Summer Survival Guide for Your Horse

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Before you put on your bathing suit and jumping into the pool, think about your horse as he stands in the sun with the pesky bugs and heat. He will need some extra care to keep him cool and healthy during the summer months.

Here are a few tips to help keep your horse comfortable during those hot summer days.

1.Make sure your horse has plenty of fresh clean water every day. Your horse must have a constant source of water in his pasture. If your horse doesnâ€™t get enough water, he could become dehydrated and get sick. Check the water trough every day and fill it if itâ€™s low. Also, clean out the buckets if they stat to get green algae. If you donâ€™t think your horse is drinking enough water, put electrolytes in his feed or water bucket. You can buy electrolytes at your local tack or feed store.

2.Hosing off your horse removes the sweat and dirt that attracts flies. Flies are attracted to the dried sweat on your horse and you donâ€™t want them bugging your horse. Also, your horse might find his daily shower quite refreshing!

3.Shoo flyâ€¦ If flies bother your horse, you can turn him out with a fly sheet. Fly sheets are lightweight and made of a mesh material that helps to keep the flies and also helps to keep their coat from fading. Another item to help keep the flies away is a fly mask to protect his face and eyes. You could also spray your horse with fly spray in the morning to help give him some more protection from the biting bugs.

4.Even during the summer months you should deworm your horse regularly. Worms thrive in rainy, hot weather conditions. Talk to your vet or your trainer about which dewormer is right for the summer months. You can also cut down on worms and flies by picking up the poop piles in your horseâ€™s field.

5.Does your horse have shade from the sun? Your horse should have some type of shade or shelter to get out of the sunâ€™s hot rays. If your horse doesn't have trees in his field, then he should definitely have some type of run in shelter. Not only will your horse go in there to keep cool, but he will also go in there to escape the flies.

6.If your horse has white markings on his face, he might get sunburn. Yes, horses can get sunburn tooâ€”especially around their noses and muzzles. Their white markings can peel and get sore. You can help prevent your horse from getting burnt by using regular human sun lotion with a high SPF.

7.Another way to keep your horse healthy and help to keep from getting dehydrated is a salt block. You should keep a salt block in his field so he can lick it whenever he wants. The salt encourages you horse to drink more water and therefore stay more hydrated during the hot days. You could also a purchase a mineral block for your horse to lick. Think of a mineral block as Gatorade.

Make sure you check on your horse several times a day during the summer months to make sure he is healthy and ok. These tips should help keep your horse comfortable and healthy so you can enjoy your summer with your horse!

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