

Horse Care Guidelines

Traci Hulse, DVM



Hoof Care:

- Adult horse: Hooves trimmed by farrier every 8 weeks (average)
- Foals: up to 6 months: Hooves trimmed every 3-6 weeks

Feeding:

- Horses need 1-2% of body weight in feed to maintain weight- split into at least 2 feedings per day
- Average adult horse (1000 lbs): 10-20 lbs of food daily. The low end amount for "easy keepers", overweight horses, and pasture pets. The high end amount is for "hard keepers"... thinner horses, horses in work.
- Most or all of feed should be in form of fiber (hay, hay pellets) or possibly a complete feed like Equine Senior or Equine Adult. We recommend at least 50% of hay being grass hay unless otherwise directed by your veterinarian.
- If horse needs more calories for weight gain, pregnancy or hard work- supplemental feed can be added to hay (beet pulp, equine senior active, Ultium, rice bran, Strategy, etc.)
- If your horse needs gain or lose weight- you calculate the weight you want your horse to be and feed it according to that weight.
- Ex. You have a 1200 lb horse and he is 200 lbs overweight. He is currently being fed 24 lbs feed daily. You would reduce feed to 20 lbs per day initially.

Deworming:

We can run fecal egg counts for a more specific deworming schedule for your horse. (fresh manure sample- 1-2 fecal balls put in ziploc bag - kept in fridge until you can bring it in).

Foals: should be dewormed every 6-8 weeks with a paste starting at 6-8 weeks old for the first year of their life. We recommend Panacur, fenbendazole or oxybendazole dewormers which can be purchased through us or a feed store. Be sure to deworm according to your foal's weight.

Young horses > 1 yr and adult horses:

Deworm every 2-3 months with Ivermectin or every 3 months with moxidectin (Quest). Horses should be dewormed at least once a year with a combination dewormer for tapeworms (ivermectin and praziquantel ex. Zimectrin Gold , Equimax, or moxidectin and praziquantel ex. Quest Plus)

Vaccinations:

If your horse is ridden a lot, travels, or is exposed to a lot of other horses: We recommend twice a year vaccination program.

If your horse stays in one property, doesn't travel, doesn't compete, or not exposed to a lot of new horses then once a year vaccines are adequate.

Foals:

1st vaccines at 4-5months old- these vaccines should be boosted 4-6 weeks later.

We recommend Eastern & Western Encephalitis, tetanus toxoid, Influenza, Rhinopneumonitis and West Nile Vaccines. Rabies.

- This combo is called the "Core Vaccine" plus Flu/Rhino. The Strangles vaccine is optional.

There are many vaccines which are combination vaccines (3-way, 4-way, 6-way, etc)... please read label).

Vaccines should be administered in the muscle only- we recommend the neck or back legs/ buttocks area.

Adult horses:

Annual / Core vaccines: Tetanus, West Nile, Eastern and Western Encephalitis, Rabies

Twice a year vaccine : Influenza (flu), Rhinopneumonitis, Strangles (optional)

Pregnant Mares:

No vaccines for at least the first 45 days of pregnancy.

At 5, 7 and 9 months of pregnancy: Pregnant Mare Rhino vaccine (anti-abortion vaccine),

At 9-10 months of pregnancy: Eastern & Western Encephalitis, West Nile, Tetanus toxoid, Influenza vaccines

Dental Care:

Dr Hulse is a Certified Equine Dentist in both routine and advanced dentistry! She does all equines including miniatures, donkeys and mules

Dr Hulse recommends teeth floating starting at age 2-3 years old. Horses usually need teeth floating every 1-2 years. Average cost is \$165-185 per horse.

In Arizona:

We recommend not feeding off sand: This is the #1 cause of colic here.

Please use stall mats, shavings, old manure, feeders or pasture/grass to prevent sand ingestion. Free choice, clean water available at all times.