all livestock grazing allotments - over 40 million acres - have never been assessed.

In certain situations, a federal loophole (the National Environmental Policy Act - NEPA) allows the BLM to legally forego land health assessments. "It was mandated so [BLM] could expedite permits... help with a backlog of permit renewals," said Rosenthal. The exception was supposed to end after BLM caught up with its paperwork. Literally, paperwork. BLM does not keep grazing allotment land health standards evaluation in electronic format or in any central location.

A recent report by Western Watersheds Project, an environmental watchdog organization, found that the number of grazing allotments for livestock was authorized without a NEPA analysis and almost doubled between 2013 and 2021.

BLM posts certain data to the agency website, including annual Public Land Statistic (PLS) reports, dating back to 2001. But, said Rosenthal, "The PLS reports reflect the BLM's permitting process, not rangeland health." PEER found problems with agency dataset accuracy, resolution, completeness, timeliness, omissions, and inconsistencies.

Other report highlights include:

- BLM land health standards (LHS) were met on 54,500,000 acres of land assessed,
- LHS not met on 54,000,000 acres of land assessed,
- Livestock grazing is the reason why 72% of rangelands did not meet land health standards,
- 41,000,000 allotment acres have not been assessed

BLM's rangeland management double standard against wild horses

In November 2022, PEER looked more deeply into the data to get a clearer picture of wild horse and burro impacts on the range. Despite BLM and ranchers' claims that wild horses and burros are primarily responsible for range degradation, this is not what the data show.

"The key finding is that wild horses are responsible for a failing allotment less than 1% of the time compared to livestock," explained Rosenthal. Yet, in most cases, wild horses and burros are the first to be removed from the range if BLM determines the range is degraded.

Wild horses are responsible for only 1% range damage

This double standard was very clear in Colorado in 2022. The BLM used drought conditions as a reason why wild horses in the Piceance-East Douglas Herd Management Area would be removed but reported PEER, the agency neglected to issue an official nationwide or statewide drought call, which requires a reduction of livestock on the range.

BLM data analyzed in the PEER report show:

- Of all allotments that failed LHS standards, 72% was due to livestock grazing,
- 86% was due to a combination of livestock and wild horses.
- Horses were the sole cause of LHS failure on 14% of all allotments assessed.
- Within HMAs, livestock grazing was the number one cause of more than half of allotments that fail land health standards.
- Despite a national wild horse and burro program strategy, BLM does not have a similar national strategy to analyze the impacts of the agency's livestock grazing program.

Rosenthal told AWHC that the report raises many questions, including why the BLM continues to spend millions of taxpayer dollars on wild horse management and comparatively little on similar management of livestock.

"I'm not saying that wild horses don't have an impact on the land," she explained. "But livestock grazing really seems to be the area that would make some big changes if [BLM] would make some management decisions."

PEER's recommendations include:

- Improve the grazing database and make it accessible
- Complete and update land health standard assessments
- Use the data to make land use decisions
- Prioritize biodiversity, including the greater sage grouse
- Use agency data to evaluate wild horse/burro impact on the land compared to livestock.

Amy Hadden Marsh originally wrote this article for the American Wild Horse Campaign's newsletter, December 15, 2022.



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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6 LVGA Henderson Saddle Association www.lasvegasmkhanaassociation.com	7 LVGA Henderson Saddle Association www.lasvegasmkhanaassociation.com
8	9 APACHE LAND APPALOOSA CLUB Meeting 7:00pm, Horseshoe Restaurant, Benson AZ; Contact Fred @ 520-384-5332	10 NSHAV GENERAL MEETING 7pm Olive Garden - 1361 S. Decatur Blvd. 702-645-2988 POSS GENERAL MEETING 7pm @ SHOWPOSS.VPWEB.COM for time and place Pahrump 775-727-9576	11 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	12	13	14 SNGA Horsemen's Park http://www.snga.biz
15 SNGA Horsemen's Park http://www.snga.biz	16	17 SSPHC MONTHLY MEETING 7pm IHop Cheyenne & Rainbow 702-373-2673 paintmee@aol.com	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30 S. NV REGIONAL TRAILS 4701 N Torrey Pines Dr., LV Contact Ed @ 702-645-1791 editoredd@juno.com	31	VALLEY HORSE NEWS DEADLINE 15th of EVERY MONTH valleyhorsenews@gmail.com			

FEBRUARY 2023 CALENDER OF EVENTS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3 LVGA Henderson Saddle Association www.lasvegasmkhanaassociation.com	4 SNGA Horsemen's Park http://www.snga.biz LVGA Henderson Saddle Association www.lasvegasmkhanaassociation.com
5 SNGA Horsemen's Park http://www.snga.biz	6	7	8 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	9	10	11
12	13 APACHE LAND APPALOOSA CLUB Meeting 7:00pm, Horseshoe Restaurant, Benson AZ; Contact Fred @ 520-384-5332	14 NSHA GENERAL MEETING 7pm Olive Garden - 1361 S. Decatur Blvd. 702-645-2988 POSS GENERAL MEETING 7pm @ SHOWPOSS.VPWEB.COM for time and place Pahrump 775-727-9576	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				

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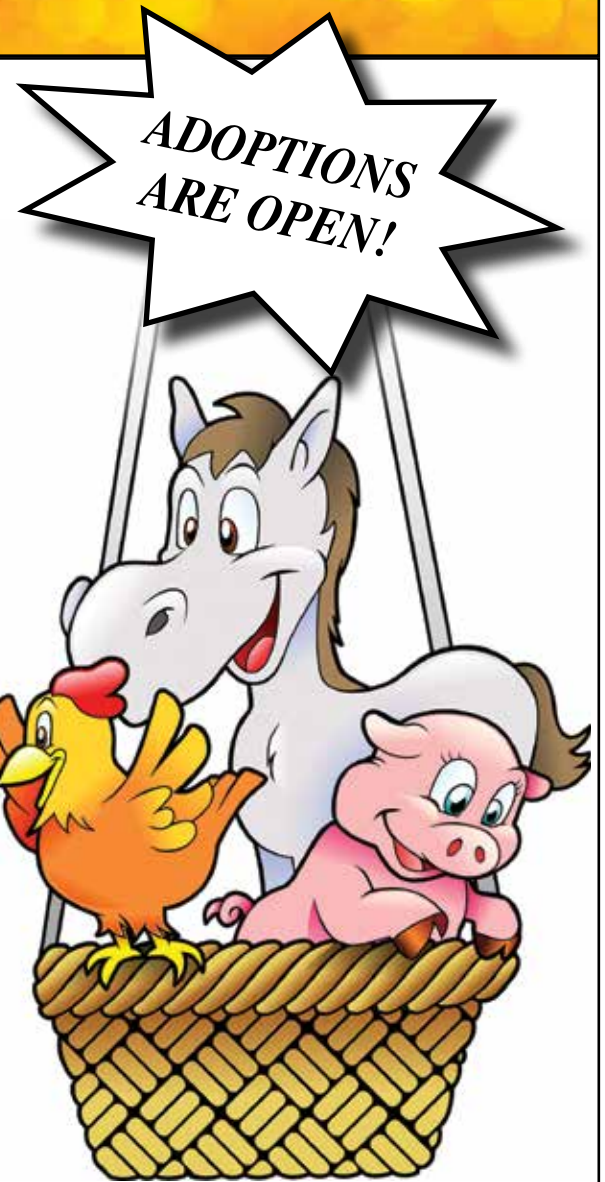
All you have to do:

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Welcome all rescues, sanctuaries, and non-profits!

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

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

This section will remain in the paper *indefinitely*.

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

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

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

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

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

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Terri Gamboa Team

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Cindy Parker
702-528-1048

Sommer McDaniel
702-370-2404

~ SE & NW Las Vegas ~

Terri Gamboa
702-528-5473



6743 S Pecos Rd. Private Compound W/ Gates. Circular Driveway & 10' High Walls. Home + Casita 4,148sqft, 4 Bed/5 Bath. All Beds Have Own Bath. Open Floor Plan, Vaulted Ceilings, Travertine Floors. \$2,490,000



3764 Pama Lane. Gorgeous Luxury Equestrian Estate. 1.39 Acre Gated W/ Private Well, Pasture, 4 Stall Barn, Tack Room, Arena W/ Sprinklers, Casita & Pool \$1,390,000



7080 S Pecos Rd. 3.9 Acre Secluded Prop., 2 bed/ 2 bath house to live in while build then as guest house. 10 car garage converted horse barn, electric gate, 100 tall pine trees \$1,875,000



6185 Elkhorn Rd. Over 1 Acre Horse Property. 3 Bed/2 Bath. Income Producing Potential w/ Horse Amenities & Detached Storage Room/Tack Shop. Near FLP. \$849,000

Floyd Lamb Park - 1,500 Acres - NEW TRAILS - Best Ride in Town!

*****GREEN ROLLING HILLS, PONDS, BIG TREES, TRAILS!*****



"Ride in Floyd Lamb Park,
approx. 2,000 acres, best ride in town!"

Call Terri Gamboa (702) 528-5473

KW THE MARKETPLACE
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Website: www.TerriGamboa.com