

Equine Health Solutions

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General Horse Care Recommendations

1. Basic Care
 - Daily inspection of your whole horse
 - Clean out the feet daily
 - Trim hooves every 6 – 8 weeks, reset shoes every 5 – 6 weeks
 - Evaluate normal urinations and bowel movements
2. Nutrition
 - Give fresh water daily, 3 – 8 gallons
 - Horses consume 2% – 2.5% of their body weight/day, most of this should be a roughage
 - Feed good quality grass hay
 - Add grain to the diet as needed for the age of the horse, athletic calorie demands and balancing crude protein, vitamins, and minerals
 - Supply free choice white salt block and trace mineral salt block.
3. General Health
 - Vaccinate for Eastern and Western Encephalomyelitis(sleeping sickness), Tetanus Toxiod, West Nile Virus, Rabies once a year, Rhinopneumonitis and Influenza twice a year, and Strangles as dictated by your environment
 - Quantitative fecal analysis 1 – 2x a year, deworm as needed, one to six times a year depending on fecal eggs per gram measurement and management
 - Annual examination, including dental exam and floating teeth as needed
 - Body score 5 on a scale of 1-9 – Moderate – Back is flat, ribs not visually distinguishable just barely see last rib, fat around tail head beginning to feel spongy, withers appear rounded over spinous processes, shoulder and neck blend smoothly into body
 - Have a first aid kit with emergency numbers posted in kit
4. Housing
 - Post emergency phone numbers for Equine Health Solutions, a back-up veterinarian and someone to haul horse if you do not have a trailer
 - Stall or shelter from wind &/or precipitation
 - Turn out as much as possible, may use a dry paddock for weight control on pastured horses as needed
 - Manure management – clean stalls 1 – 2 times a day, clean paddocks or dry lots twice a week, do not spread manure on fields that are grazed by horses, compost manure away from pasture
 - Mow and harrow pastures in timely fashion so nature will kill parasites
 - Pastures should not be mowed to a height less then 6 inches
 - Keep foals and weanlings away from yearlings
 - Use a feeder for hay & grain rather than feeding on the ground
 - General stocking guidelines is 1 horse/2 acres