

# ZONE ONE ARABIAN HORSE



CLUB



November 2015

Volume 1, Number 10

## 2016 Dates:

Zone One Arabian Horse Club AGM-

TBA

## UPCOMING SHOW DATES

### REMEMBER:



## ZONE ONE ARABIAN HORSE CLUB

### YEAR END AWARDS BANQUET

November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2015

11 am (meal at noon) – 3 pm

IRONWOODS GOLF COURSE  
70969 Morrison Line, Exeter, Ontario

*Tickets: \$25 (14 through Jack Benny), \$15 (13 & under)*

Please R.S.V.P. by Nov 15  
To: Zone One Arabian Horse Club  
c/o Adriaan Brand  
70602 Parr Line  
Exeter ON N0M 1M0



## WINTER CARE FOR OUR EQUINE FRIENDS

Our horses' needs change during the colder months. Making appropriate changes to your horse's care can help keep your horse happy and healthy through the winter.

### Winter Barn Keeping Tips

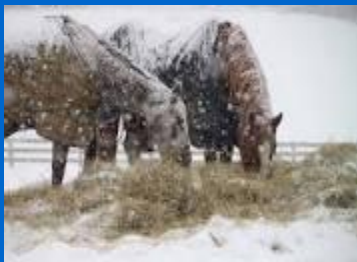
- ☐ No running hot water in the barn? Keeping an electric kettle in the barn saves you from running to the house for hot water. It is convenient for heating water for mashes or soaking hay cubes, if the veterinarian needs warm water, or various other uses.
- ☐ If your tack room is not heated, ensure liquid medications are stored somewhere with a temperature above freezing so that they are ready for use when you need them.

### Water Intake

Maintaining your horse's water intake during the cold weather is very important to help reduce the risk of impaction colic. An impaction is essentially constipation which can occur when manure becomes too dry especially in the large intestine. Remember these tips to help optimize winter water intake:

- ☐ An average 1000 lbs mature horse requires from 7 – 12 gallons (25 - 45 L) of water daily.
- ☐ Water requirements increase for a horse that is sweating/exercising heavily or nursing a foal.
- ☐ Hay and grain have less moisture content than pasture and therefore a horse must drink more when consuming only these feedstuffs.
- ☐ Keep buckets, troughs, or waterers above freezing and ideally warmer (45 – 65°F or 7 – 18°C).
- ☐ Research has shown that if warmed (66°F or 18°C) water is available in the winter, horses will drink more – but only if it is the only water source available! If an icy trough is still available, they will choose to drink from the cold source and drink less in total – you can lead a horse to water but you can't make them drink!
- ☐ Ensure water is refilled at feeding times, as horses tend to drink more immediately after eating.
- ☐ Clean buckets, troughs, and waterers regularly to improve water quality.
- ☐ You can include 1 oz. (1 ½ Tablespoons) of loose white salt or table salt in an average sized horse's grain daily to encourage thirst and water intake.
- ☐ Some horses will drink more water if it is lightly flavoured. Options include the addition of peppermint oil, salt, molasses, corn syrup (use sugary options in moderation and avoid for a horse prone to weight gain or laminitis), or a product such as "Horse Quencher".
- ☐ Pelleted grains, hay cubes, or "hydration hay" products can be well-soaked to provide increased total water consumption.





## Feeding

Keeping warm in cold weather burns extra calories. Feeding adjustments may be required to help horses stay warm and to avoid weight loss during the winter. Conversely, easy-keeping horses in a mild winter may require minimal or no diet change to avoid extra weight gain, especially if exercising less.

☐ Digestion of fibre (i.e. hay) has a slower release of energy and actually helps keep horses warmer than digesting grain. Therefore adding extra hay or a high-fat, high-fibre pellet is usually best if additional calories are required.

☐ A general guideline for the amount of hay/forage required by an adult horse is 2% of its body weight daily for maintenance (1.5% for an easy-keeping or overweight horse; higher % for a horse in heavier exercise or prone to losing weight in the winter). For example, 2% of 1000 lbs would be 20 lbs of hay fed daily to an average mature horse at maintenance ( $0.02 \times 1000 \text{ lbs} = 20 \text{ lbs}$ ). Make gradual adjustments to amounts of feedstuffs.

## Shelter

Shelter is required any time of year, but particularly when temperatures drop and the snow or freezing rain arrives.

☐ A general guideline for run-in sheds is 240 square feet (12 x 20 feet) for 2 horses and 60 square feet (10 x 6 feet) for each additional horse. Other arrangements may be required if the horses do not get along well.

☐ Stalls inside a barn will provide further warmth during inclement weather, for young or old horses, or if veterinary care is required.

☐ Take note of strong ammonia smells when horses are spending more time in the barn in the winter – strong ammonia/urine smells suggest that ventilation could be improved.

## Blanketing

Blankets may or may not be required based on several factors. Generally, blanketing is a good option for the following situations:

☐ Temperatures drop below  $-15^{\circ}\text{C}$  or there is no shelter available during turnout.

☐ The horse's hair coat has been clipped to reduce sweating during exercise.

☐ Snow or rain will cause the horse's coat to become wet. A dry hair coat traps air pockets which keep the horse warm. A wet or muddy hair coat cannot hold warmth like a clean, dry coat.

☐ The horse is very young or geriatric.

☐ The horse is thin or prone to losing weight in the winter.

☐ The horse is not adjusted to cold temperatures following a move from further south.

## Hoof Care

Hoof care needs can change in the winter but are equally important to help prevent slipping, injuries, or overgrown hooves.

☐ Even if being exercised less, maintain a hoof care routine to avoid overgrowth and chipping. The frequency of trimming may be decreased slightly if your horse's hoof growth slows in the winter.

☐ Horse shoes are more slippery than barefoot hooves unless corks and snow pads are added to provide traction and prevent snow packing/balling up.

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