

# 2014

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## Breeds of Horses

➤ Just like people, horses come in all shapes and sizes. Some horses are lean and fast. Some are big and strong. Some are tiny. The things that make horses different from one another are called characteristics.

➤ Horses that share the same characteristics are called breeds. There are over 350 different breeds of horses. That's a lot of horses!

➤ Who Knew? If you lined up 350 horses nose to tail you'd have to walk half a mile to count them all.

➤ Breeds are divided into 4 groups:

**Light** – these are the speedy breeds that take people for rides. Light horses have small bones that make them nimble and quick. Most weigh less than 1,300 pounds. Popular riding breeds include: Thoroughbreds, Morgans and Arabians.

**Draft** – these burly breeds are strong and hearty. They have large bones and sturdy legs. Drafts are good at heavy work. Popular Draft breeds include Percherons, Clydesdales and Shires.

**Ponies** – these horses make people say “Aww.” Most ponies are only 57 inches tall. But don't let their size fool you. Ponies are hearty and strong. Some Ponies breeds include Shetlands, Haflingers and Cobs.

**Feral** – these horses are the tough kids of the horse world. Feral horses don't live in stables or get ridden. These horses are wild! They roam free in groups called bands. Many times these horses had grandparents who escaped from their owners.



Don't forget that CHA has some great items for sale at [www.CHA-ahse.org](http://www.CHA-ahse.org) and your TEAM CHA membership gets you the CHA member discount! Many great books and videos are available that promote enjoying horses safely, effectively and having fun with them!

# teamCHA RULES!



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

Meet Your 2013 TEAM CHA Horse Connection Rewards Champion:

**ABIGAIL MARTIN**  
from Brighton, Colo!



As long as I can remember I have had an interest in horses, but my parents assumed it was just a passing phase; so they didn't take me too seriously. After a lot of persistence they finally agreed on my 12th birthday for me to volunteer over the summer at Promenade Horsemanship Academy. Now, almost 2 years later, and thanks to Ms. Kim, the owner and CHA certified instructor, at Promenade, I ride on the drill team, teach beginner private lessons, assist in horse training, and of course clean horse pens! Kim's instruction in Natural Horsemanship is amazing and I have learned so much from her in the short period of time I have been there. I also now own my very own horse, Buddy and

have been performing with him.

I hope to attend Meredith Manor, an international equestrian centre, located in West Virginia when I graduate in 4 years. I aspire to be like Ms. Kim and own my own stable, train horses, and teach people Natural Horsemanship techniques. I also really enjoy riding and performing with my drill team and hope as I get older I am able to continue that. My team just performed at Rocky Mt. Horse Expo and it was definitely worth all the work we put in to it.

**Congratulations to 2013 Horse Connection Reward Winners!**

**Top Five Champions:**

1st Place –  
Abigail Martin from Brighton, Colorado

2nd Place –  
Sylvie Haywood of Allendale, Michigan

3rd Place –  
Charity Logemann of Turlock, California

4th Place –  
Sunshine Davies of Bulverde, Texas

5th Place –  
Becca Millage of Valley, Washington

Make sure to contact us at [office@CHA-ahse.org](mailto:office@CHA-ahse.org) or call Terri at 859-259-3399 to enroll for 2014. No cost to enroll in the Horse Connection Rewards Program. It is not too late to earn points for great year end prizes TEAM CHA members!

RIDE ON!

# did you know?

## Horses in History



Calling someone a Redskin or an Indian is not very nice these days. People whose ancestors were here before Christopher Columbus discovered America; prefer to be called either Native Americans or American Indians. The Native American tribes in the western United States had their lives changed dramatically when the Spanish Conquistadors brought the domesticated horse to America.

These Spanish men left behind their horses who were then used by the American Indian tribes.

These horses helped change the way Native Americans provided food by helping to catch and kill buffalo more easily. Now travel was easier with the horse, women who were in charge of packing up all the belongings and moving following the buffalo herds, could pack a horse instead of a dog. Before the horse, dogs were the only animals Native Americans used to help with the hauling of goods. Dogs had to be fed meat to survive which also put a strain on the family food stores. Horses can live off the land and eat grass, which no person ate, so there was no competition for food.

Horses for Native Americans years ago were a symbol of power, spirituality and wealth. They provided a means to travel and trade with settlers for goods not made by the Native Americans such as iron pot and pans, mirrors and guns. These basic necessities improved the quality of their lives. Horses today are still given as gifts for wedding presents and are included in some of the pictures from wedding ceremonies.

Some Native American tribes are continuing with the old traditions and are horse owners who participate in races, ceremonies and events to honor the horse. The horses have colorful costumes just like their American Indian princesses who ride them in parades, rodeos and pow-wows. Some horses have masks that are worn for funerals or parades. These masks can be made out of animal hide, feathers, fur, and can have fancy beadwork sewn onto them. The March 2014 *National Geographic Magazine* has an article on the role of the horse in Native American culture, with great pictures. You should check it out. Your local library should have a copy or you can go to [www.NGM.com](http://www.NGM.com) and view the articles as well.

## Where Did They Come From?



Some of our breeds of horse used today came from "Old World" stock which means their ancestors came from Europe and were brought to America on ships. Many breeds we see today at competitions, fairs and rodeos trace back to these ancestors. Some of these breeds of horses the Native Americans used in the development of modern day animals.

The American Quarter horse, Appaloosa, and Saddlebreds were developed by different tribes around the country, which have origins to these old world breeds. The Quarter Horse has now come to be known as the first All American Breed. The Mustang, some of whom still run wild in the western states of America, got their name from the old Spanish word "mestengo" which means stray.

## Saddle Smarts:

**Question:** Do they make sneakers for horses?

**Answer:** No. They could never tie the laces.

**Who Knew?** Horseshoes are a good luck symbol. Some people believe you have to hang the horseshoes with the open end pointing up to hold all the good luck.

## VET CARE



**HORSE LAUGH:**  
What do you give a sick horse?

**Answer:**  
Cough stirrup!

Your horse's health is your responsibility. Next to his owner, a horse's doctor is his most important relationship. A horse doctor is known as a DVM or Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, often just shortened to "vet."

Vets do many things for a horse. They help horses when they are having babies. Vets visit horses when they have problems with their stomachs, coats or hooves. When they figure out the problem, the vet will give your horse medicine or perform surgery when the problem is serious.

**Who Knew?** Horses can't throw up! If you've ever thrown up, you might think this is good. It's not. It is actually really bad. It leads to Colic and other stomach problems.

**Horse Talk:** Colic is when a horse has trouble digesting his food. It hurts a lot.

Vets also take care of a horse's teeth. Horse teeth are a lot like human teeth except a horse's teeth never stop growing! By the time a horse is five years of age, it will have between 36 and 44 teeth.

**Horse Talk:** Floating is the term for filing sharp edges off a horse's teeth. Most horses have this done once a year to keep teeth healthy.

## This Is a Hairy Situation



Never wear a fleece coat or vest to the barn in the spring! Why, You ask? Because with the increase in light, the days get longer and this in turn triggers the horse to start to shedding their winter coat. As you brush and brush all this hair will stick to you, your clothes, brushes, and blankets. Horses need to get rid of all this unwanted hair other wise they will be much too hot in the summer. This winter hair is thicker and denser than the summer hair. Just like you, they need to put get rid of their winter coat when the weather gets warm. Most horses shed this hair gradually according to their own schedule. If a horse is holding its coat longer than normal, and they have those long "cat like" hair under their belly or chin they may be developing Cushing's disease. This disease can be treated with special diets and medications. As with any change in your horse's health make notes and consult your veterinarian.

## HORSESHOES



The ground is hard, rough, prickly, wet, cold, and hot and sometimes it has poop on it. All of those things can wear down or cause a cut in a horse's hoof. Cuts often lead to infections. To help protect their feet, some horses wear shoes.

Horseshoes come in all different materials and sizes. The most common is steel. Steel is hard and strong. This is the perfect shoe for horses that perform in rodeos and compete in jumping events. Racehorses are usually fitted with aluminum shoes. Aluminum is a lighter metal. Some parade and police horses actually have rubber on their shoes to keep from slipping on busy streets.

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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PARADE	BUFFALO
QUARTER	CONQUIS-TADOR
RODEO	EUROPE
SADDLEBRED	HORSE
SHIP	INDIAN
SPANISH	MUSTANG
WORLD APPALOOSA	NATIVE
BREED	OLD