



## OLDER HORSES AND THEIR CARE

Now that we have done research on the care and feeding of older horses, our equine friends are living longer and longer. Older horses will grow a longer hair coat than others and will keep it longer into the spring. They need to have their teeth checked so that everything they eat can be ground up properly to help them get all the nutrients they need. A person who has a special job of just working on a horse's teeth is called an Equine Dentist. When the dentist or veterinarian comes to the barn to work on teeth the process is called "floating". What they will do is file down teeth that have worn unevenly or may have pieces sticking out. It should not hurt the horse if this done every year, but sometimes if a horse has had a bad experience they may not like the visit. Just like people who don't like to visit the dentist.

Some older horses have worn their teeth down over the years. They may need to have special feed that is softer to chew. And their mouth produces less saliva so dry foods may be hard to swallow. Imagine eating six crackers and trying to swallow without taking a drink of water? Older horses will need plenty of water to help them. Alfalfa cubes or beet pulp can be soaked in water and fed in buckets. They are easy to chew and swallow and can provide a good source of roughage to help with digestion. Each horse can eat up to two pounds of this "wet food" at each meal. Horses do better if they are fed 2-3 times a day if they cannot be out munching on grass all day.

Fresh air is always best to help our old friends stay healthy. Horses that have to spend many hours indoors may catch colds and viruses in the stale air. They will have a hard time staying well if they don't have fresh air to breathe. If go into the barn and it is very smelly and you don't like to be there, then your horse will not like it either. Make sure to clean your horse's stall on a regular basis and provide turn out for them if they live in a box stall so that they can smell the fresh spring air!

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Purpose of CHA: To promote excellence in safety and education internationally for the benefit of the horse industry.



## Horse Connection Reward Winners for 2007!

Holly is 15 years old and helps her mother teach riding lessons and do summer camps for kids on their property. She loves to go trail riding and jump her Welsh pony and do dressage on her Thoroughbred. She found out about TEAM CHA through her mother and got most of her hours by feeding the horses every day and helping with the lessons and camps. Holly wants to go to a college that has an equestrian team and wants to teach riding lessons. "The TEAM CHA Horse Connection Rewards program was a great way to look back at a whole year and see how the hours working with horses really add up," says Holly. "I am excited to be a part of it and very happy."

Holly will receive a model horse from the Stone Company, great CHA merchandise and a plaque.

*Congratulations to our winner – Holly Shea Sayre of Churchville, Virginia!*

**Thank you to Stone Horses and Blaze Magazine for providing awards for the Horse Connection Reward Program for TEAM CHA youth members!**

## WINNERS:

Thank you to everyone who turned in hours for working with and learning about horses last year. We have the results and the winners are...

## TOP 5:



Holly Shea Sayre of Churchville, VA with 631 hours (pictured above)

Evangeline Windmill of Coldstream, BC with 520.5 hours

Jennifer Finley of Dayton, OH with 382.5 hours

Katherine Swann of Willard, MO with 290 hours

Tiffany Couture of Colchester, VT with 269 hours

# scrambles

## WORD SCRAMBLE

The English language is a funny thing. Sometimes the same word will have different meanings. Read the following sentences and circle the word or part of a word that names a part of a saddle. For example "I don't want to saddle you with any more chores around the barn." You would circle the word "saddle" and in this case it is used as a verb meaning, I don't want to "give" you more chores around the barn. Good luck learning more about language!

- The pelican lifted his head and the fish slid down his gullet.
- The baker pummeled the bread dough after it began to rise.
- "Sit down in your seat please", the teacher said to the boy.
- Did you know that the right front fender of your car has a dent?
- Let's not skirt the issue about wearing a helmet.
- That fleece jacket looks good on you.
- Those little foals tug at the strings of my heart.
- That horse tries to stir up trouble at the barn.
- (This one is a stretch)
- It will be a cinch for you to win a ribbon in this class.
- Sound your horn so people will move out of your way.
- We had a swell time at the horse show last weekend.
- A cantle of fence fell off when the tractor hit it.
- (A hint about this last sentence, a cantle can mean a part cut off or out of something)

## CAREER NAME SCRAMBLE

Unscramble the words below and match them to a career with horses.

YEATTRON

TANTCCOUNA

MRAF ERITTS

ENEGTSICIT

PRACTROROIHC

NBBOIR/YPHTRO DIGNEERD

REHSIBLUP

REPPIWH NI

**Whipper In** – handles control and direction of dogs during a fox hunt

**Ribbon / Trophy Designer** – designs and creates ribbons and trophies

**Publisher** – publishes books and magazines

**Chiropractor** – adjusts horse skeletons to relieve pain and correct problems.

**Geneticist** – studies equine genetics

**Farm Sitter** – takes care of the farm when the owners are away

**Accountant** – Takes care of the monies for the farm business.

**Attorney** – specializes in equine law

# horse breeds



## What is A Horse Breed?

All horses are members of the Family Equus. The term "Breed" describes a group of animals who share specific characteristics such as body type, coat color and so on. Each breed has a common ancestor, so they have a similar genetic makeup. A person who studies these traits that are passed on to other horses is called a "Geneticist". There are natural and artificial breeds.

A natural breed are animals that have changed through natural selection, they have developed traits that help them survive where they live. For example a Pottock pony will grow long whiskers on its top lip to protect them from the prickly plants they live off of in the winter.

An artificial breed has been developed by man for different jobs, such as racing, jumping or work in the show ring. Many horse and pony breeds have been crossed with other types to produce animals for both driving and riding. The Halflinger pony breed is shown both under saddle and pulling a cart.

Breed societies keep stud books to make sure to regulate the blood line. A stud is a male horse that has not been fixed, and they pass along many of their traits to their offspring. These stud books keep records of size, conformation (which means how a horse is put together) action (how the horse moves) and sometimes color.

There are also different "Blood types" to classify horses, they are said to be hot, cold or warm. Examples of hot blooded horses are an Arabian or a Thoroughbred. They tend to have high energy and thin skin and coats. The cold blooded horse came from Northern Europe and looks like the heavy draft breeds, such as the Belgium. They are big and strong with an easy going personality. The Warm blooded horses are a cross between these two. An example would be the Trakehner.

So many of the horse breeds we work with today have been bred to do specific jobs over the years. If you would like to learn to jump fences then it would be a good idea to do some homework and find a horse that has been bred for this job.



## BRABANT

This is a very old breed which is sometimes called the Belgium Heavy Draft. They would be considered a cold blooded type of horse. It is thought to have influenced many other breeds of Draft horses, such as the development of the English breeds – the Shire, Clydesdale and Suffolk Punch. They are one of the heaviest draft

## BREED SPOTLIGHT

horses and are very strong, hard working and easy going. They have some feathering on their legs and can be chestnut or red roan in color and can stand up to 17 hands high. The Brabant worked a lot in Europe and many were brought to the United States to work pulling carts and working on farms. After World War II machines took over the work on the farms and in the cities so there are not as many of these horses as there used to be.

## How Much Do You Know About Horse Breeds

Match the name of the breed to the description listed on the right

**CLYDESDALE**

**MUSTANG**

**ICELANDIC PONY**

**HAFLINGER PONY**

**CONNEMARA PONY**

**BASHKIR**

**CHINCOTEAGUE PONY**

**PERCHERON**

**APPALOOSA**

**MULE**

Have a coat that is curly and a wavy mane and tail

Came from the village of Hafling in Austria

What you get when you cross a donkey and a horse

These come from an island called Chincoteague off the coast of Virginia in the US.

Their name came from the Palouse River

These are America's wild horses

These horses are known as a cold blooded breed

The country of Iceland has this breed

This horse came from the La Perche district of Northern France

This pony can be found in the country of Ireland