



Winter Rose News



TENTH ISSUE, VOL 1.

OCTOBER, 2009

QUOTE OF THE MONTH:

You can tell a gelding, you can ask a mare, but you must discuss it with a stallion.

-Anonymous

HORSECARE 101:

Blanketing your horse: FROM EQUUS Online

It's strange how the everyday practice of blanketing horses causes so much uncertainty in conscientious owners. Some people scoff at the idea of clothing any animal, much less a horse; others are equivocal, pulling out the sheets occasionally for special circumstances; and still others fastidiously bundle up their horses from late fall to mid-spring as they would dress their children headed out into a snowstorm. Is one faction right and the others wrong? Is blanketing a boon or a bane to the horses themselves? What are the facts and truths about this wintertime ritual?

To the question, "Must I blanket my horse?" the short answer is "no." The horse generates his own blanket--a hair coat that is long enough and thick enough to withstand the coldest days of winter. It's an adjustable covering that flattens against or elevates above the skin as the horse grows warmer or cooler.

"Hair is a great insulator, and it fluffs up to warm the horse," says Michael Foss, DVM. "Heat rising from the body warms the air, but that air doesn't go anywhere because it's trapped between the hairs."

As for the question, "Should I blanket my horse?" the answer could also be "no," but special circumstances make "maybe" or "definitely" the correct responses for certain classes of horses. Blanketing is necessary for competition horses that are routinely clipped during colder weather to maintain a sleek appearance, reduce sweating, and shorten cooling-out time and speed drying after rigorous workouts. Aged horses whose appetites and digestion may not supply enough fuel to keep flesh on their bones and their internal "furnaces" stoked require shelter or blanketing during bad weather.

Q: Do blankets really prevent the growth of the winter coat?

A: Horses grow two coats each year, beginning just after the summer and winter solstices, and blanketing does not prevent this natural cycle. Exterior temperatures are not the triggers for these seasonal changes and, in fact, your horse's winter coat has begun growing while you're still donning shorts and T-shirts. By the time you think about blanketing your horse, his winter coat is well under way.

Q: If I want to keep my horse's winter coat shorter, at what temperature or in what month do I need to begin blanketing him? When can I stop blanketing him in the spring?

A: There's no specific blanketing chronology that guarantees a shorter, slicker winter coat. Blanketing "season" is determined by personal preference along with the local meteorological conditions, such as day length and nighttime temperatures. Sometime in the lingering days of summer and early autumn, your horse's coat begins to look a bit more ruffed up and woolly. This is the time to begin tricking the horse's thermostat into believing he's a south Texan. Daytime conditions are often still sunny and mild at this time, and blanketing your horse round-the-clock risks daily overheating. The wise choice is to begin nighttime blanketing with a light cover when overnight temperatures hit 50 degrees or less.

Q: How soon can I blanket after riding? Is it safe to cover a horse while he is still sweaty from exercise or wet from precipitation?

A: It's best to blanket your horse only after he has cooled down and his hair is dried. Unless the blanket is permeable, it will trap the moisture closer to his skin, slowing the drying period and lengthening the time it takes for a hot horse to return to normal body temperature. To speed up the drying process you can rub him down with a dry towel. Another tactic is to cover the cooling horse as you walk him with a wool or acrylic cooler, the equine version of a sweatshirt that draws moisture away from the horse's hair and into the fabric, where it then evaporates.

FROM THE TRAINERS:



Stacey and Randy Tucker
tuckerquarterhorse@msn.com

Randy's Cell Phone: (602) 677-9506
Stacey's Cell Phone: (520) 405-9609

SR Tucker News:

SR Tucker Quarter Horses would like to congratulate Melissa Rudin. She is the new owner of **JB Winds of Love**.

Good luck to all of our exhibitors going to the **The 7th Annual Scottsdale Classic Futurity & Quarter Horse Show**, at *Westworld*.

We are proud to announce that we are the home of the Cave Creek After School Riding Program. The 2009 Fall 8 week session will begin in October. Please [contact us](#) for more information.

Check out our back to school specials for western horsemanship lessons. www.srtuckerquarterhorses.com

SR Tucker Quarter Horses for sale 4 months - 5 years old.



Simply All That, "Bree", a 2006 AQHZ IF NSAB Black Mare. Ready to start showing in green classes. First show is scheduled in September 2008. Sweet disposition. Very fancy. She really wants to please. \$35,000.

Please check out our website: www.srtuckerquarterhorses.com For updated information on shows, news, and pictures/video.

Wendy Lynn Arabians offers riding lessons, horse camp, and birthday parties. Instruction is available in all disciplines including saddleseat, hunter, and western pleasure, showmanship, equitation, and show hack. All levels are welcome, including beginners, as well as all ages of riders from 5 yrs and up. Lessons are private, hour long, and \$40 each. In that lesson you learn how to lead, groom, and tack your horse as well as ride. Riding time is usually 30-45 minutes. Tons of individual attention is given on experienced, safe, and quality school horses. Friends and family members are welcome to stay and watch lessons as long as children are under supervision.

Telephone: (602) 821-2050
Email Address: wlarabiansllc@aol.com

Welcome **Megan Reymer** our new hunter/jumper/dressage trainer. Megan has ridden and shown in all disciplines specializing in Hunters. She participated in 4-H and Dressage Young Riders. Beginners to intermediate riders by appointment. She emphasizes care of your horse as well as your riding. Megan has a school horse or you can use your own. Lessons: 1/2 Hour = \$25.00 1 Hour = \$45.00

Telephone:(480) 567-6365
Email Address: ozcher08@gmail.com

FROM THE GROOMS:

Please be courteous to the other boarders and pick up after your horse makes a mess in the grooming or wash stall.

COMINGS & GOINGS:

Congratulations to Melissa Rudin for purchasing her first horse, JB Winds Of Love, "VENUS" in the South Barn.

Welcome Shannon Gettings and her APHA gelding "MAX" in the South Barn.

Welcome Julie Gehman and her ½ Fresion ½ Saddlebred mare "KOLANI" in the North Barn.

Alicia McNeil has decided to follow her heart and pursue some exciting options that have recently come her way.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

OCTOBER

October 1-7 - The 7th Annual Scottsdale Classic Futurity & Quarter Horse Show, *Westworld*. For information, www.thescottsdaleclassic.com

October 14-18 - Scottsdale Fall Preview, *Westworld*. For information, 602-992-2706 or www.cepshows.com

October 15 - Arizona Thoroughbred Breeders Association Auction, *Westworld*. For information, 602-942-1310 or www.atba.net

October 17 - Show Circuit All Breed Horse Show, *Westworld*. For information, 480-488-5711, or www.sundustaz.com

October 23-25 - American Saddlebred Association of Arizona 2009 Futurity, *Westworld*. For information, www.americansaddlebredassociationofarizona.com

October 23-25 - 4-H Horse Show, *Westworld*. For information, 602-252-6771 or visit www.azstatefair.com

FOR SALE/TRADE:

Saddle for sale! 18" Wide tree, **14 Karet** Close contact jumping saddle. Like New! Contact Melissa (602) 819-3442 Asking \$700. Available to try.

County Dressage Saddle for sale. 17-1/2", in perfect condition. I will give the matching bridle to the buyer of the saddle. Contact Jane Jozoff at JJozoff@aol.com

THIS & THAT:

To subscribe, have our newsletter emailed, list news, or post ads, send your request to Joe at Jmikrut@winterroseeq.com