

AN APPLE A DAY

THE OLD WIVES' TALE about apples might not hold up, but daily care can help your horse's health. Dr. Gabriele Landolt, professor of equine medicine at Colorado State University's Veterinary Teaching Hospital, says giving your horse a quick health check every day is a key management strategy.

"The earlier you detect a medical problem, the better," Landolt said. "Typically, it will increase your chances of being successful in treating it."

Here are some things you should keep an eye on each day as you take care of your horse.

1. Behavior. Is he standing with his head down, when normally he's alert and playing? Is he moving normally?
"Is there any obvious sign of discomfort or pain?" Landolt said.

2. Appetite. This can be difficult to monitor if your horse is on pasture, but if you feed hay or grain, notice if your horse is interested in eating. Is he cleaning up his food as usual? Is he drinking plenty of water?

3. Output. Pay attention to the amount and quality of your horse's urination and defecation. Any changes, such as diarrhea or lack of manure, may be an indication of an issue.

"It's a bit more difficult if your horse is on pasture, but monitoring those things when you can is definitely a good idea," Landolt said.

4. Vital signs. Keep a thermometer on hand and check his temperature if you suspect any issues, particularly if your horse has been traveling or around horses outside his pasture mates.

"It's a good idea to have a thermometer available because if there is a concern—if the horse is not eating well or is lying down—getting vital signs is important," Landolt said.

These vital signs include checking your horse's heart rate and gum color. Gathering this information will help your communication with your veterinarian, should you need to call for help. If you don't know how to check your horse's vital signs, ask your veterinarian to show you.

Looking for products to help your horse stay as healthy and happy as possible? Below is a collection of items that make taking care of your horse's well-being easier.

PEST MANAGEMENT

Dual Defense by Farnam

This family-friendly mosquito, tick and biting fly repellent spray can be used on the whole family—horse and human. Dual Defense has a non-aerosol silent continuous spray mist for complete coverage that won't damage leather or synthetic materials. A 10-ounce spray bottle is \$22.97, and is available in local stores and online. Find a dealer at farnam.com.



Bye Bye Insects by Spalding Laboratories

Bye Bye Insects is a principally essential-oil-based fly repellent that, for the first time, is comparable to the performance of pyrethroid synthetic chemical sprays. Bye Bye Insects smells great and can be used on humans



and horses. Performance can be adjusted to your needs. You can use at full strength, but many find a solution diluted to 50 percent to still be sufficient. The quart spray bottle is \$22.95 delivered; refill it from the 3-quart pouch for \$44.95 delivered. Call 1-888-282-8042 or visit spalding-labs.com/dbenz.

UltraShield EX Insecticide & Repellent by W.F. Young

Absorbine's most advanced formula, UltraShield EX, kills and repels more than 70 species of pests such as mosquitoes, flies and ticks. It's weatherproof up to 17 days with UltraBond Technology, and contains multiple sunscreens and coat conditioners such as aloe and lanolin. UltraShield is available in a brand new bottle with vertical and horizontal fan spray. It can be used on horses, donkeys, mules and dogs, and as a premise spray. Available online and at retail outlets in two sizes. Go to endflyfrustration.com.



Pro-Force Fly Control by MannaPro

This fly spray kills and repels more than 15 kinds of insect for up to 14 days. It's ideal for horses and ponies, but can also kill fleas and ticks on your dogs. Pro-Force Fly Control is available in a 32-ounce spray and a 1-gallon container online and in-store at most farm and ranch retailers. Find retailers at mannapro.com.



SUPPLEMENTS

Senior Health & Wellness by Farnam

The Senior Health & Wellness supplement supports intestinal health and digestive function. It is ideal for horses that eat less than the recommended amount of a senior feed, or eat an unfortified grain or forage alone. The supplement contains beneficial



vitamins, minerals and antioxidants; it's packed with amino acids and fatty acids for healthy skin and coat, and its palatable extruded nugget formula provides optimal digestibility. Available in two sizes in stores and online. Find a dealer at farnam.com.

Healthy Weight by Platinum Performance

Healthy Weight is designed for horses that need support to gain or maintain their

weight. Made from cold-pressed flaxseed oil, Healthy Weight is a rich source of beneficial omega-3 fatty acids, which makes it a healthy alternative to corn oil. In addition to helping to maintain weight, Healthy Weight supports allergy



response, and skin, coat, gastric, and muscle health. Available in two sizes, starting at \$50. Purchase at 800-553-2400 or at platinumperformance.com.

Osteo-Fuel by TLC Animal Nutrition

Osteo-Fuel is a source of silicon to help support the collagen aspect of all major joint components—the bone, cartilage, and tendon and ligament tissues—which produces a more comprehensive approach to protecting joint health. Silicon aids bone formation and collagen production. Osteo-Fuel also contains glucosamine, chondroitin, MSM, minerals and vitamins. Available in pellet form in 25-pound or 42-pound containers. Cost is \$144 or \$229. Call 888-508-2290 or visit tlcanimalnutrition.com.



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The Perfect Horse Crystal Flakes

E3 AFA For Horses from The Perfect Horse is an aquatic plant that grows wild in Klamath Lake, Oregon. Once harvested, the supplement is hydro dried to a light flake. These naturally occurring micronutrients may encourage the regeneration of damaged tissue, and enhance energy and attention. At minimal feeding recommendations a 460-gram container may last 7 to 9 months. Purchase at theprefecthorse.net.



SmartStride Senior Pellets by SmartPak

SmartStride Senior Pellets offer comprehensive joint, tendon and ligament support designed specifically for your senior horse. The formula provides glucosamine, chondroitin and hyaluronic acid (HA) for joint health; collagen for healthy cartilage and soft tissue; turmeric for supporting a normal response to inflammation; herbs such as boswellia and yucca, to help address discomfort associated with



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normal exercise and aging; and Cinq-B, a blend of elemental boron, for joint health. Available in SmartPaks, buckets and bags. Purchase at smartpak.com.

Hoof Pellets by Equithrive

The hoof is literally the foundation of horse health, and that foundation is fortified by good nutrition. Equithrive Hoof Pellets deliver the full spectrum of essential nutrients that promote and sustain healthy hoof, skin and coat. These highly palatable pellets are easy to feed and contain key nutrients like biotin, omega-3's, methionine, selenium and chelated trace minerals for optimum bioavailability. Available for purchase at equithrive.com in two sizes: 3.3 pounds for \$50 and 10 pounds for \$135.



Vitamix by Frank Lampley's Products

Vitamix is a concentrated blend designed to support your horse's immune system. Feed Vitamix as needed. This product offers direct-fed microbials; calcium pantothenate; and vitamins A, E, C and B complex, as well as minerals. Available in a 1-gallon bucket for \$75 or 5 gallons for \$275 from franklampley.com.



FEED

Premium Western Forage Organic Alfalfa Pellets from Standlee

Certified Organic by the Idaho Department of Agriculture and GMO-free, Standlee Organic Alfalfa Pellets are low in sugar, moderately high in protein, and high in



calories and digestible fiber. No artificial colors, flavors or chemicals are added to this sustainable and ecologically grown alfalfa. The all-natural green alfalfa pellets are available in a 40-pound bag for \$19.99 from Tractor Supply or local farm and ranch retailers. Visit standleeforage.com.

EquiMix by Triple Crown Nutrition

Digestive health and gut function play an essential role in horse health, and are crucial to performance, happiness and overall well being. That's why EquiMix—found only in Triple Crown products—is at the core of all Triple Crown horse feed formulas. EquiMix contains a unique blend of digestive aides, prebiotics and probiotics, minerals, enzymes and fats to help support immunity and promotes gut health. Go to triplecrownfeed.com/find-a-dealer to find a dealer near you.



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SafeChoice Original by Nutrena

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Nutrena's unique approach to topline health. Guaranteed amino acid levels support muscle maintenance and development. Added prebiotics and probiotics aid in digestion. Organic trace minerals offer immune support and aid skin, coat and hoof health. The pelleted form is available in a 50-pound bag from your Nutrena retailer. Get more information at nutrenaworld.com/product/safechoice-original-horse-feed.

Patriot Performance Feed by ADM Animal Nutrition

ADM's Patriot Feeds are formulated for today's performance horses using the latest scientific data. Patriot utilizes GROSTRONG Minerals, multiple sources of high-quality protein, quality grains, highly digestible fiber sources and added vegetable fats to provide balanced nutrition for horses. Patriot Performance is a high-quality, palatable, pelleted feed, which provides 14 percent protein and no more than 20 percent fiber. Patriot Performance is specifically designed for mature performance horses and broodmares. Available at your local feed store, True Value and Do It Best stores. Find more at admanimalnutrition.com.



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made of a spill-proof design constructed of sturdy, breathable coated mesh, adjustable straps and durable snap-and-elastic straps that retract as grain is eaten.



Available in four colors and four sizes. Cost is \$22.99 at cashelcompany.com or at a Cashel dealer.

Sweet PDZ Horse Stall Refresher

Ammonia and waste odors are a major contributor to upper-respiratory issues in horses. Neutralizing and eliminating ammonia can help prevent these health concerns. Sweet PDZ Horse Stall Refresher is a full-circle natural earth

BARN MANAGEMENT

Feed Rite Bag by Cashel

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Tough1 Fence Slow Feeder by JT International

To create a natural, slow-feeding experience for your horses that can help reduce vices and promote better health, Tough1 Fence Slow Feeder can be hung from fences, gates or stalls. The large 32-by-46-inch feeder, coupled with two-inch square openings, reinforced webbing and four adjustable hanging straps, can hold up to eight flakes of hay. Cost is \$67.95 and color is black. It is available from any tack store or online retailer that carries Tough 1 products. Find a retailer at tough1.com.



WOUND CARE

FoamCare Medicated Equine Shampoo by Vetericyn

Vetericyn FoamCare Medicated Equine Shampoo treats ringworm, girth itch, rain rot and other fungal skin disorders. It sprays on, providing quick coverage, foams instantly and rinses fast. Also available in a non-medicated formula that conditions coat and skin and features LuxShine technology for an arena-ready shine. FoamCare is hypoallergenic, paraben-free and non-toxic. Spend less



time washing and more time riding with Vetericyn FoamCare Equine Shampoo. Available at your local farm and ranch store and now at Tractor Supply stores nationwide. Learn more at vetericyn.com/foamcare-equine-shampoo.

BETTER HEALTH

Protect Your Horse with Veterinarian-Administered Vaccinations

There are hidden risks and costs associated with vaccinating animals yourself. Therefore, the do-it-yourself method may not provide the value that you think it does. Ask your veterinarian to develop a customized vaccine program for your horse. Having your veterinarian administer vaccines is always safer, easier and a better value in the long run than doing it yourself. For more information about your horse's health, visit aaep.org/horse-owners.



Equi-Pak CS by Vettec

For better hoof care, Vettec's Equi-Pak CS is a copper sulfate-infused urethane, dispensed as a liquid, that sets up to offer flexible solid support and cushioning when bonded to your horse's sole. This product helps manage mild to moderate thrush, and it can be used with or without a physical pad. Retailing for \$29.70 for a 160cc auto-mix cartridge, Equi-Pak CS can be purchased through local farriers and veterinary supply stores. Learn more at vettec.com.



Synergy Natural Fit

Performance Pad by Weaver Leather

The new Synergy Natural Fit Pad does more than cushion your horse's back from a saddle. It is specifically shaped to accommodate a horse's collected back in motion. Ventilated and lightweight, the pad's Natural Fit EVA sport foam insert maximizes airflow for cool performance while offering recoil and resistance to compression. A moisture-wicking wool



liner encourages even cooling. This durable design is made with tightly woven, rugged 100 percent wool topper and premium wear leathers. Size is 33 by 38 inches; it's available in four colors at \$208.99. Purchase or find a dealer at ridethebrand.com. ■

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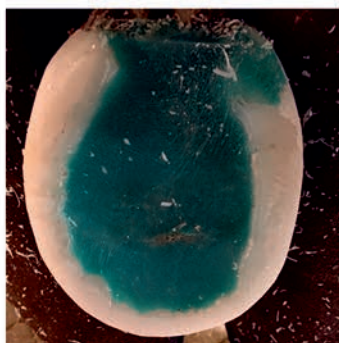
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-Vernon Dryden, DVM, CJF

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-Kerry Bruce



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