

4-H PEI VIRTUAL EQUINE PROJECT

KNOWLEDGE SAVENGER HUNT

This fun activity is to help you test your current equine knowledge as well as encourage you to learn new information about equine health, care, breeds, conformation, industry, etc. We encourage you to try to answer all the questions you can and then use various online resources to check your answers and/or complete any questions you were not able to answer.



Some possible online sources of online information:

4-H Alberta - Horse Reference Manual: <https://www.4h.ab.ca/downloads/documents/HorseReferenceManual2015.pdf>

NFACC Equine Code of Care: <https://www.nfacc.ca/codes-of-practice/equine>

The Horse Magazine: <https://thehorse.com/magazine/>

1. Describe 3 ways to control internal parasites (i.e. worms) in horses:

De-worming (recommended to have vet do a fecal test first).

Cleaning up manure regularly from paddocks and stabling.

Removing bot eggs from legs of horse.

2. There are 4 inches or 10 centimetres in one hand.

3. What are the following normal vital signs of the adult horse:

Temperature = 99-101°F; 37.2-38.3°C degrees Celsius / Fahrenheit (circle one) Temperature can vary between horses but each individual's temperature is normally pretty stable and it can be a good idea to take it a few times when the horse is well to know what is normal for them. It is slightly higher in foals.

Respiratory Rate = 8-16 breaths/minute. Can be higher in small ponies and foals.

Pulse = 30-44 beats/minute. It is slightly higher in small ponies and in foals.

4. About how many gallons of water should an average-size horse consume each day? 8-14

There are two main reasons why horses need so much water. Horses have a digestive system that requires lots of clean fresh water in order to function properly. Their naturally high fibre diet (grass, hay etc.) requires high levels of water to help keep the fibre moving through the digestive system. If horses have restricted access to water or have only poor quality water and do not drink enough they are at risk of impaction colic (where fibre blocks the digestive system). Colic (in its various forms) can be a very serious condition in horses.

Horses are one of the few animals (including humans) that rely on sweating to cool themselves down. This requires lots of water so when horses are working hard it is especially important that they do not have their access to water restricted or the horse will become dehydrated. It is an outdated myth that you should withhold water from horses after work. If a horse has just completed very fast work (i.e. finished a race) they should be allowed to drink, then be walked for a few minutes, then be allowed to drink again. This procedure should be carried on until the horse has drunk its fill and the heart rate has returned to normal.

5. Describe 3 signs that the horse may need its teeth checked by a vet.
Any resistance under saddle (i.e. bucking, avoiding bit contact, tossing head, etc.).
Avoiding taking the bit and/or head shyness when bridling.
Loss of weight and/or appetite.
Quidding = horse loses or spits balls of semi-chewed food stuffs out of their mouth.
Foul breath.
Swollen facial tissue especially in cheeks.
Bloody saliva.
Difficulty chewing or shifting food to one side of the mouth.
6. Why are horses at a higher risk for colic in the winter? Consume more dry matter and consume less water (i.e. frozen water buckets & tubs).
7. An object getting lodged in the esophagus causes choke. What are 2 signs that your horse could be suffering from choke?
Discharge of saliva and feed material from the nostrils and/or mouth.
Difficulty swallowing.
8. How can you prevent your horse from getting tetanus? Yearly vaccine.
9. When hauling only one horse in a two horse straight load trailer should they be on the right or left side of the trailer? When loading a single horse, place the horse on the left side of the trailer. When trailering two horses, place the heavier horse on the left side. This will make towing the trailer smoother and the ride easier for the horse because of the crown contour of the road surface.
10. What breed of horse is the fastest in the world over the distance of a quarter mile? Quarter Horse.
11. What is the difference between a Paint horse and a pinto horse? The term "pinto" describes the colour of a horse whereas the term "Paint" refers to a breed of horse.
12. What is a hinny? A hinny is a domestic equine hybrid that is the offspring of a male horse (a stallion) and a female donkey (a jenny). It is the reciprocal cross to the more common mule, which is the product of a male donkey (a jack) and a female horse (a mare).
13. What are 3 plants that are poisonous for horses to eat that you can find growing on PEI?
Tansy Ragwort, Alsike Clover, Buttercups, Red Maple, Yew/Ground Hemlock, Bracken Fern
14. What is 1 way to help prevent thrush in horses? Clean out hooves regularly

15. Identify the following horse coat colours:



Black



Red Roan



Bay



Grey



Chestnut (or Sorrel)



Liver Chestnut



Palomino



Cremello



Buckskin



Dun



Grullo

For more about dilute colours such as buckskin and dun see this article:
<https://good-horse.com/genetics-evolution/difference-dun-buckskin/>