



RMHA MARKETING COMMITTEE EDUCATIONAL SERIES APRIL 2023

101 Hoof Care “Quick Tips to Care for Hooves”

Maintaining a routine to care for your horse’s hooves should be just as important as maintaining your own nail regimen. Did you know, not properly caring for your horse’s hooves could result in serious health concerns?

As our horse’s human, we are responsible for maintaining the well-being of our faithful friends. While some care you must perform yourself, it is best to utilize a professional to include a veterinarian and farrier when accessing your horse’s needs.

Included are some top suggestions, but not limited to, many other options.

1. Clean your horse’s hooves. You should pick out their feet and clean around the cleft of the frog often.
2. Look for signs of abnormality. Hot hooves, discoloration, odor, cracks, and your horse’s inability to place weight on their foot could be a sign of concern.
3. Schedule regular farrier visits according to the horse’s individual needs. Six to eight weeks is an average; however, summer and winter can also determine timing.
4. If your horse is shod, check the shoes for proper fit. Check for solid attachment, nails, and alignment. You should be familiar how to remove a shoe if a farrier is not available.
5. Diet and nutrition are also important in the health of your horse’s hooves. Check with your veterinarian to assess your feeding program as well as maintaining the correct supplements.

Did you know properly cleaning your horses’ water buckets and troughs can also aid in your horse’s health including their hooves?

These are only a few tips that can be attributed to your horse’s well-being. You should always refer to the professionals if you are questioning the condition of your horse’s hooves. Remember, if your faithful friend is healthy, your life will be filled with uninterrupted enjoyment.

Tell us what you do to maintain healthy hooves.

Quote: Will McArthur, Farrier “A pitchfork, hoof pick, and a routine cleaning or trimming schedule each six to eight weeks will solve for most problems. For show horses, toe length is better achieved with shorter shoeing cycles, each four to six weeks. You can manage conformation deficits and keep distortion to a minimum. Wider hoofs with thick walls are often healthier. Long, narrow hoofs often have thin walls and can lead to problems.”

Quote: David Moore, Veterinarian “Proper hoof care should be introduced from the very first day a foal is born. Early and attentive hoof care can prevent and treat a multitude of hoof and limb issues; from club-feet to angular limb deformities. Early hoof care can sometimes be super effective and prevent possible medical issues later.”