

# Summer Horse Care Checklist

## HEALTH

- ☀️ Let your horse stay in during the hottest hours of the afternoon. If that isn't possible, make sure there is adequate shade throughout the day for all of the horses in your pasture, whether it is from leafy trees or a manmade shelter.
- ☀️ Remove manure from turnouts and clean your outdoor water troughs regularly to eliminate mosquito breeding grounds. Use fly sprays as directed and if your horse is really bothered by bugs, outfit him with a fly mask and fly sheet during the day. Remove the fly mask to clean it and your horse's face daily.
- ☀️ Check water sources throughout the day. Water buckets left in direct sun can become too hot for your horse to drink. If you have automatic waterers, check them every day to make sure they are working properly.
- ☀️ If your horse has white on his nose, apply sunscreen or outfit him with a fly mask that covers his nose to prevent sunburn.

## HORSEKEEPING

- ☀️ Clean your grooming tools. Remove as much hair and dirt as possible, then scrub your brushes in a mixture of soap and water. If you fear a fungus, you can disinfect your brushes in a bucket full of water with a couple of tablespoons of bleach. Make sure to rinse thoroughly, then let them dry in the sun.
- ☀️ Grain, especially sweet feed, can spoil faster in heat and humidity. Keep your grain stored securely and consider buying smaller quantities more frequently so that you aren't storing grain in your barn for long periods.
- ☀️ Drag your pastures. Very hot, sunny days are ideal for dragging your turnout areas as any parasite eggs in the manure will dry out quickly. Keep horses off the pasture for a few weeks after dragging. In cooler or wet climates, remove the manure instead of dragging.

## RIDING

- ☀️ Adjust your riding schedule to avoid the heat. Set your alarm early to fit in a ride in the morning when the temperature is coolest. If that isn't possible, wait until late evening or restrict your riding to shady trails.
- ☀️ During the busy riding and competitive season, keep a journal of your goals and achievements so that you can refer back and see your progress throughout the summer.