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A newsletter for Junior members of Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation.

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Admiral loves to hear from his fans. You can tell him about you and your horse at admiral@grayson-jockeyclub.org

The Grayson Grazette is the digital newsletter for Junior Members of the



Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation 501(c)(3) organization

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Winter Horse & Pony Care



Winter can be hard on you and your horse. The snow and cold can make some horses lose condition. Stable care can become more challenging and riding almost impossible depending on snow and temperatures. Here are tips for making life easier for you and your horse during the frigid winter months.

Adjust Feeding Programs

Even in areas not affected by snow cover, grass often stops growing and the nutritional quality may decrease. As pasture quality declines consider increasing hay and concentrates, so your horse won't lose weight during the winter. A generous supply of hay helps keep the horse's internal furnace stoked, helping to keep them warm in cold weather. If your feeding program does not include a mineral supplement consider adding one. Test your hay so you know exactly what minerals and concentrates you need to add to your horse's diet.

Water Supply

Give your horse cool but not frigid water to drink. This will encourage drinking. Colic can increase during the winter because horses don't drink enough and there is less moisture in hay compared to grass. Good hydration will help with digestion.

Make Cleaning Frozen Water Buckets Easier

Rubber buckets are easier than plastic to knock the ice out of if they become frozen. Plastic buckets used for water can shatter when they freeze. Rubber buckets may cost more initially, but last longer.

Have Teeth Checked

Make sure your horse's or pony's teeth are looked after by an equine dentist. The inability to grind food properly will prevent a horse from getting all of the nutrients and energy it needs--especially during colder weather.

Winter Horse & Pony Care

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Don't Let Hooves Get Overgrown

Keep your horse's hooves clipped. Properly trimmed hooves will chip less, hold less snow, and will provide a bit more grip on the slippery ground. Hard ground and ice can cause serious cracking to overgrown hooves and your horse's grip on slippery surfaces won't be a good if the hooves are too long. If snow packs into your horse's hooves try smearing the bottom with petroleum jelly. Talk to your farrier to discuss adding ice calks and snow pads to your horse's shoes and don't skip farrier's visits just because it is winter and you're not riding as much.

If You Ride Frequently

Drying a horse out after a workout is difficult. Consider clipping a heavy hair coat. A clipped horse, without natural insulation, will require stabling and blanketing to keep warm. Don't put a horse out in the cold wet with sweat. Allow extra time for a horse to dry out before turning it out after a ride.

Add Insulation

Consider blanketing during wet, very windy, or frigid weather. A wet coat loses its loft--like a wet down jacket, and won't hold body heat. Windy weather pulls warmth away. Some horses are comfortable during very cold weather; some will be more comfortable in a warm winter blanket. If your horse or pony wears a winter blanket (or rug) during the winter remove it daily and check for chaffing and irritation.



Daily grooming keeps coats cleaner and your horse more comfortable if he wears a blanket. If it's rubbing or chaffing, try a different blanket or try a bib made to go beneath the blanket to help stop rubbing.

Provide Shelter

Even if your horses are stabled overnight, provide them with a windbreak or a run-in shelter, especially if you are away most of the day.

Banish Bots

Plan to deworm after the first heavy frost. Bot flies attack in late summer, so in late fall or early winter, use a wormer that includes medication to kill bot larvae.

Continue Deworming

Continue a regular deworming program throughout the winter months.





Can you find all of the hidden objects in the drawing? Color each one when you find it!

Crafting with Admiral HORSE CANDY CANE ORNAMENTS



These are very easy to make if you use fabric glue. A little more difficult but sturdier if you stitch the top and bottoms together. Buy your candy canes first, so you can determine the scale of your pony's head.

What you will need:

Felt – you can make 3 ponies per 8×12" piece.
Any kind of fringe to use as mane. Approximately 3" per pony.
Trim – for bridle and reins – Approximately 9" per pony.
Fabric glue (or needle and thread)
Googly eyes or sequins
Any embellishments you may want.
Candy Canes
Scissors, pen and card stock to make your pattern.



Draw a primitive horse head pattern on a piece of card stock. Cut it out. Trace onto a folded over piece of felt. Cut out so you have 2 horse heads.



Lay one head down and run a line of glue down the edge of neck. Lay one end of the trim in the glue as shown in picture and then press edge of fringe down along edge of neck.



Run a line of glue all along the outside edge of head including over the edge of fringe but not across the opening at bottom of neck as shown. Press other piece of felt down on top. Wipe away any glue that leaks out.



Loop the piece of trim over and glue running down side of face. Make sure to snip off enough of the end to have a piece to glue down as noseband. Glue on eye and any embellishment you want.



Once the glue has dried, insert candy cane with the curved end sliding into the end of head.

Admiral's Corner



HOLIDAY SAVINGS ON JUNIOR MEMBERSHIPS UNTIL DEC. 31ST

Admiral wants to let everyone know that the Junior Membership program provides a great holiday gift for your fellow equine loving friends and family! For the Holiday Season we are discounting our Junior Memberships to **\$35** each versus the regular \$55 each. This special will run through December 31st, so don't miss out!

You already know this program is helping young horse enthusiasts learn about horse health in an interactive way that provides them fun.

Along with supporting equine research, the membership fee provides each member a stuffed pony, an annual membership certificate with their pony's name, as well as a breed card with a photo of one of Admiral's equine buddies, such as Secretariat or the Snowman. The horse's story is on the back of the card. A periodic newsletter, The Grayson Grazette, will be emailed to each member and will highlight tips on the care and management of horses and ponies. There will also be activity pages, recipes and surprises in store for fans. Special contests and sharing horse stories are planned for the future. Junior members also will have access to Admiral's email.

You may sign up your favorite young horse lover online under our Membership page here by credit card or use our printable form.

Please help Admiral spread the word! Here is another one of Admiral's favorite treats!

Peppermint-Stick Bran Mash

Ingredients: 1 cup crushed candy canes 3 to 5 cups bran 1 tablespoon salt 1 carrot, diced 1 carrot, diced 1/2 cup molasses 2 cups sweet feed

Dissolve crushed candy canes in 2 to 3 cups of boiling water and let water cool to warm. Then, mix all ingredients together except sweet feed in a feed bucket. Add more warm water to make it soupy, rather than crumbly. Cover with towel and let stand until cool. Right before serving, spread a thin layer of sweet feed over the top and sprinkle on a crushed candy cane to garnish.

