



All About

Horse Care and Feeding

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Horse Care and Feeding

About Horse Care and Feeding

Owning or sharing a horse is a big responsibility, but there are rewards, too. Your bond with your horse can bring you joy and fulfillment. This eBook discusses some basic concepts of horse care and feeding. Be sure to continue to read up and research on the care and feeding of your horse. An informed owner has a happy horse.

Horse Care

Behavior

The more people get to know horses, the more they realize that they have personalities, quirks, a sense of humor, and affections. Horses are herd animals, and it helps to keep this in mind.

Horses are also social animals and masters of non-verbal communication. Often, understanding your horse is a matter of interpreting their actions.

- **Body:** A horse's posture will reflect its mood – excited, depressed, tired, and playful.
- **Ears:** The expressive ears are useful for us, too. Normally simply perked up, a horse you are riding will have one swiveled back and listening to you. If a horse has his ears flat back against his skull, he's angry or frightened
- **Tail:** A perky, high tail is a horse who's really excited; a flat-down, under-the-body tail is a scared horse.

Certainly, there are many more non-verbal signals that you will learn about your horse – it will be a growing relationship and your bond with your horse will strengthen.

Housing

Bedding is vital. Good ideas for bedding are straw, wood shavings, sawdust, paper pulp, peat moss, rice or peanut hulls. On dirt, allow 4 to 6 inches, and on cement, allow at least 10 inches. Be sure that your stall area is above grade so that your horse will not be standing in water. Whatever you choose, the stall needs to be cleaned and freshened daily. All dirty bedding must be removed daily!

Be sure that you have an area for storing bedding and feed to keep these items dry, dust-free, and clean.



- [Toys for Your Horse](#)
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Grooming

There are two important components to your horse's grooming – coat and feet. Horses shed like any coated animal – daily brushing and combing will keep that to a minimum, and help keep them clean and healthy. A groomed horse often knows that they are attractive, and that helps the horse's spirits! Hooves must be picked regularly, too. You can head off problems and keep your horse used to having his hooves handled, which will help limit the number of farrier visits, too.



Equipment

The options for horse equipment are nearly endless, but you need at a minimum for a riding horse:

- Feed tub
- Water trough or large buckets
- Water heater if you live in an area that experiences freezing temperatures.
- Pitch fork
- Stable broom
- Wheelbarrow
- Manure Fork
- Insect spray
- Halter
- Lead ropes
- Hoof Pick
- Curry Comb (rubber, plastic, or metal)
- Body Brushes (soft and hard bristle brushes are recommended)
- Mane and Tail Comb
- Cloth (an old washcloth)
- Saddle with girth or cinch
- Saddlepad or Blanket
- Bridle
- Helmet
- Safety Stirrups or boots with 1" heel
- First Aid Kit

You'll need these basics before your Horse comes home. Click the items below to go to CheapPetStore.com to find the best prices for online pet supplies.

- [Hoof Pick](#)
- [First Aid Kit](#)
- [Mineral Feeder](#)
- [Leather Replacement](#)

Common Health Problems

Horses do have some common ailments. Some of them can be headed off with appropriate care of your horse, including regular vaccinations, daily hoof and leg care, and your own daily evaluation of your horse's condition. Some of the things that can afflict your horse are:

- Internal Parasites, including
 - strongyles (bloodworms)
 - ascarids (roundworms)
 - bots
 - pinworms



- Tooth problems: horse's teeth grow continually grow, necessitating regular floating (filing) of your horse's teeth
- Hoof & leg problems
 - Infections
 - Cuts and bruises
 - Thrush
 - Brittle/dry hooves
 - Laminitis
- Gas & colic

Choosing the Proper Food

Types of Horse Food

Starving a horse is not just immoral, it's simply cruel. Your horse needs healthy nutrition, just like you do.

Ideally, the bulk of your horse's food should be hay (not straw). There are a variety of hays available, so you may need to try several until you find the one your horse prefers. Alfalfa has a very high nutrition quality, so you may wish to include that, depending on your horse's activity level. Grain is needed, but only absolutely required for horses working a lot, pregnant mares, and growing colts and fillies. However, grain is a treat, and makes for good bonding time with your horse.

Leave salt available for your horse, and plenty of fresh water. You want to be sure that your horse has enough water to avoid any tummy trouble.

Proper Feeding

When to Feed

Horses are nibblers, because their stomach is rather small in proportion to their body size. Feeding them three times a day is often recommended.

How to Feed

How Much to Feed:

Hay: 2 pounds hay/100 pounds of body weight

Grain: No more than ½ pound of grain/100 pounds of body weight



You'll need these basics before your Horse comes home. Click the items below to go to CheapPetStore.com to find the best prices for online pet supplies.

- [How To Be Your Own Vet](#)
- [Dressage Gift Set](#)
- [Santa Fe Grooming Mixed Case](#)
- [Miracle Groom Gift Pac](#)



[Round Feeder Tub](#)



[Right Balance Cookie Treat](#)

Consequences of Improper Feeding

Overfeeding

If your horse is overweight, it will stress their body's systems or accentuate or cause lameness, and the horse will generally be more tired. It can also cause fatty tumors in the intestine. If you are giving your horse enough hay, and not too much grain or simply pellet feed mixtures (complete nutrition), then your horse will be able to stay in better shape. Pellet feeds have their place – the common recommendation is to feed equal amounts (by weight) of pellet feeds and hay.

Underfeeding

Starving a horse is not simply immoral, it's cruel. Your horse needs healthy nutrition, just like you do.

Horse Feeding and Care Accessories

There are automatic feeding devices available. One such device, the "Stable Grazer" allows you to load it and set to feed up to six times a day for up to ten pounds of hay at a time for your horse to graze. While no horse should be unattended for too long, the "Stable Grazer" may make running errands less stressful for horse owners.

Popular Products for Your Horse

- [Vetrap](#)
- [Micro-Tek Gel](#)
- [Quic Shade Sunscreen](#)
- [No Fly Zone Spray](#)
- [Stall Powder](#)
- [Lunge Line W/Chain](#)
- [No Chew Clear](#)
- [Quic Groom Stain Remover](#)
- [Sponge Brush](#)
- [Boredom Breaker](#)
- [Santa Fe Clarifying Shampoo](#)
- [Soft Grooming Brush](#)
- [Winning Touch Ez Hoof](#)
- [Thrush-XX](#)
- [Pennwoods Next Generation](#)
- [Suspensory Saver Equine](#)
- [Banana Likit Holder](#)
- [Alfalfa & Apple Horse Treat](#)



[Maxum Crumble](#)



[Adjustable Halter W/Snap](#)

You'll need these basics for your Horse colt/foal. Click the items below to go to CheapPetStore.com to find the best prices online.

- [Colt Wormer](#)
- [Nylon Tail Bag](#)
- [Standing Wrap](#)
- [Horse First Aid Kit](#)
- [Attack-All](#)
- [Fly Mask](#)
- [Mini Adjustable Halter](#)
- [Foal Boost Colostrum](#)
- [Foal Boost Paste](#)
- [Foal Sorb](#)
- [Foal Supplement](#)



[Rope Lead W/Bolt](#)



[Cherry Likit Holder](#)

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