

# "Horse Facts"

- Sire** - a horse's father.
- Dam** - a horse's mother.
- Foal** - a horse, either male or female, that is under one year old.
- Colt** - a male horse under four years old.
- Filly** - a female horse under four years old.
- Mare** - a female horse four years or older.
- Stallion** - a male horse four years or older.
- Gelding** - a castrated male horse (cannot reproduce).
- In Foal** - a pregnant mare.
- Gestation** - the period between conception and foaling, normally about 11 months.
- Weanling** - a foal being weaned and until he becomes a yearling on January 1 of the year following birth.
- Yearling** - a horse's age following January 1 of the year after foaling.
- Pedigree** - a register recording a line of ancestors.
- Hand** - a unit of measure equal to four inches used especially for the height of horses.
- Withers** - the ridge between the shoulder bones of a horse which usually holds the saddle in position. Also used as the highest point when measuring height.
- Go-Round** - a turn at an event during a preliminary round of competition used to select finalists.
- Short-go** - a turn at an event in the championship or finalist round.
- Cowboy** - a man who herds and tends cattle on ranches, doing his work mainly on horseback.
- Farrier** - a person who makes horseshoes and shoes horses.
- Jockey** - a person engaged to ride a horse in a horse race.
- Bronc** - an unbroken or imperfectly broken wild horse.
- Green** - a horse which is broken but not fully trained, an inexperienced horse.
- Grooming** - to clean the coat and feet of a horse.
- Hoof** - the insensitive horny covering which protects the sensitive parts of a horse's foot. A term used to describe the entire foot.
- Mane** - the long hair growing on the top of a horse's head and down the neck.
- Mount** - to get up on to the back of a horse, normally from the left side of the horse.
- Mustang** - a wild horse.
- Sound** - said of a horse which is free from any illness, disease, blemish, physical defect or imperfection which might impair in any way its usefulness or ability to work.
- Stable** - a building in which one or more horses are kept.
- Tack** - the saddle, bridle, bit, reins, and other items used on a horse which is to be ridden.
- Wrangle** - to round up, herd, and care for horses.
- Lariat** - a long, light rope used to catch livestock.
- Chaps** - leather leggings worn over pants, usually for protection.
- Spurs** - equipment secured to a rider's heels that is used to encourage the horse.
- Bridle** - headgear used on a horse to give the rider control through use of the reins.
- Stirrups** - footholds attached to the saddle that help the rider mount and provide support during riding.
- Bit** - a mouthpiece attached to the bridle used to help control the pace and direction of the horse. It is manipulated by the use of the reins.
- Girth** - a band, usually of leather, webbing, or nylon, passed under the belly of the horse to hold the saddle in place.
- Halter** - a headpiece with a lead rope attached, used for leading a horse when not wearing a bridle, or for tying up the horse.
- Horseshoe** - a shaped metal band nailed to the base of horses hoofs to protect them and prevent them from splitting.
- Reins** - a pair of long narrow straps attached to the bit or bridle and used by the rider or driver to guide and control his horse.
- Saddle** - a seat for a rider on horseback, made in various designs according to the purpose for which it is required.
- Half-Hitch** - a knot used by calf ropers to secure the rope around three of a calf's legs.
- Hobble** - leather straps wrapped around a horse's front legs to keep it from straying.
- Latigo** - a leather strip.
- Gait** - however fast or slow the horse is going. The four natural paces for the horse are the walk, trot, canter, and gallop.
- Herd** - horses all in one bunch.