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Gordon Jamison (L) of Jamison Herefords & Quarter Horses in Quinter, Kansas visits with Merle High.

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Jess Johnson

What's in Your Horse Barn?

WR asked some top ranch and performance horse breeders for a tool kit checklist

Every horse owner keeps useful things on hand in the barn or tack room, for basic horse care. Here's what several well-known horse breeders keep on hand.

ANGEL RANCH

Terry and Jackie Angel (Riverton, Wyoming) raise registered Quarter Horses and Angus cattle. "In our

vet room, we keep dexamethasone, and also Rompun or Dormosedan if we need to sedate a horse, and Banamine," Terry says.

"For antibiotics, we keep EXCEDE (approved for bovine and equine). I like it for horses because it lasts four days. You don't have to keep giving them a shot every day. We keep needles and syringes of various sizes (for foals or adult horses) and nitrofurazone."

Bandaging material for emergencies includes cast padding and 4-inch

gauze pads, roll cotton, Vetrap, etc. “We also keep protective gloves on hand. Other supplies include Nolvasan (a good general disinfectant). Another thing I keep on hand, because it’s sometimes hard to find in bulk, is Neosporin,” Terry says.

“I also keep a product called Proudsoff (proud flesh ointment). If a wound starts to develop proud flesh, you can put this on and it will shrink it and let it heal,” he says.

Iodine is always in the vet room. “I use it more for cattle, but sometimes for horses, depending on the situation. Another thing we keep on hand is Uniprim, an oral sulfa powder you can sprinkle on feed if they have an infection,” Terry says.

Oxytocin is kept on hand for foaling if a mare has trouble cleaning. “I also have a Merck Veterinary Manual as a reference. We also keep scalpels, and I have a vet box with all kinds of things in it. If I need something in a hurry I just grab that box.”

Epsom salts are handy for soaking a foot or leg. “In those situations, I make a soak boot, a homemade deal created from cast padding, vet wrap, and duct tape. I’ve done it enough with the vet that I know how to create one,” Terry says.

In the barn, he has various sizes and lengths of ropes. “We have big, soft cotton ropes for scotch hobbling. We also keep nose bags, flags, etc. We rarely use a twitch or anything for restraint. If I need something like that, I just use a couple of pieces of wood with a string between them so you can pinch them down and create a bit of pressure, but most of the time I just do a neck twitch (skin twitch) and simply pinch and twist the skin.” Most of their horses don’t need much restraint because they are easy to handle.

“A cabinet in the barn has curry combs, brushes, fly spray, body wash,



Terry and Jackie Angel, Riverton, Wyoming, raise registered Quarter Horses and Angus cattle.

clippers, and all kinds of things like that. In the barn itself we have shovels, rakes, forks and all the necessary tools, and hot water,” Terry says. “We use Zesterra mineral for the horses, and some feed supplements, but not much. We mainly just feed oats. We also have feed bags and hay nets we use if we are hauling horses somewhere.”

SUNSHINE RANCH

John and Candy Balkenbush (Conrad, Montana) raise cattle as well as Hancock and Driftwood-bred Quarter Horses for ranch work and pleasure riding. Regarding horse care and health, Candy says they keep basic things on hand for first aid and vaccinations. “We always keep some Banamine or Bute, for things like

colic or injury, but if we have any major issues, we have a really good vet in Great Falls who specializes in horses and we haul the horse to him,” Candy says.

“For first aid here, we always keep Vetrap, gauze — everything we need for bandages—and Vetericyn to treat a wound. Sometimes we have to soak a foot and keep Epsom salts for that, and medication for minor cuts and scrapes,” she says. They keep basic first-aid supplies in the tack room and the trailer.

“We do our own vaccinations and deworming, and take care of most things ourselves, because we have too many horses and broodmares to haul to a vet. We don’t use twitches or lip chains. Our philosophy is to handle them correctly from the time they