

# Adams County Mini 4-H



Horse & Pony



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## Needs of the Horse

A beautiful, sleek, healthy horse is no accident. He is usually developed by a proud owner who sees that he is fed properly, grooms him faithfully, gives careful attention to his feet, and sees he has proper exercise

- ◆ Food—Feed your animal a balanced diet.
  - Hay—It should be free from dust or mold and have a good fresh smell. He needs 15 to 20 pounds a day depending on the age and how much he works. Pasture is substituted for hay in the summer time.
  - Grain—Most horses need extra protein, carbohydrates, vitamins and minerals. Grain supplies these. Grains are oats, corn, wheat and barley
  - Salt—Horses need and love to lick salt blocks.
- ◆ Water—The average horse drinks 8-12 gallons of fresh water a day.
- ◆ Housing—the horse is an outdoor animal, but he needs a place to get in out of the rain or bad weather. The barn needs to be safe, draft free and clean.
- ◆ Exercise—Horses like to run and play in an open area or exercised if kept indoors. You can do this by riding them.
- ◆ Grooming—This means to clean and brush a horse and most horses and ponies love to be brushed. They should be groomed every day before and after they are ridden. It gives them a shiny hair coat, gentles them and conditions the skin and muscles for better performance. These pictures are the grooming tools.



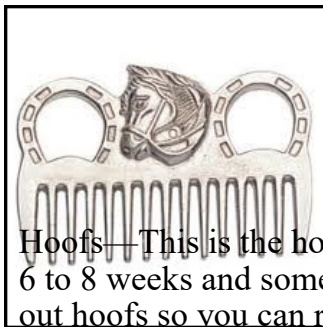
Sweat Scraper



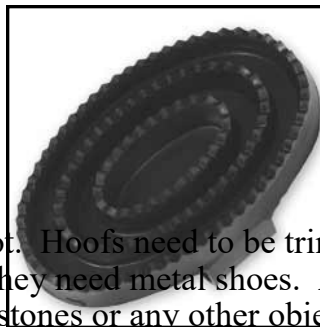
Grooming Cloth



Body Brush



Mane and Tail Comb



Curry Comb



Hoof Pick

- ◆ Hoofs—This is the horses foot. Hoofs need to be trimmed by a farrier (horseshoer) every 6 to 8 weeks and sometimes they need metal shoes. A hoof pick should be used to clean out hoofs so you can remove stones or any other object.

- ◆ Health—A horse or pony needs to feel good to do their best just like you. A doctor for animals is called a veterinarian.
- ◆ Teeth—Horses teeth need to be checked. Their teeth can become too sharp for them to chew properly. The vet will file them off carefully.
- ◆ Immunizations—Horses need injections to protect them from diseases such as flu, tetanus, etc.
- ◆ Parasites—Worms and bots (fly eggs) can make a horse sick. The vet gives them medicine to get rid of these.

## **Horse Terms**

- ◆ Mare—A mature female horse
- ◆ Filly—A young female horse up to 3 years.
- ◆ Colt—A young male horse.
- ◆ Foal—A colt or filly under 1 year old.
- ◆ Stallion—A mature male horse
- ◆ Gelding—A male horse that cannot reproduce it's self.