PAR EXPRESS

Pocono Animal Rescue Inc.

Established 2000

WINTER 2008

Pocono Animal Rescue, Inc.
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Misty the Barnyard Diva ...

When Kelsey Garris heard that Absorbine was hosting a fun costume class, at a local horse show she knew that she and her mare Misty had to enter it!

Misty is 20-plus years old and Kelsey adopted her a few years ago from PAR.

Kelsey decided to dress up as "Barnyard Divas."

"We wore girly accessories, but then I put on paddock boots and carried a pitchfork," says Kelsey.

Much to their delight Kelsey and Misty were the winners of the show! Winning Absorbine Showsheen grooming products.

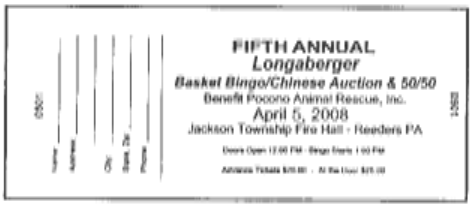
This has been such a memorable moment for Kelsey, especially since Misty passed away last year.

To nominate your fave horse or pony for this honor, send a photo to YR, Horse of the Issue, P.O. Box 8237, Lexington, KY 40533. Sens an S.A.S.E.mif you want your snap returned.

5th Annual Pocono Animal Rescue Benefit

Dear Business Owners & Community Members

PAR is a non-profit organization that strives to promote the humane treatment of large domestic animals by offering assistance, information & educational programs, we also rescue & rehabilitate large domestic animals from abuse & neglect. To help defer the cost involved in rescuing & rehabilitating some animals we are planning to hold a Longeberger Basket Bingo on Saturday, April 5, 2008 at Jackson Twp. Fire Hall. We are seeking your generous donations to assist us with our worthy cause, our animals. All vendors will receive a free advertisement in our brochure distributed to all who attend, and also be thanked on our web site. We are hoping that you help us reach our goal by sponsoring a Basket or donating an item or gift certificate. For more information on donations or purchasing tickets contact us at 570.476.1464. Thanking you in advance, Pocono Animal Rescue, Inc.



For Sale

POCONO ANIMAL RESCUE INC.

PAR
T-Shirts
Sweatshirts
& Jackets

Sizes available
from Adult Small to 3XL
Call for Pricing & Details
570-476-1464

PAR Photos From 2007 ...

Stroudsburg Community Days, Pocono Township Community Days,
Horseman's Expo-West End Fair Grounds, Farmers Market

Water Requirements ...

Without water, nothing in your horse's body will function. Horses will often reduce their water intake as temperatures fall. This reduced water intake, combined with increased forage consumption can lead to a greater incidence of impaction and colic. Ideally, water should be warmed so that the horse will consume adequate amounts. Water should be available at all times. Water should be maintained between 45 and 65 degrees F and any ice crystals should be removed. If you are in a area that has regular freezing, check the water supply twice daily as horses will drink eight to 12 gallons a day.

A basketball or soccer ball floating in the water trough will keep it from completely freezing over. To help prevent freeze up in the water trough, place it in the sunniest spot available, and bank dirt around its sides to help insulate it. You might want to try covering part of the top with plywood, leaving a small area free for drinking. however, if you get very hard freezes you may want to invest in one of the various water heaters that are on the market. If you use float heaters, automatic waterers, or heated water buckets, be sure to check them to insure the heater is not shorting out and schocking the water. Allow plenty of space between water tanks and fences. If the whole herd drinks at the same time, there's often some scuffling and butting around the tank, and horses might be pushed through the fence.

Some people believe horses can get by on snow. "Get by" they might, but horses require a lot of water to digest dry feed. Forcing a horse to produce moisture by eating snow is counterproductive. Six times as much snow must be eaten to provide an equal amount of water. Furthermore, calories are used to melt the snow that should be used for body warmth.

Whenever possible, offer your horse warm water at a temperature of about 45-65 degrees F. Studies have repeatedly demonstrated that a horse's water intake in winter increases dramatically if he has access to warm water. Recent research has shown a 40 percent increase in water intake when horses are offered warm water on wintery days.

Check the Hydration of Your Horse
Measure Capillary Refill TIme

1. Use both hands to part the horse's lips and expose the gums
2. Press gently and briefly on the gum of the upper jaw with the index finger or thumb of one hand. This will force the blood from the capillaries, "blanching" the gum.
3. Watch and count how long it takes for the gum to return to its natural pink color after removing your finger. If the count is longer than 2 seconds, your horse may be dehydrated or have a circulatory problem.
4. Take this measurement regularly to get an idea of what's normal for you horse.

Check Skin Turgor

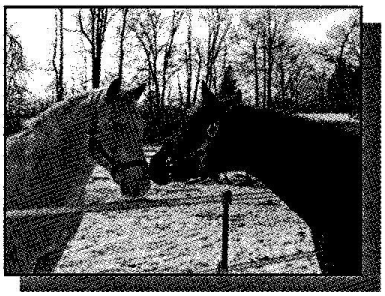
5. Pinch the skin on the horse's neck in front of the shoulder, using your thumb and forefinger.
6. Note whether the skin snaps back to its normal position quickly or responds slowly and remains "tented up." A slow respone can indicate dehydration.
7. Check skin turgor regularly to get an idea of what's normal for your horse. Individuals can show variations in this test

Tip: An older horse may have less elastic skin that returns slowly to its normal position even if the horse is well hydrated.

Asses Eyes and Gums

8. Learn what your horse's eyes and gums normally look like. They should appear moist and shiny, not dry.
9. Inspect your horse's gums and eyes frequently.

Bonnie & Mack Update ...



The Wilson's that own Bonnie & Mack tell me they are both fat and sassy, and very spoiled. Both horses are getting professional training with Al Miskevitz. He said that Mack is ridden by Mr. Wilson and can get a little stubborn at times, but since he's very easy going he's manageable. Mack is also learning ground manners, and the Wilson's state that the key is a lot of patience and repetition works. Bonnie is a little more spunky, and Al the trainer says that she also is coming along, and she along has a long way to go but she's very willing to please.

West Nile Virus

The West Nile virus, which can cause encephalitis, is commonly found in humans, birds, and other animals in Africa, Eastern Europe, West Asia, and the Middle East. The virus was first isolated in the West Nile province of Uganda in 1937. The earliest recorded epidemics of West Nile encephalitis occurred in Israel between 1951 and 1954 and again in 1957. Since then, epidemics have been reported in Europe—in the Rhone delta of France in 1962 and in Romania in 1996. The first recorded epidemic occurred in South Africa in 1974. Most recently, a West Nile encephalitis epidemic was seen in Israel during 2000.

West Nile encephalitis had never been documented in the Western Hemisphere before the late summer of 1999, when an outbreak occurred in the New York City metropolitan area. The virus probably was introduced into the United States by an infected bird or mosquito.

Disease Transmission

West Nile virus is transmitted by infected mosquitoes, mainly *Culex* and *Aedes* spp. These mosquitoes become infected after biting infected wild birds, the primary hosts of the virus. The virus circulates and multiplies for several days in a mosquito's blood before penetrating its salivary glands. After an incubation period of 10 to 14 days, an infected mosquito can transmit the virus to both humans and animals while feeding on them.

Most female mosquitoes must take a blood meal before they can lay eggs. A female's persistent search for blood can bring it into houses and yards where it may come into contact with people. Fortunately, even in areas where mosquitoes do carry the virus, very few mosquitoes are infected. So, the chance of being bitten by an infected mosquito is small.

In 2002, the CDC confirmed WNV transmission through transplanted organs and blood products, as well as transplacental (mother-to-child) transmission. Transmission through breast milk is being further investigated. Remember, the vast majority of human WNV infection occurs through the bite of a WNV-infected mosquito.

Geographic Distribution

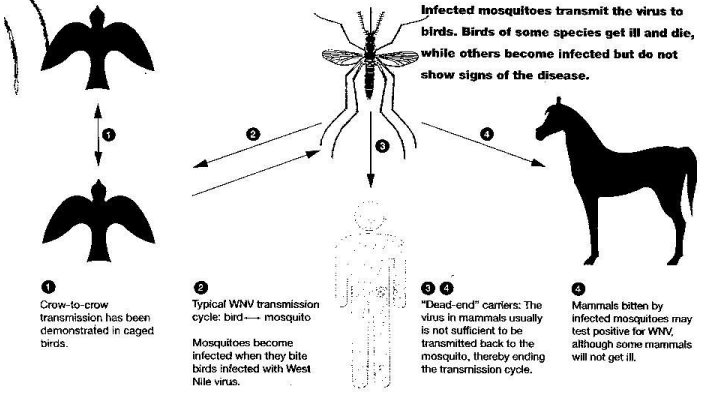
West Nile virus was first detected in just four northeastern states in 1999. In each of the following years that West Nile virus has been detected in wild birds, mosquitoes, horses, and humans, its distribution has continued to spread across the United States. In 2000, West Nile virus was detected in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic states, and then in the Southeast and Midwest in 2001. By 2002, West Nile virus was detected throughout most of the United States, including the West Coast. In Pennsylvania, West Nile virus has been detected every year since 2000.

Symptoms of West Nile Encephalitis

The incubation period of a West Nile virus infection in humans is usually 3 to 15 days. Most people who are infected with the virus have either no symptoms or mild ones such as fever, headache, body aches, mild skin rash, or swollen lymph glands. A more severe infection, which may lead to encephalitis, includes headache, high fever, neck stiffness, stupor, disorientation, coma, tremors, convulsions, muscle weakness, paralysis, and occasionally death.

All residents living in areas where West Nile virus has been detected potentially can become infected with the virus. However, only a small number of people who become infected will develop a serious case of encephalitis. People over 50 years of age are at greater risk of becoming severely ill. Nevertheless, anyone, regardless of age, is at risk.

Basic Transmission Cycle of the West Nile Virus (WNV)

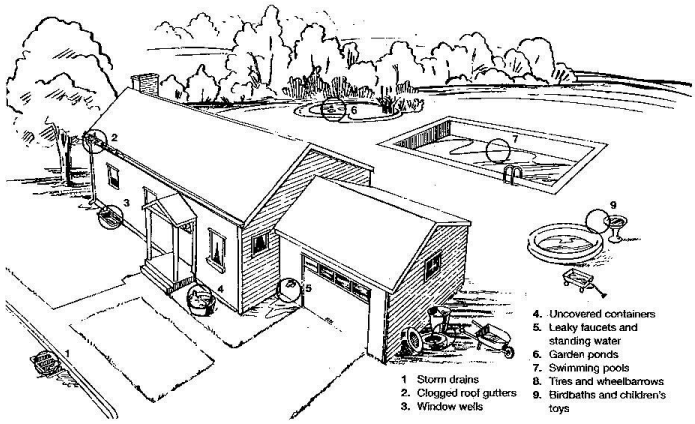


Infected mosquitoes transmit the virus to birds. Birds of some species get ill and die, while others become infected but do not show signs of the disease.

1. Crow-to-crow transmission has been demonstrated in caged birds.
2. Typical WNV transmission cycle: bird ⟷ mosquito

   Mosquitoes become infected when they bite birds infected with West Nile virus.
3. 4. "Dead-end" carriers: The virus in mammals usually is not sufficient to be transmitted back to the mosquito, thereby ending the transmission cycle.
4. Mammals bitten by infected mosquitoes may test positive for WNV, although some mammals will not get ill.

Mosquito Breeding Sites

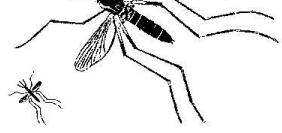


1. Storm drains
2. Clogged roof gutters
3. Window wells
4. Uncovered containers
5. Leaky faucets and standing water
6. Garden ponds
7. Swimming pools
8. Tires and wheelbarrows
9. Birdbaths and children's toys

Prevention and Control

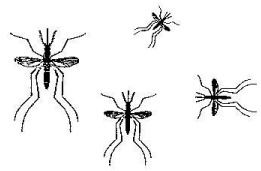
You can reduce the number of mosquitoes around your home and neighborhood by eliminating standing water, in which mosquitoes can breed.

- Dispose of any refuse that can hold water—such as tin cans, containers, and in particular used tires. Tires have become the most important mosquito breeding sites in the country.
- Drill holes in the bottoms of recycling containers, and check uncovered junk piles.
- Clean clogged roof gutters every year, and check storm drains, leaky faucets, and window wells.
- Empty accumulated water from wheelbarrows, boats, cargo trailers, toys, and ceramic pots. If possible, turn them over when not using them.
- Do not allow water to stagnate in birdbaths, ornamental pools, water gardens, and swimming pools or their covers. Ornamental pools can be aerated or stocked with fish. Swimming pools should be cleaned and chlorinated when not in use.
- Alter the landscape of your property to eliminate standing water. *Keep in mind that during warm weather, mosquitoes can breed in any puddle of water.*



Diagnosis and Treatment

Although there is no specific treatment, medication, or cure, the symptoms and complications of West Nile encephalitis can be treated. Please check with your health care provider regarding current preventative and treatment actions. Severe health cases may call for hospitalization, intravenous (IV) fluids and nutrition, airway management, ventilatory support, and prevention of secondary infections such as pneumonia.



Q & A:

National Animal Identification System ...

Q: What is the National Animal Identification System? (NAIS)
A: The National Animal Identification System is a national program intended to identify all food animals and live stock, as well as record their movement over the course of their lifespan. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is committed to designing a comprehensive animal identification system that will allow for the the tracing of all animals and premises potentially exposed to a foreign animal disease within 48 hours to ensure reapid containment of the disease and further protect U.S. animal health.

Q: Why is USDA developing the NAIS?
A: The key to safeguarding U.S. livestock and economic health from the effects of animal disease is to have a national surveillance system in place that is comprehensive, integrated, and coordinated. The ability to identify livestock more quickly will enhance USDA's ability to respond to pests and animal diseases.

Q: What is USDA's goal for the NAIS?
A: USDA's goal is to create an effective, uniform, consistent, and efficient system by:

- Allowing producers, to the extent possible, the flexibility to use current identification systems or adopt new ones, but not burden them with multiple identification numbers, systems, or requirements;
- Providing data element standards;
- Remaining technology neutral in order to utilize all existing forms of effective technologies and new forms of technology that may be developed;
- Ensuring that the system does not preclude producers from being able to use it to add value by aligning production management with market incentives

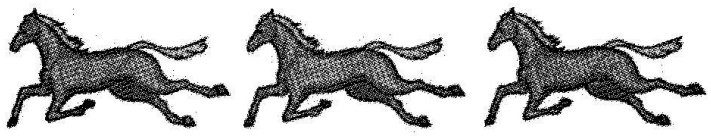
Q: Will USDA utilize the U.S. Animal identification Plan (USAIP)?
A: USDA strongly values and appreciates the effort that the USAIP team has put forth in developing an animal identification plan. USDA plans to use the data standards developed through this partnership of more than 100 animal and livestock professionals from 70 associations, organizations, and government. USDA will continue to seek input fom industry and other interested parties throughout the design and implementation of a national animal identification system.

Q: Will producer participation in the animal identification program be mandatory?
A: Initially, producer participation will be voluntary during the development of USDA's animal identification program. As the system continues to take shape and is tested for all livestock and food animals, USDA will reassess the need for making some or all aspects of the program mandatory.

Q: What technology will be used?
A: USDA recognizes that there is no "one-size-fits-all" technology. USDA supports a system that does not limit user to only one type of identification tool. Instead, USDA will remain technology neutral so that all existing forms of effective technology and new forms of technology that could be developed in the future may be utilized.

Q: How will the system be funded?
A: While there is funding in the fiscal year (FY) 2005 budget request for this program, USDA understands the need to get the animal identification system started now. As a result, $18 million in emergency funding has been transferred from the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) to initiate the development of the infrastructure and initial implementation of an animal identification system in 2004.

Eventually, both private and public funding will be necessary to make the animal identification program fully operational. Federal and state governments, as well as industry, will share the cost of maintenance, probably with each of these entities covering certain aspects of the system.



Horsekeeping

Restrain your horse- safely ... By Mandy Lorraine

Safe and effective restraint is a matter of mind over muscle.

Let's face it: sometimes you (or your vet or farrier) simply must perform procedures that your horse doesn't like - and won't stand still for unless restrained. Knowing your options for restraint, how a method works, and when each is appropriate, can help you, your helper, *and* your horse avoid panic-induced injury.

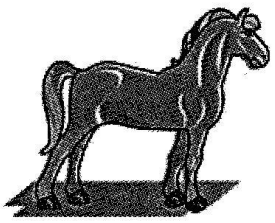
Here are six methods of restraint to help make your horsekeeping safer.

1. For a short, simple procedure (an injection is one example) to be performed on a calm, quiet horse, tap between his eyes with your fingers or knuckles. THe feel and sound of the tapping diverts the horse's attention, taking his mind off what's happening.

2. To gain more control when assisting someone who's giving a shot, examining a wound, etc. distract yout horse by grabbing a handful of skin on one side of his neck (be careful if your fingernails are long). This method's effectiveness wears off after two or three repetitions in a short time span.

3. For a slightly longer procedure, such as palpation or shoeing (or if your horse is misbehaving), use a 30-inch chain over his nose to help enforce your spoken "Whoa." Attach your lead shank to the chain, and run the chain through the halter's near (left)lower ring, over the noseband, out through the far lower ring, and snap it to the upper ring on that side- snapping it to the far lower ring would cause the noseband to twist when you exerted pressure on the shank. Don't use steady pressure on the chain; you'll invite a fight. Instead, give the chain a few short tugs to let your horse know it's there. When he behaves, release immediately as a reward.

4. To steady your horse for an extended procedure, such as suturing a wound, use a twitch to apply distracting pressure to his upper lip. Research has shown that twitching a horse often causes his brain to release *endorphins*, narcotic-like substances that block pain. Choose a twitch with roughly three feet of handle-enough to hang onto should the horse strike or rear (a flying twitch can he lethal), Stay at your



horse's left side, holding the twirch handle and the halter shank in your right hand. Thread the first three fingers and thumb of your left hand through the twitch's loop (your little finger will keep it from slipping up your arm), then grasp your horse's upper lip ...

5. ... and begin twitching the twitch handle with your right hand, continuing until the chain (or cord) is snug. Keep the twirch handle fairly perpendicular to the ground-pulling it out at a 90 degree angle to his nose would cause your horse pain, and may elicit a violent reaction. Don't leave the twitch on longer than 20 minutes-and, whenever possible, loosen tia little during the procedure to allow some blood flow, After removing it, rub your horse's nose to restore circulation.

6. When you're working alone and need both hands for a procedure, consider a pliers-like metal twitch. Its handles may be secured with a cord that snaps to your horse's halter, freeing up your hands so you can, for example, clip your horse's ears. However, this type of twitch is more difficult to release in anemergency-if your horse panics, he may not let you get near his head to unsnap the cord.

7. When you need to treat a touchy area, such as your horse's eye, or if your horse won't accept a twitch, you can get a strong measure of control from a lip chain. This method of restraint works by exerting pressure on a horse's sensitive upper gum. One plus is that you can reward good behavior instantly by lessening your pressure on the shank.

To attach a lip chain, follow the direction in Step 3, but run the chain under your horse's chin rather than over his nose. Then, holding the free end of the lead in your right hand to steady your horse's head, use your left hand to grasp the portion of chain under his chin, gently placing it over his upper gum. Tighten the shank as you withdraw your hand, keeping just enough pressure on the chain to hold it in place until you need to reprimand your horse with firmer pressure. Never Jerk on a lip chain-your horse might rear.

Vital Signs ...

Knowing how to detect streee in your horse could save his life ... By Karen Paulo

Knowing how to evaluate your horse's condition is essential. His welfare is in your hands. It is your responsibility to know when he has had too much work and when you need to call for assistance. By paying attention to your horse's vital signs, as well as his attitude and impulsion, you can read your horse like a book.

Pulse ... A horse with poor pulse recoveries is probably not just simply tired, but could be experiencing fatigue or metabolic problems that may require veterinary attention. It is, therefore, very important for you to know how to take his pulse. The easiest way is with a heart monitor, which you can use in or out of the saddle. Heart monitors are expensive, but definitely wirth their cost. A cheaper, more practical instrument is the stethoscope, which can be purchased from your veterinarian or any medical outlet. When you take your horse's pulse with a stethoscope, place itbehind the left elbow, listen closely, and adjust the position of the instrument until you get the clearest sound. You should hear a resounding "lub-dub." Using a watch with a second hand and counting each "lub-dub" sound as one beat (not two), count 15 seconds. Multiply this count by four and you will get the number of beats per minute (bpm). If, for example, you count 12 beats in a 15-second period, your horse has a pulse rate of 48 bpm. Counting for less than 15 seconds is likely to produce an inaccurate reading.

You can also take your horse's pulse with your fingertips by seeking out the arteries under his jaw, inside his knee, under his tail about five inches from the top or inside his pastern. Once the pulse is found, count beats as described above. If your horses move around, it may be difficult to obtain an accurate reading using this method.

The resting pulse of your horse should be recorded daily so that you can learn what is normal for him. Be sure the count is taken in a familiar environment when he is calm and undisturbed. The normal resting pulse is usually between 32 and 44, depending on the horse and his condition. A lower resting pulse is usually found in well-conditioned horses, some of which may even have pulse rates in the upper 20's.

Your horse's pulse rate should drop rapidly when he is slowed from a lope or trot down to a walk. In a veterinarian check during trail riding competition, his pulse should drop of to 60 within 10 minutes of arrival and you should aim for this same pulse rate when you do a mock veterinarian check during conditioning. If this pulse wanders up and down and doesn't stabilize wasily, fatigue is probably beginning to set in.

Respiration ... Respiration is another sign that is easily monitored. A horse's average resting respiration is between 8 and 20 breaths per minutes. With hard exercise, it can sky-rocket to over 100. If the horse is hot, he takes rapid, shallow breaths in order to dissipate the heat. This is normal and is interspersed with large, deep breaths to satisfy his need for oxygen. The only time for concern is when the horse's respiration becomes labored, irregular, or when it remains higher than his pulse.

The most accurate way to find your horse's respiration rate is to place your hand on his side, near the flank. Then slide your hand along his side, stopping where you can most easily feel him expand with each breath. The sliding motion prevents you from alarming or tickling your horse, which could happen if you placed your hand against his lower side too suddenly. Count each in-and-out as one (not two). Count for 15 seconds and again multiply by four to get your minute count. A very fit horse takes long, slow breaths; you may have to count for the whole 60 seconds to accurately determine his resting respiration rate.

There are other, less accurate methods of taking the horse's respiration. Some riders simply watch the motion of his flanks or his nostrils, counting the number of in-and-outs for a minute. Others place their hands up to the horse's nose, counting the blows of hot air that meet their hands. Since most horses tend to sniff your hand, this method of reading may not reflect the true respiration rate.

Dehydration ... In addition to pulse and respiration, there are other indicators of your horse's condition that should be monitored regularly. It is important to check his hydration. A dehydrated horse simply cannot function and can be threated by a metabolic disorder. In order to check your horse's hydration, tak e a pinch of skin on his neck, or point of shoulder, then left it go. His skin is normally very elastic and will snap back into place like a rubber band. But if your horse is dehydrated, his skin fold stays up at first, then sinks very slowly back into place. Count the seconds it takes for the skin to fall back. If it stays up there for three seconds, you know your horse is quite dehydrated. Heneeds to be offered water and should not be ridden until his condition improves.

Sweat ... A hot horse normally sweats as a natural means of cooling itself. If your horse is hot but not sweating, chances are he is, or will become, dehydrated; so always be alert to this symptom. He should sweat clean, clear liquid. The sweat should not be yellow, white or sticky; all signs that his system is not working properly to cool him and that you need to take action, such as cooling him with water or supplementing him with electrolytes.

Mucous Membranes & Capillary Refill Time ... Your horse's mucous membranes (gums and inner eyelids) reveal a great deal about his condition. Both should be light pink. If gums are muddy or blue, it indicates a lack of oxygen due to fatigue or even worse shock. When the inner eyelids become red, it is an indication of blood congestion, still another sign of fatigue.

His capillary refill time (CRT) is another means of evaluating tiredness and dehydration. Place your thumb firmly against your horse's gum for two seconds, then remove it. In a normal, healthy horse, the body fluids rush back into place in one or two seconds, returning all color to the whitish area that was left by your thumb pressure. A horse low in body fluids has a slow CRT, three seconds or more.

Gut Sounds ... Gut sounds are also a measure of your horse's well being. A healthy, resting individual has lots of bubbling and gurgling noises that can be easily heard through a stethoscope or just by placing your ear against the horses's flank. If a horse is overstressed, these sounds may be absent, because much of his blood supply is diverted to his brain, heart and lungs, where it is needed more at that moment. If this happens, the horse has no hunger and often has colic. It is a sign the horse needs rest. You may also let him have a few nibbles of wet feed or grass until he recovers. It is important not to over feed a horse who has no gut sounds.

Urine & Feces ... Distance riders are a rare equestrian group because they are so highly concerned with the quality and quantity of their horse's urine and feces. While it may appear strange to see a rider watching a horse urnate and saying "Looks good," the fact is the rider is simply evaluating he horse's condition. On a ride of 50 to 100 miles in hot weather, the horse's urine often becomes a stronger yellow as it becomes more concentrated. This is normal. But orange, or worse yet brown, or else very little urine may also signal the following: dehydration, fatigue, tying up, or all three. Urine that continues to be clear yellow and plentiful assures the rider that his horse is not being unduly stressed.

The horse's feces should not become watery, nor should they contain mucus; these systoms usually indicate tiredness and stress. On the other hand, if the feces are very hard and dry, your horse is probably not taking in enough water.

Smell ... A healthy horse doesn't smell bad, even when your nose is right next to his skin. If your horse's skin or sweat smells unpleasant, he is probably ill. Abnormal smelling urine may indicate he has a problem with his kidneys and foul smelling feces can be the result of problems with his stomach bacteria. Bad breath also indicates a stomach problem, though it could be caused by a rotting tooth.

Stride ... Riders who know how to read their horses can often detect subtle changes by paying attention to the rhythm and length of their stride. Unevenness and a shortened stride can signal muscle fatigue, the onset of lameness or tying up. Do not make this observation when your horse is picking his way over rocky terrain, where he is very likely to be uneven. Any changes in his impulsion or strength within his stride may also indicate fatigue. Sometimes this is stiffness that can be remedied by changing your pace. If you've been trotting, a brief canter can actually limber up the horse since he'll be using different muscles. If your horse is still stiff after this short canter, then it is advisable to get off and walk him.

By reading your horse well, you can evaluate all the data that his body is giving you and decide how he should be trained and ridden. There are countless ways to monitor your horse. These come with experience. I have mentioned only the more common methods. Eventually, you should come to know your horse as well as you know yourself.

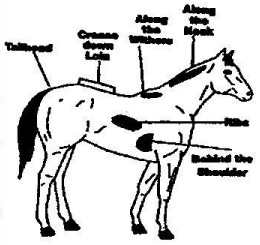
Determining the Henneke Score

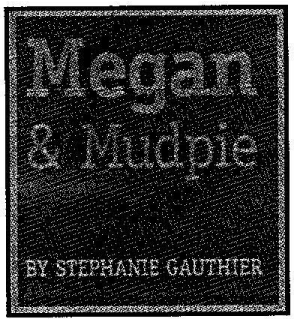
This is a repeat from our last issue due to importance of recoginizing horses who may need help.

The Henneke scoring method was developed by Dr. Don Henneke and is used to rate the body fat deposition in various places on a horse's body. The method uses a scale with a range from 1 (extremely emaciated) to 9 (extremely fat). The accepted "norm" score on the Henneke scale for a horse is 5. The numbered scale replaces previous methods that used vague terms such as Good, Poor, Fair or Bad. The numberes scale described in the table below provides a uniform method of scoring the condition of horses across all breads. This is a much fairer result than an individual's interpretation of the health of a horse using vague terms.

CONDITION	NECK	WITHERS	LOIN	TAILHEAD	RIBS	SHOULDER
1 POOR	Bone structure easily visible	Bone structure easily visible	Spinious Processors Project Prominently	Tailhead (pinboines) And hook bones Projecting prominently	Ribs projecting prominently	Bone structure easily noticeable
2 VERY THIN	Faintly discernible	Faintly discernible	Slight fat covering over base of spinous processes. Transverse processes of lumbar vertebrae feel rounded. Spinous processes are prominent.	Tailhead prominent	Ribs prominent	Faintly discernible
3 THIN	Neck accentuated	Withers accentuated	Fat buildup halfway on spinous processes but easily discernible. Transverse processes cannot be felt.	Tailhead prominent but individual vertebrae cannot be visually identified. Hook bones appear rounded but are still easily discernible. Pin bones not distinguishable.	Slight fat cover over ribs. Ribs easily discernible.	Shoulder accentuated.
4 MODERATELY THIN	Neck not obviously thin.	Withers not obviously thin.	Negative crease along back.	Prominence depends on conformation, fat can be felt. Hook bones not discernible.	Faint outline discernible.	Shoulder not obviously thin.
5 MODERATE	Neck blends smoothly into body.	Withers rounded over spinous processes.	Back Level	Fat around tailhead beginning to feel spongy.	Ribs cannot be visually distinguished but can be easily felt.	Shoulder blends smoothly into body.
6 MODERATELY FLESHY	Fat beginning to be deposited.	Fat beginning to be deposited.	May have slight positive crease down back.	Fat around tailhead feels soft.	Fat over ribs feels spongy.	Fat beginning to be deposited.
7 FLESHY	Fat deposited along neck.	Fat deposited along withers.	May have positive crease down back.	Fat around tailhead is soft.	Individual ribs can be felt, but noticeable filling between ribs with fat.	Fat deposited behind shoulder
8 FAT	Noticeable thickening of neck.	Area along withers filled with fat.	Positive crease down back.	Tailhead fat very soft.	Difficult to feel ribs.	Area behind shoulder filled in flush with body.
9 EXTREMELY FAT	Bulging Fat.	Bulging fat.	Obvious positive crease down back.	Building fat around tailhead.	Pauncby fat appearing over ribs.	Bulging fat.

As mentioned the table provides information that can be used to grade a horses condition.





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