



SWINGIN' D SUPER Stars!

Owners' Challenge

www.swingindhorserescue.com

Horse ownership is not for the weak, financially strapped or faint of heart. Horses require daily attention and care. No owner is perfect, but the ones who meet the following essential needs are on their way to becoming superstars!

FRIENDSHIP



Horses are herd animals. They do best when they can socialize with other horses; but when it's not possible for an owner to have more than one horse, a goat, dog or cat can make nice company.

FENCING & SHELTER

Fencing is expensive. Horse-safe fencing is even more expensive. No one expects you to overhaul all your fences today, but as you're able, replace barbed wire, mesh wire, thigh tensile wire and other horse-hazard fences with types that are horse safe.



Your vet should conduct an annual wellness exam, which will include vaccines appropriate to your area. At minimum: Rabies, Tetanus, EEE/WEE, West Nile, Influenza

HYDRATION

All living beings need hydration to survive. The average horse requires 5-10 gallons of water per day, based upon .5 to 1 gallon per 100 pounds. Water should be fresh and clean, and not from a pond or ditch.



In states like Oklahoma, where we enjoy all the elements of ice, rain, wind, sun and intense heat, it's important for horses to have at least a 3-sided shelter with a roof for protection.

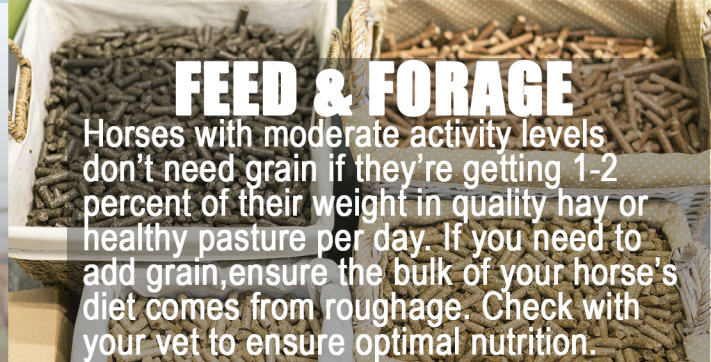
MOVEMENT



Horses are built for movement. In the wild, they cover several miles a day, which keeps them sleek and healthy. Domesticated horses do best with 24/7 turnout. When that's not possible, they need daily exercise to help with digestion, bone and joint health and mental sharpness.

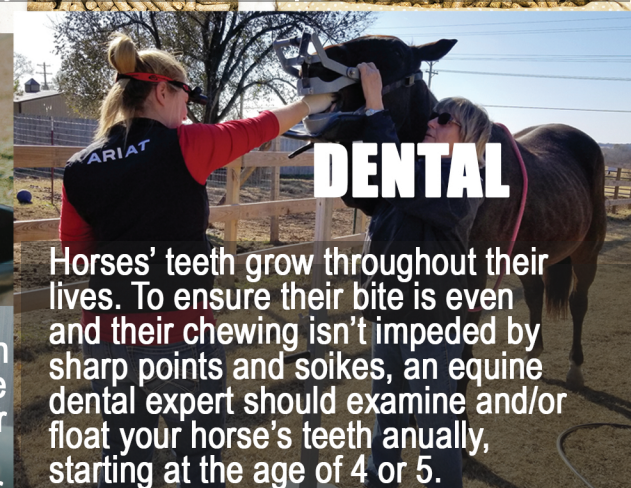
FEED & FORAGE

Horses with moderate activity levels don't need grain if they're getting 1-2 percent of their weight in quality hay or healthy pasture per day. If you need to add grain, ensure the bulk of your horse's diet comes from roughage. Check with your vet to ensure optimal nutrition.



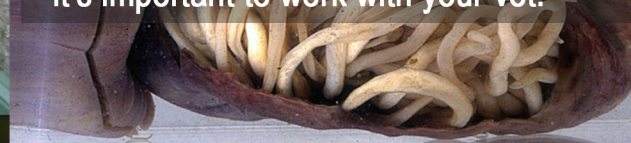
DENTAL

Horses' teeth grow throughout their lives. To ensure their bite is even and their chewing isn't impeded by sharp points and soikes, an equine dental expert should examine and/or float your horse's teeth annually, starting at the age of 4 or 5.



DE-WORMING

Horses can spread intestinal parasites when they drink or eat water, grain, hay or grass contaminated by eggs in the feces of an infested horse. Opinions vary about de-worming schedules, so it's important to work with your vet.



HOOF CARE

Horses' constantly-growing feet are the foundation of their good health. Out-of-balance feet can lead to serious issues - up to and including lameness and death. Hooves should be trimmed (in some cases shod) every 4 to 8 weeks, depending on the horse and its activity level.

