Health Care

The horse depends upon the person caring for it for its health and well being.

These items are very important to the horse:

- Clean stables and equipment.
- Clean, good quality feed and water.
- Proper fit of tack.
- Adequate exercise.
- Avoid exposure to disease.
- Eliminate hazards around the stable and pasture.

Regular care must be given the horse to keep it healthy. This includes:

- Hoofs trimmed or shod every 6-8 weeks.
- Annual vaccinations for tetanus, sleeping sickness and influenza.
- Other vaccinations as needed.
- Worming three or four times a year.
- Examining teeth to see if they need floating (filing off the sharp points) once a year.

Horses may also need special care for breeding, foaling, illness or injury.

Foot Care:

A horse must be able to move; therefore, good feet and legs are necessary.

The important points in the care of a horse’s feet are to:

- Keep them clean.
- Prevent them from drying out.
- Trim them so they retain proper shape and length.
- Shoe them correctly when shoes are needed.

Clean the Feet
The horse’s feet should be cleaned each day with a hoof pick.

Trimming
The hoofs should be trimmed every 6-8 weeks whether the animal is shod or not. A farrier (person who shoes horses) should be consulted or should do the trimming.

Shoes
Metal shoes protect the feet of horses that work on roads, hard surfaces or rocky ground.

Light shoes, weighing about 8 ounces are the most commonly used shoes on horses.

Shoes may be used to change gait aid in gripping the ground, correct faulty hoof structure or growth, and protect the hoof from such conditions as corns, contraction or cracks.

Get Acquainted with the Veterinarian

The veterinarian is the "family doctor" for the horse. He will be willing to help plan and carry out a health program that will include worming, disease prevention, breeding records and problems and general first aid practices.

Proper treatment of diseases, injuries and parasites depends on two very important things: knowing what the problem is and knowing what to do about it. The veterinarian knows what health and first aid measures can be safely handled by his clients and he will teach the proper procedure.

The 4-H member can work with the veterinarian to learn everything necessary for general care of the horse: how to recognize health troubles; what to do in case of sickness or injury before help can arrive; simple treatment and remedies that are safe to follow.
A veterinarian is a doctor who takes care of horses.
Color the veterinarian.

Have you ever met a veterinarian?
THE VETERINARIAN VISITS
Horses need good shoes.
Color the horse with his new shoes.

Count the nail holes in this horse shoe.
There are 16 missing horseshoes—
can you find them all?
HORSESHOE HUNT
How many horseshoes can you find?
A popular saying among horse people is "no hoof, no horse." Care of the feet is very important. A good farrier should keep horses' hooves the proper length and if a horse is ridden a good deal on hard or rocky surfaces, shoes should be used. Horses' hooves should be cleaned and checked for stones before and after riding.
THE HOOF
AND ITS CARE

A ___'s hoof is very important. It should ___ cleaned every day with a ___ pick. All manure and st ___ should be removed. When using the hoof pick, clean a ___ both sides of the ___ in outward motions.