

Seasonal Horse Health Care

Winter	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Evaluate your feeding program. Most horses need extra forage for warmth in winter.• Carefully check your horse's body condition. Blankets and thick winter hair coats can make it difficult to detect a change in body weight.• Check water buckets several times during the day to remove any ice and to monitor your horse's water intake.
Spring	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Schedule your annual vaccinations and have your vet perform a wellness exam.• Restrict your horse's grass intake when the rich spring grass comes in as the high sugar content can lead to laminitis. Keep him confined to a dry lot for part of the day or use a grazing muzzle.• Have your vet do a fecal egg count test to determine your horse's parasite load and plan your deworming regimen.
Summer	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensure that your horse has access to shade throughout the day, and consider bringing him in during the hottest hours of the afternoon.• Check water troughs daily to make sure they are clean. Horses may refuse to drink dirty water, and water left in direct sunlight can become too hot for horses to drink. Be sure to change the water as necessary.• If your horse has white on his nose, apply sunscreen or outfit him with a fly mask that covers his nose to prevent sunburn.
Fall	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Have your horse's teeth floated by your vet or an equine dental technician. Young horses and senior horses should have their teeth checked every six months while most adult horses only need one check up annually.• When the temperature drops at night, fall grass can pose the same dangers as spring grass. Restrict your horse's intake if he is an easy-keeper.• Schedule fall vaccinations and a wellness exam to ensure your horse's good health as you head into winter.