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THOUGHT OF THE MONTH: **Happy Father's Day!**

Equestrian Fathers Poem

By The VHN Writing Team



In the realm of hoofbeats, strength resides,
A bond between fathers and their noble rides.
Equestrian fathers, mighty and true,
Guiding their steeds through fields anew.

With hands firm and reins held tight,
They teach their children to embrace the flight.
Through dusty arenas and jumps high,
These fathers soar, reaching the sky.

Their love for horses, a flame that burns,
In their hearts, a lesson that yearns.
Patient teachers, their wisdom imparts,
The art of horsemanship, etching on young hearts.

In early mornings, before the dawn,
They groom and saddle, their spirits drawn.
To the stables they go, a familiar sight,
Whispers of love shared in the morning light.

With gentle hands, they stroke the mane,
A silent language, no need for rein.
Their whispers heard by prominent ears,
A bond unspoken, dissolving fears.

They teach their children to sit up tall,
To feel the rhythm and heed the call,
Of the canter, the trot, the gallop's grace,
Together they conquer each equestrian race.

Through wins and losses, they always stand,
Supporting their children, lending a hand.
Their pride swells with every stride,
Equestrian fathers, their hearts open wide.

For they know the value of a trusty steed,
A faithful companion in times of need.
In the saddle, they share a special place,
A world of grace, where time can't erase.

So, let us celebrate these fathers bold,
Whose passion for horses never grows old.
Equestrian fathers, strong and wise,
Guiding their children beneath the endless skies.

In hoofbeats and love, their bond is found,
A connection unbreakable, forever profound.
For in the world of horses, they create,
A legacy cherished, a tale that resonates.

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Codi A. Kern
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The Scarcity of Equine Veterinarians

By The VHN Writing Team



Equine veterinarians play a critical role in maintaining the health and well-being of horses. Lately, however, it seems that the number of equine veterinarians available for calls has begun to shrink. But why?

There appears to be several factors contributing to the scarcity of these professionals:

It's a very specialized field of work. Veterinary medicine has become increasingly specialized, with practitioners focusing on specific areas such as small animals or large animals.

The specialized nature of equine medicine requires additional training and expertise, making it a niche field within the spectrum of veterinary medicine. Depending on availability and the chance to train under an experienced teacher, the schooling can be few and far between.

The demographics are starting to shift in today's financial and lifestyle climate. The demographics of veterinarians are changing, with a higher percentage of graduates opting for careers in small animal practice.

The appeal of a more predictable schedule, greater work-life balance, and potentially higher income in small animal practice can steer graduates away from a focus equine medicine.

The increase in lifestyle challenges is different than what they used to be. The nature of equine veterinary work can be physically demanding and time-consuming. Horses require on-site visits, often in rural or remote areas, which can involve long hours, irregular schedules, and being on-call for emergencies. This can impact work-life balance and make the profession less attractive to some veterinarians.

The financial constraints of the business itself have intensified with the economy on both the professional level as well as with the patients seeking care. The costs associated with running an equine veterinary practice can be substantial. Equine facilities, equipment, medications, and insurance can all contribute to higher overhead expenses.

In some cases, veterinarians may find it challenging to sustain a financially viable equine practice, particularly in areas with a smaller horse population. That smaller horse population itself may shrink due to the expense of horses in the first place.

Burnout in any medical field, including veterinary medicine is high. The demanding nature of equine veterinary work, including physical strain, long hours, and emotional challenges, can lead to a higher burnout rate among practitioners.

This, combined with other factors, may contribute to a higher turnover rate and a decreased supply of experienced equine veterinarians. If there are not enough equine vets to meet the demand of individual practicing locations, those locations will inevitably close. This creates a domino effect for horse owners and where they live or if they decide to buy/ keep horses.

The problem of rural concentration is still in question even with the population growing and spreading into less populated and less crowded areas. The scarcity of equine veterinarians can be more pronounced in rural areas, where horse populations may be more concentrated.

In less population dense areas, there may be one vet for every 10 horses, whereas in the more concentrated areas, there may be one vet for every 100 horses or more. This can result in limited access to specialized equine veterinary care in certain regions, making it difficult for horse owners to find and retain these professionals.

Addressing the scarcity of equine veterinarians requires efforts to attract and retain practitioners in the field. This includes promoting the rewards and benefits of working with horses, providing mentorship programs, offering competitive compensation, and improving work-life balance.

Additionally, increasing support for education and training programs in equine veterinary medicine can help cultivate a new generation of skilled professionals dedicated to caring for horses.

And much of this effort can be founded in horse owners themselves and the promotion of the horse industry and all that it encompasses.

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“Perfect Apple Pie”

Prep Time: 30 min Cook Time: 3 hr 0 min Total Time: 3 hr Servings: 8

Ingredients:

1 box (14.1 oz) refrigerated Pillsbury™ Pie Crusts (2 Count), softened as directed on box

6 cups thinly sliced, peeled apples (6 medium)

3/4 cup sugar

2 tablespoons all-purpose flour

3/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon

1/4 teaspoon salt

1/8 teaspoon ground nutmeg

1 tablespoon lemon juice

Directions:

Heat oven to 425°F. Place 1 pie crust in ungreased 9-inch glass pie plate. Press firmly against side and bottom.

In large bowl, gently mix filling ingredients; spoon into crust-lined pie plate. Top with second crust. Wrap excess top crust under bottom crust edge, pressing edges together to seal; flute. Cut slits or shapes in several places in top crust.

Bake 40 to 45 minutes or until apples are tender and crust is golden brown. Cover edge of crust with 2- to 3-inch wide strips of foil after first 15 to 20 minutes of baking to prevent excessive browning. Cool on cooling rack at least 2 hours 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.



What's on the menu?

We hope you are enjoying the monthly recipes from *Happy Trails Kitchen!*

We want to know: what types of recipes do you want to see? Breakfast? Dinner? Dessert? Beef? Chicken? Crock Pot or Oven Baked? The possibilities are endless!

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Tricky Spots, Caring for a Horse with a Cut near a Joint

By The VHN Writing Team



Horses are magnificent animals, but their active nature can occasionally lead to accidents and injuries. One common concern for horse owners and caretakers is dealing with cuts near joints. How do you treat a cut in an area that constantly moves, flexes, and reopens every time your horse walks?

These injuries require careful attention and prompt action to ensure the horse's well-being and minimize the risk of complications. In this article, we will discuss essential steps to take when a horse has a cut near a joint, focusing on immediate care, veterinary assistance, and the recovery process.

Step 1: Assess the Situation: Upon discovering a cut near a horse's joint, it is crucial to assess the severity of the injury. Approach the horse calmly and safely, ensuring both your safety and the horse's comfort. Evaluate the wound's size, depth, and location, and try to determine whether any underlying structures, such as tendons or ligaments, are affected. Remember, if you are unsure or the injury appears severe, always consult a veterinarian promptly.

Step 2: Provide Initial First Aid: Before the vet arrives, you can take several measures to provide immediate first aid to the injured horse. Start by gently cleaning the wound with mild antiseptic solution and sterile gauze or clean towels. Avoid applying excessive pressure or using harsh substances that may irritate the wound.

If the cut is actively bleeding, apply gentle pressure using a clean cloth to control the bleeding until professional help arrives. Avoid the use of tourniquets unless you are experienced or absolutely necessary for your horse's survival.

Step 3: Immobilize the Joint: To prevent further damage and aid in the healing process, it may be necessary to immobilize the affected joint. Depending on the location and severity of the cut, you can apply a padded bandage or splint to stabilize the area.

However, it is essential to consult with a veterinarian or an experienced equine professional to ensure the immobilization technique is appropriate for the specific injury. Many horses will fight against a restraint or immobilization, potentially causing a delay in care or risk to their safety.

Step 4: Seek Veterinary Assistance: Contacting a veterinarian is crucial when dealing with cuts near joints. A qualified equine professional will have the expertise to assess the injury thoroughly, provide a definitive diagnosis, and determine the best course of treatment. They may recommend cleaning the wound more thoroughly, suturing if necessary, administering antibiotics, and implementing a proper care plan for the horse's recovery.

Step 5: Follow the Veterinarian's Instructions: After the initial assessment, your veterinarian will provide specific instructions for the horse's care and recovery. It is crucial to follow these instructions meticulously to optimize the healing process.

This may include administering medication, changing dressings regularly, and monitoring the horse's overall well-being. Be sure to ask any questions you may have to fully understand the treatment plan and ensure the best possible care for your horse.

Step 6: Provide a Suitable Environment: Creating a conducive environment for your horse's recovery is vital. Ensure the horse has access to a clean, well-bedded stall or paddock with minimal hazards. Regularly clean and disinfect the area to prevent infections.

Limit movement and exercise to allow the wound to heal properly. Consult your veterinarian regarding any additional measures such as bandage changes or physical therapy exercises that may aid in the healing process.

Caring for a horse with a cut near a joint requires prompt and attentive action. The initial steps of assessing the injury, providing first aid, and immobilizing the joint are crucial for preventing further harm.

However, consulting a veterinarian is of utmost importance, as they can provide a comprehensive evaluation, appropriate treatment, and guidance throughout the recovery process. By following the veterinarian's instructions and maintaining an optimal healing environment, you can give your horse the best chance of recovering fully and returning to their active, healthy lifestyle.



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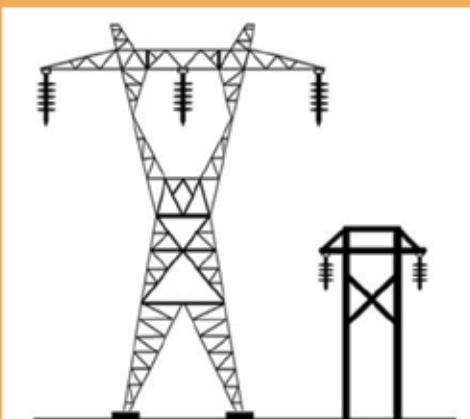
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Effective Strategies to Curb Biting Behavior in Young Horses

By The VHN Writing Team



Biting is a very common behavioral issue among young horses that can be both a frustrating and potentially dangerous habit. It's essential to address this behavior early on to prevent it from becoming a habit you can't break.

In this article, we will explore ten effective strategies to help you get a young horse to stop biting, promoting a safer and more respectful relationship between you and your equine companion.

Young horses may bite due to various reasons, including curiosity, playfulness, fear, or asserting dominance. Understanding the motivation of the biting is key. By observing their behavior and body language, you can gain insight into their motivation, allowing you to tailor your approach accordingly.

Establish clear boundaries and consistently enforce them. Ensure that everyone interacting with the horse follows the same rules, promoting a unified approach to discourage biting behavior. With time and dedication, you can break this bad behavior.

Proper socialization is crucial for young horses. Encourage healthy interactions with other horses to learn appropriate social behavior. This can help them understand boundaries and reduce the urge to bite. The other horses will help to teach the younger one that biting is a no go.

When a young horse exhibits biting behavior, swiftly redirect their attention to an appropriate alternative, such as a toy or a treat. This helps them learn that biting humans or objects is unacceptable while providing a positive outlet for their energy. This way a new association can begin.

It's true that positive reinforcement works. Reward good behavior with praise, treats, or gentle pats. When the young horse refrains from biting or shows improved behavior, immediately acknowledge and reward their positive actions. This positive reinforcement encourages them to repeat the desired behavior.

Timing is crucial when addressing biting behavior. Correct the horse's behavior promptly, ideally at the moment the biting occurs, so they can associate the correction with their action. Consistency and timing are key to effectively communicate the message that biting is unacceptable.

Use your body language and voice to convey your expectations. A firm and authoritative posture, coupled with a stern verbal command, can communicate your disapproval when the horse attempts to bite. Consistency in your cues will help the horse understand the consequences of their actions and correlate them.

Gradually expose the young horse to stimuli that trigger biting tendencies, such as grooming tools or touch-sensitive areas. Use desensitization techniques, introducing these objects or situations gradually and rewarding the horse for remaining calm and non-aggressive.

If the biting behavior persists or poses a safety concern, don't be afraid to seek guidance from a professional trainer or equine behaviorist. These experts can assess the situation, provide tailored advice, and offer specialized training techniques to address the specific behavioral issue.

The root of the behavior could be something just out of your recognition.

Changing a horse's behavior takes time and consistent effort. Though it's not easy, be patient and persistent in your training approach. Celebrate small victories and remain committed to guiding the young horse towards better behavior. Remember, building a trusting relationship with your horse is a journey that requires time and understanding.

Perhaps the best part about training a young horse not to bite is the fact that they are still young. By implementing these training tips while they are still a young horse, you stand a better chance of fixing the issue quickly and permanently.

If you've tried these steps and more to fix the issue of biting with your young horse and you still are dealing with the problem, it would be best to consult with your vet to rule out another issue entirely.

Biting can always be a behavior that's due to an underlying condition, like a bad tooth, a sore gum, a gut health issue, or pain somewhere else in the horse's body. By speaking with your vet, you can be sure that your horse isn't trying to communicate a need for help with the onset of biting. After fixing any health issue, continue with these steps and your biting problem should improve, if not disappear altogether.

Addressing biting behavior in young horses requires a combination of patience, consistency, and effective training techniques. By understanding their motivation, setting boundaries, redirecting attention, and using positive reinforcement, you can guide your young horse towards appropriate behavior.

If necessary, seek professional guidance to ensure the best approach for your specific situation. With time and consistent effort, you can successfully curb biting behavior, fostering a safer and more harmonious partnership with your equine companion.



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Addressing Common Senior Horse Behavior Problems

By The VHN Writing Team



As horses age, they, like any living being, may develop certain behavior problems relating to their age. These issues can arise due to various factors, including physical discomfort, changes in their environment, or alterations in their routine. Recognizing and understanding these common senior horse behavior problems is essential for providing appropriate care and ensuring the well-being of our equine companions.

1. Arthritis and Mobility Issues

Arthritis and other mobility problems are prevalent among senior horses just as they are in senior humans. As horses age, the wear and tear on their joints can lead to discomfort, stiffness, and reduced range of motion. Consequently, they may exhibit behavioral changes such as resistance during riding or difficulty getting up or lying down.

Addressing these issues involves consulting with a veterinarian to develop a management plan that may include pain management strategies, joint supplements, and adjustments to their exercise routine as well as their resting environment, such as their stalls or paddocks.

2. Weight Loss and Dental Problems

Senior horses often struggle with maintaining proper body weight. This can be attributed to dental issues that affect their ability to chew and process food effectively. Senior horses can also lose their teeth over time. Difficulty in consuming forage can lead to weight loss, nutrient deficiencies, and behavioral changes like irritability or aggression.

Regular dental check-ups and floating (the process of filing down sharp edges on teeth) are crucial to addressing these problems. Additionally, adjusting their diet to include easily digestible feeds can help ensure they receive adequate nutrition.

3. Vision Impairment

Just like humans, horses may experience age-related vision problems. Senior horses with impaired vision can become anxious or exhibit spookiness due to limited depth perception and reduced ability to see clearly.

It is important to be patient and understanding with such horses, provide them with consistent and familiar surroundings, and avoid sudden changes in their environment. Creating a safe and predictable environment can help alleviate their anxiety and prevent accidents.

4. Behavioral Changes due to Cognitive Decline

As horses age, some may experience cognitive decline, similar to dementia in humans. This can manifest as confusion, disorientation, and changes in personality. Senior horses with cognitive decline may become agitated, pace, or exhibit repetitive behaviors.

To support them, it is crucial to maintain a consistent routine and avoid unnecessary stressors. Additionally, providing mental stimulation through interactive toys or puzzles can help keep their minds engaged and active.

5. Separation Anxiety and Socialization Issues

Senior horses may develop separation anxiety as they become more reliant on the companionship of other horses. They may display behaviors such as calling out, pacing, or becoming agitated when separated from their herd mates.

Encouraging socialization with compatible companions, ensuring regular turnout, and implementing gradual separation training can help alleviate these problems and provide them with a sense of security.

When caring for your senior horse, keep in mind this list of key care areas to refer to so that your horse can stay happy and healthy through their years.

High-Quality Forage

Balanced Diet

Dental Care

Joint Support

Regular Exercise

Comfortable Shelter

Social Interaction

Grooming and TLC

Pain Management

Environmental Enrichment

Regular Veterinary Care

Adjusted Workload

If your senior horse seems to be unhappy or starts exhibiting odd behaviors, come back to this list and see if you can check off every area. Any area that needs extra attention could be the culprit.

They may need a new diet, a new friend, a different exercise regimen, or another change.

Remember that each senior horse is unique, and their needs may vary. It's essential to observe and understand your horse's individual requirements and work closely with equine professionals to ensure their happiness and well-being in their golden years.

Understanding and addressing common senior horse behavior problems is vital for ensuring the overall well-being and quality of life for these magnificent animals. By recognizing signs of discomfort, implementing appropriate management strategies, and providing necessary support, we can help senior horses age gracefully and enjoy their golden years to the fullest.

Regular veterinary care, tailored nutrition, and modifications to their environment can all contribute to maintaining their physical and mental health. With our love, patience, and understanding, we can provide senior horses with the care they deserve and cherish the special bond we share with them.



Spotting Abuse in Horses: How to Recognize the Signs and Take Action

By The VHN Writing Team



Horses are majestic creatures that have been by our side for centuries, serving as companions, working animals, and athletes. Unfortunately, some horses experience abuse or neglect at the hands of incompetent or cruel owners or caretakers, which can have severe physical and psychological consequences. As responsible horse owners and enthusiasts, it is crucial to be vigilant and able to recognize the signs of abuse in horses. By understanding these indicators, we can take appropriate action to protect these vulnerable animals.

1. Physical Signs of Abuse

a) **Unexplained Injuries:** Noticeable and recurring injuries, such as cuts, bruises, or abrasions in various stages of healing, may indicate physical abuse. This points to injuries that are happening consistently over time.

b) **Emaciation or Poor Body Condition:** Horses suffering from neglect or abuse may exhibit significant weight loss, prominent ribs, a dull coat, and an overall poor body condition due to inadequate nutrition. This is not to be confused with an older horse that can have some of these same body condition issues.

c) **Untreated Medical Conditions:** Neglected horses often go without proper veterinary care, leading to untreated illnesses, infections, or lameness.

d) **Overgrown Hooves:** Neglected horses may have severely overgrown hooves, sometimes curling upward, indicating a lack of proper farrier care.

2. Behavioral Signs of Abuse

a) **Fear and Aggression:** Horses subjected to abuse may display fear, anxiety, or aggression. They may flinch, tremble, or show signs of extreme submission when approached or handled. They may also seem impossible to handle or react in extremes or defensively without cause.

b) **Avoidance or Withdrawal:** Abused horses may isolate themselves, avoid human contact, or exhibit withdrawn behavior. They may retreat to the back of their stalls, refuse to come out, or cower in corners.

c) **Excessive Startle Response:** Horses that have experienced abuse may exhibit heightened sensitivity and an exaggerated startle response to sudden movements or loud noises.

d) **Unwillingness to Perform:** Horses that have been mistreated may show resistance or refusal to perform basic tasks, such as riding, grooming, or loading into trailers.

3. Environmental Signs of Abuse

a) **Inadequate Living Conditions:** Horses kept in cramped, unsanitary, or unsafe environments, such as small stalls, without access to clean water, proper shelter, or turnout, may be victims of neglect or abuse.

b) **Lack of Social Interaction:** Isolation from other horses and minimal human contact can indicate mistreatment. Horses are social animals and thrive on companionship, when they do not get this social interaction is can outwardly show in a negative way.

c) **Tethering or Restraining:** Horses tied or restrained for prolonged periods without adequate movement or access to food and water are subjected to abusive conditions.

4. Taking Action

a) **Document and Report:** If you suspect abuse, document the signs with photographs or videos and report your concerns to the appropriate authorities, such as local animal control, animal welfare organizations, or law enforcement. Documentation over a period of time or from more than one person can help.

b) **Maintain Confidentiality:** Protect the privacy of the horse and the individuals involved in the situation to avoid potential retaliation. The situation can be brought to attention but do so carefully.

c) **Offer Assistance:** If possible, provide support by offering to foster or rehome the horse in a safe environment or by assisting with the costs of veterinary care or rehabilitation. It is entirely possible that the party caring for the horse would be willing to give them up to a better home.

d) **Educate and Advocate:** Raise awareness about horse abuse and neglect by educating others on responsible horse ownership, the signs of abuse, and the importance of reporting suspicions. Many horse owners or enthusiasts may feel they don't have the experience or resources to intervene. By educating and providing options, every abused horse can stand the chance for a better life.

If you suspect a case of animal abuse, you might be wondering what constitutes as evidence to authorities. Typically, you can do a simple report with what you saw and a welfare check would be initiated.

You can build a better case for investigation however, if you do have some concrete evidence to submit.

When putting your evidence together or watching for evidence to gather, think about these types:

Photographs and videos: Visual evidence is powerful and can provide clear documentation of the abuse. Take photographs or videos that clearly show the condition of the animal, any injuries or signs of neglect, and the overall environment in which the abuse is taking place. Make sure that the date is evident for when you submit it to authorities. Information on the location and involved parties is important as well.

Witness statements: Statements from individuals who have witnessed the abuse can be valuable evidence. If more than one person can report suspicion of abuse, it makes an even stronger case. These statements can include details about what they saw, when and where it occurred, and any other relevant information.

Veterinary records: If the animal has received medical attention, veterinary records can help establish a pattern of neglect or mistreatment. These records may include diagnoses, treatment plans, and descriptions of injuries consistent with abuse.

Expert opinions: Expert witnesses, such as veterinarians or animal behaviorists, can evaluate the evidence and provide professional opinions regarding the animal's condition and whether it is indicative of abuse. If you feel you need a more in depth investigation, these reports from experts could be helpful.

Physical evidence: Collect any physical evidence that supports your case, such as weapons or tools used to inflict harm, evidence of restraints, or items that demonstrate unsanitary living conditions.

Written documentation: Keep a record of any relevant communication, such as emails, text messages, or written reports, that provide information about the abuse or neglect.

Always remember that you should not under any circumstances trespass onto private property in search of evidence or to collect evidence/ the animal yourself. This could open up a slew of problems and potentially render you in legal trouble. Follow the steps and be persistent.

Recognizing the signs of abuse in horses is crucial for safeguarding their welfare. By being vigilant and informed, we can take action to protect these magnificent animals from mistreatment. Remember, every horse deserves a life free from abuse or neglect.

By reporting suspicions and advocating for their well-being, we can contribute to creating a world where all horses are treated with the care, respect, and compassion they deserve.

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If you're interested in giving a L.E.A.N horse a forever home, please contact Karin at 702-533-4656 or visit them at www.LEANhorses.org

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Belle: Sweet as the sound but needs a soft place to land. Belle is a lovely mare with an old fetlock injury who can be adopted as a companion animal only and maintained with proper shoeing. visit www.LEANhorses.org for more information.

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Horse Colic: What Not to Do When Faced with an Emergency

By The VHN Writing Team

Colic is a common and potentially life-threatening condition that affects horses' digestive system. When a horse experiences colic, it is crucial for owners and caretakers to respond promptly and appropriately.

However, there are certain actions that should be avoided when dealing with a horse suffering from colic. Understanding what not to do in such situations can help prevent further harm and ensure the best possible outcome for the horse.

Do Not Delay Veterinary Assistance

One of the most critical mistakes horse owners can make when faced with colic is delaying or avoiding calling a veterinarian. Colic can quickly escalate and lead to severe complications, including intestinal blockage or torsion. Timely veterinary intervention is essential for accurate diagnosis and appropriate treatment. Waiting or attempting to manage colic without professional assistance can be detrimental to the horse's health and increase the risk of complications. When in doubt, always call for professional help.

Do Not Administer Medications Without Veterinary Guidance

While it may be tempting to administer pain relief medications or other remedies to alleviate the horse's discomfort, doing so without veterinary guidance can be dangerous. Some medications can mask symptoms or potentially worsen the condition, making it more challenging for the veterinarian to diagnose the underlying cause accurately. Only administer medications prescribed or recommended by a veterinarian. If you feel strongly about giving medication, first call your vet for the go ahead and they can help you decide the benefits versus the risks of doing so.

Do Not Force Hard Exercise

Contrary to a common myth, forcing a horse to intently exercise during a colic episode is not always a recommended course of action. While mild movement, such as hand-walking, can sometimes aid digestion or keep a horse from thrashing and worsening themselves, it is essential to assess the severity and nature of the colic before initiating any exercise. In some cases, exercise can exacerbate the condition or increase the risk of complications. Always consult with a veterinarian to determine whether exercise is appropriate or if the horse should be kept as quiet and comfortable as possible.

Do Not Withhold Water (With a Vet's Okay)

Another misconception is that horses with colic should be denied access to water. Dehydration can worsen the situation and potentially impede the horse's recovery. Offering very small amounts of fresh, clean water can be beneficial unless otherwise instructed by a veterinarian. However, it is important to avoid feeding the horse large quantities of water at once, as it may overload the digestive system or worsen bloating.

Do Not Feed Solid Food

Feeding a horse with colic solid food can aggravate the condition and lead to further complications. This is particularly true for an impaction or twist. It is best to remove all sources of food, including hay and grain, until a veterinarian assesses the situation. Fasting the horse for a short period allows the digestive system to rest and prevents potential obstructions.

Do Not Attempt Home Remedies

In the face of a colic emergency, it is crucial to avoid unproven or untested home remedies. Methods such as administering oils, laxatives, or inserting objects into the rectum can be harmful and may cause additional damage or worsen your horse's pain. Trusting the expertise of a veterinarian and following their instructions is the safest and most effective approach. They will have the knowledge to treat the individual horse and their specific circumstances.

Dealing with a horse experiencing colic can be a distressing situation for any owner or caretaker. Knowing what not to do is as important as knowing what to do.

Remember, when confronted with colic, do not delay veterinary assistance, avoid administering medications without professional guidance, and try not to treat without professional help.

By following these guidelines, you can ensure the best possible care for your horse and improve their chances of a successful recovery from colic.



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• **1/4 Page:** 5w x 8
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UPCOMING EVENTS

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Are you interested in having an event at Horseman's Park in 2023? We are currently accepting reservations. Please email info@equineeventlv.com if you would like more information about the park, or are interested in making a reservation.

Thank you sponsors for your continued support!



**Broken
By Anna Dunstone**

He, so softly, slipped away
 Unseen, unloved, unheard
 In the bedroom corner, lay
 To listen to their words.
 These words, in angry prattle
 Hate-filled, harsh, and heated
 Were all dressed up for battle
 Against his parents, seated.
 They, the throwers of those words,
 Tore their bonds to rips
 Sliced the family into thirds
 Drew blood with just their lips.
 And he, in the corner, cried
 Longing to get sicker
 Something in that boy died
 Listening to them bicker.



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How to Get Your Horse's Topline Back

By Brad Kloss

One of the most common comments and questions I receive is: "My horse lost their topline — how can I get it back quickly?"

The easy answer is to change their diet, but the metabolic rate of each breed and even individual horses can make a significant difference in a nutritional recommendation. For example, I have Gypsy Vanners — and they just look at Bermuda grass and gain weight. On the other hand, my fine-structured Dunn Quarter Horse would lose topline just by the sight of the arena and work.

Fixing the energy in your horse's diet can be broken down simply. The three main energy sources for a horse are: fiber, carbohydrates, and fats.

Fiber

We are both blessed and cursed with the quality of hay we have here in the Southwest. Growing conditions and management, irrigation methods, and abundant sunshine produce high quality grasses and alfalfas that typically have much higher digestible fiber, protein, and sugar levels than our friends in the Midwest.

We can usually gain adequate additional energy through forage intake to meet slight to moderate needed caloric intakes. However, if you have that hard keeper like my Dunn who lost weight at the sight of an arena, other energy sources come into play. Additives such as high-quality yeast products will aide in the digestion of forages, therefore yielding higher net absorbed energy values.

Carbohydrates

Most articles talk about starches as the only carbohydrate, but this is a mistake because sugars are very important carbohydrates as well. I have seen sugar levels as high as 6 percent in some grasses such as Orchard. Other forms of sugar come from the molasses in your texturized feeds and many horse treats.

Sugars, when managed well, can provide a form of energy that is quickly absorbed and does not affect gut pH like starches do. Corn, oats, mill run, wheat middlings (depending on how listed on the tag), and rice bran all have starches with varying degrees of digestibility rate.

Corn, especially steam-flaked corn and ground corn (the form of corn in your complete pellet), explode quickly in the cecum and in many cases drop pH in the gut and blood, quickly triggering a histamine and inflammation effect. I very seldom if ever recommend grains in diets, especially corn.

Fats

This leads us to fats: Flaxseed, rice bran, and coconut meal are my favorites because of the type of fats they provide. Flaxseed and rice bran both have omega-3 fatty acids while coconut meal has MCT (medium chain triglycerides). Omega-3 fatty acids are digested in the intestinal tract while MCT are largely deposited in the liver — and from there, used as an energy source or fat deposit.

Omega-3 fatty acids and MCT combined are a powerful energy source and healthy fat options. In my own personal formulations, I use rice bran and coconut meal over flaxseed because of the occasional flax intolerant horse and the forms it comes in. One important note, however, is to make sure when feeding rice bran that it comes from a quality source and is stabilized. It should state that on the tag.

If you're still wondering how to get your horse's topline back, the quick answer is to evaluate the quality and amount of forage being fed — and add fat sources such as rice bran, coconut meal, or flaxseed to the diet.



It is common for me to recommend feeding a pound of coconut meal (copra) and a pound of rice bran to gain quick and safe results. If you'd like a quick ration balanced for your horse, feel free to contact us at info@ahorseofcoursenutrition.com.

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

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 **Hoof & Coat**

Symphony provides industry-leading levels of biotin, bioavailable zinc, and methionine to ensure strong hooves — plus a mane and tail that resist breakage. Fatty acids promote a pliable hoof and amazing shine for the coat.

Craig Cowley, who owns a star Limited Open Hackamore horse named Rusty, had been struggling with white line disease until he started feeding *Symphony*. Particularly after a wet season, Craig noted that his horses who were given *Symphony* had significantly better quality hooves than those who were given other supplements.









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Phone in your ad: 702-808-7669 or
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JUNE 2023 CALENDER OF EVENTS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12 <small>APACHE LAND APPALOOSA CLUB Meeting 7:00pm, Horse-shoe Restaurant, Benson AZ; Contact Fred @ 520-384-5332</small>	13 <small>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</small>	14 <small>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</small>	15 <small>BCH BRISTLECONE CHAPTER Meeting @ 6:00 pm Parkway Tavern, 4930 W. Flamingo Road, 89103</small>	16	17
18	19	20 <small>SSPHC MONTHLY MEETING 7pm IHop Cheyenne & Rainbow 702-373-2673 paintmee@aol.com</small>	21	22	23	24
25	26 <small>S. NV REGIONAL TRAILS 4701 N Torrey Pines Dr., LV Contact Ed @ 702-645-1791 editoredd@juno.com</small>	27	28	29	30	

JULY 2023 CALENDER OF EVENTS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; background-color: #f0f0f0;"> <p>VALLEY HORSE NEWS DEADLINE 15th of EVERY MONTH valleyhorsenews@gmail.com</p> </div>						
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10 <small>APACHE LAND APPALOOSA CLUB Meeting 7:00pm, Horse-shoe Restaurant, Benson AZ; Contact Fred @ 520-384-5332</small>	11 <small>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</small>	12 <small>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</small>	13	14	15
16	17	18 <small>SSPHC MONTHLY MEETING 7pm IHop Cheyenne & Rainbow 702-373-2673 paintmee@aol.com</small>	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31 <small>S. NV REGIONAL TRAILS 4701 N Torrey Pines Dr., LV Contact Ed @ 702-645-1791 editoredd@juno.com</small>					

Farm Animal Adoptions



Freddie and Deacon were turned in at the shelter in Vegas a month ago, no explanation given. They are brothers, approx 20lbs / four months old. Recently neutered, they are finally calming down. Will need lots of love, patience, and handling to become sweet pets. If you have to room at your property and in your heart, come meet this handsome duo in Overton at Windy's Ranch & Rescue.

Text Janice at 702-816-7711

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

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.



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4.1 ACRE MULTI-USE!

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Luxury Home in Country Club Golf Community. Located in guard gated Los Prados. Spacious home w/ luxury finishes. Living room w/ beautiful arches, tall ceilings, wet bar, stone fireplace. Stunning kitchen w/ white floor to ceiling custom cabinets, marble countertops, backsplash, stainless steel appliances, breakfast nook w/ built-in bench, wood-like tile flooring. Master Suite w/ sitting area, tall ceilings, fireplace, walk-in-closet, separate built-in vanity and a beautiful modern bathroom with soaking tub. Private heated swimming pool/spa, covered patio, direct guest bathroom access, no rear neighbors. Community clubhouse, tennis courts, jogging paths, golf courses, RV parking and more! **\$672,500**



5836 Calverts St.

Gorgeous Luxury Single Story Home on Just Under an Acre Fully Gated, 3,606 SQ Ft. 4 Bds. - Huge Main Bedroom W/ Modern Bathroom, Jetted Spa Tub, Double Shower Heads, Double Walk in Closets. Secondary Bedrooms Are Ensuities! 5 Baths. 10' Ceilings. Kitchen w/ Double Ovens, Walk in Pantry, Waterfall Island, Apron & Prep Sink, Oversized 3 Car Garage. Pomegranate Orchard W/ 200 Trees Imported From Middle East, 6 Varieties. Private Well. Zoned for Horses. Ample Room for Toys - RV, Boat Parking. Cooled Storage Shed. Mountain Views. This NW Location Is Close to Everything! **\$814,000**



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call **(702) 528-5473**



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