

BACK IN THE SADDLE

OCT\NOV\DEC 2023



Presidents Letter



Happy Fall Ya'll!!!

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I love riding and camping in the fall, don't you? We have had such lovely weather for riding. A few of my horse friends and I are riding at Shawnee, IL, and O'Bannon later in October and we are going to Brown Co. for the Halloween ride. Soon it will be colder and we won't be riding as much, so take advantage of the nice weather while you can!

This will be my last President letter. It has been a great learning experience to be the vice president and president of the MLHC. The other board members definitely had their hands full keeping me on the right track and making sure things are getting done! Lol

We have some fun events coming up in the next few months. We have a chili dinner and Halloween craft on Monday, Oct. 16th. The Ball State parade is on Saturday, October 21st. November 13th is a member pitch-in and MLHC election. We need our members to be there.

If you are interested in running for the board, please let us know! We can use your help! Finally, we have our annual Christmas party on Sunday, Dec. 3. It will be a fun time for all and a great way to start the Christmas season!!!

It has been wonderful to meet all of you and to share our love of horses. I wish you and your friends and family all of the best in the years to come. I hope to see all of you soon and we can share horse stories and good memories.

God Bless You and Happy Trails,

Lisa Cron, President MLHC
artsycowgirl@yahoo.com

(765) 623.9060

Muncie Light Horse Club

(501c3 nonprofit organization, your donations are tax-deductible)



2023 Member/Board Meetings

October 16th- Member Meeting

Member Meeting @ MLHC Barn / Chili cook-off & a fun Halloween craft (bring your own drinks).

November 6th - Board Meeting

All members are welcome and encouraged to attend. If you would like to attend please let a board member know if interested so that we can get you the meeting information.

November 13th - Member Meeting

2024 Elections @ Mansfield Park / Pitch-In

November 27th (Is the Dec Mtg- Board Meeting

All members are welcome and encouraged to attend. If you would like to attend please let a board member know if interested so that we can get you the meeting information.

Cold Weather Hoof Care

January 23, 2012 By Kentucky Equine Research Staff

Healthy horses generally get along well in cold weather as long as they have adequate forage, plenty of water to drink, and the option to use a windbreak or shelter. Thicker coats help to keep them warm, as does the heat produced by the fermentation of fiber in the hindgut. Even standing in snow isn't usually a problem, as the blood supply to the hooves, ears, and tail is regulated by a shunting system that sends larger or smaller amounts of blood to these areas as needed.

Hoof growth slows somewhat in cold weather, so cracks and other defects may not grow out as quickly during the winter months. For unshod horses, hoof walls may be left a little longer to give horses more clearance and help them avoid sole bruises as they walk on frozen mud. Shod horses will need help with traction on snowy and icy ground. Shoes with borium patches, studs, or another nonslip configuration will give them a more secure footing. Talk to your farrier about these options.

Galloping and jumping on frozen ground increases the concussion that is normally absorbed by softer surfaces. The increased pounding can lead to hoof cracks or lameness. If you don't have access to an unfrozen riding area, it's a good idea to limit the amount of intense work you ask your horse to do.

Bare hooves usually shed snow naturally, and hooves stay clean with little effort.

Shoes, however, tend to collect hardened snow that's dangerous to walk on and difficult to remove. Coating the soles with cooking oil or petroleum jelly may help for a while, but the best prevention is to ask your farrier to add a springy pad or rim under the shoes. These devices compress as the horse steps down and expands as each foot is lifted, popping the snow out before it can pack tightly.

Shod or unshod, your horse's hooves still need to be picked out and inspected every day through the winter. Check for loose shoes, injuries, infections, and any sign of lameness. Don't forget to schedule regular farrier visits even if your horse is enjoying a little downtime in the winter months.

You can check out other articles on **Kentucky Equine Research** <https://ker.com>



Cold Month Horse Care

With the cold weather just around the corner here are some things to help your horse stay warm and healthy in the colder months.

- Providing warm water, lots of folks use trough heaters but, did you know you need to make sure they are grounded so your horse does not get shocked? Some people have never had to do this and then others have had to do that. As always you know best what to do for your horses.
 - It is suggested that a grounding rod be installed next to the tank and connect copper wire to the rod. Then, run the copper wire to the bottom of the tank you can use a brick to hold the wire to the bottom.
- Feeding additional hay
 - Horses will consume 2% of their body weight in hay (for example a 1,000-pound horse should consume 20 pounds of hay a day) it is a source of calories and as that fiber ferments in the horse's cecum, it helps to keep your horse warm.
- Access to Shelter allowing them to get out of the rain, ice, and wind.



The goal should always be to maximize the amount your horse drinks to help prevent dehydration and colic. Most 1,000-pound adult horses need at least 10 to 12 gallons of water daily. During the summer months, lush pastures contain 60 to 80 percent moisture and can contribute to your horse's water requirement. In contrast, dried winter feedstuffs such as grain and hay contain less than 15 percent moisture. Thus, your horse will require more water in the winter.

If your horse doesn't drink enough water during cold weather they may eat less and be more prone to impaction colic. Even if you offer quality feed, horses will consume less if not drinking enough water. If horses eat less feed, they might not have enough energy to tolerate the cold.

Water intake maintains a horse's fecal moisture level. If fecal material becomes too dry, intestinal blockage or impaction may occur. A horse won't develop an impaction in one day, but can over several days to several weeks of poor water intake.

You can read more on this article from the University of Minnesota Extension written by: Authors: Chuck Clanton and Marcia Hathaway, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences; Krishona Martinson, Extension equine specialist; and Carey Williams, Rutgers University at: <https://extension.umn.edu/horse-care-and-management/caring-your-horse-winter>



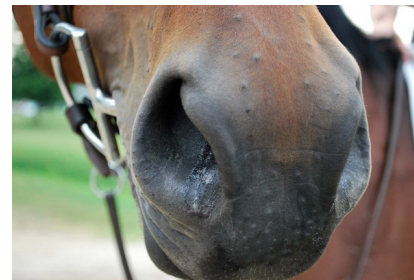
Runny Nose: When Is It Serious?

September 21, 2023 – Editors of EQUUS



A runny—or “snotty”—nose isn’t the most pleasant thing to discover when you bring your horse in for a ride. But before you reach for the rag to wipe his nose clean, take a few minutes to inspect the discharge—and to give him a thorough once-over, too.

Chances are, it’s nothing serious. But you will want to make sure the nasal secretions are not an early warning of a serious health issue.



Take a closer look

- Inspect the discharge from that runny nose. Make note of its color, odor, quantity, and consistency. Note the presence of any foreign material such as chewed foodstuffs, dust, or debris, and whether it’s coming from one or both nostrils. If your phone is handy, take photos to share with your veterinarian and to keep track of changes over time.
- Check his vital signs. Is he running a fever? Check his pulse: An elevated heart rate in a resting horse could be an indication of pain. If your horse coughs has a fever, and shows other signs of illness in addition to a runny nose, a respiratory disease may be developing and you’ll need to call the veterinarian. On the other hand, if your horse’s nasal discharge is clear and watery, and he otherwise seems well, then it’s probably nothing to worry about. He most likely inhaled a bit of hay or dust that caused some localized irritation in his nasal passages. Or perhaps he got a bit of dust in his eye, and the excess tears were draining through his nostrils. Wipe the moisture away, but keep an eye on your horse to make sure the discharge does not return. A trickle of bright red blood that stops within minutes is also probably nothing to worry about. Your horse most likely scratched the interior of one nostril on a stick in the grass or a stemmy piece of hay.

Signs for which to call the vet ASAP

- A foul-smelling discharge could indicate an infection of some kind, maybe in a tooth or sinus. You may notice swelling on one side of his face. Thin, gray, frothy mucus, which may also be foul-smelling, is likely to indicate an infection of the guttural pouches, the two sacs connected to the eustachian tubes between the horse’s ears and throat.
- Bright-red blood that flows readily and without slowing or stopping within a half-hour could indicate injury within the nasal passages.
- Dark blood draining from the nose has probably been accumulating somewhere in the horse’s head, such as the sinuses or guttural pouches. If dark blood gushes when he lowers his head, the problem may lie in the respiratory tract.
- Thick, yellow, pus-filled mucus may result from a bacterial or viral infection or strangles. In all cases, the horse will also have a fever, cough, and other signs of illness. In the case of strangles, you may find painful swellings under the jaw and around the throat, and the horse may stand with his head lowered.
- Saliva and chewed food emerging from the nose and/or the mouth are signs of choke, a blockage in the esophagus that prevents what the horse swallows from reaching his stomach. A horse with a choke is also likely to be coughing and gagging, and he may panic as he attempts to clear the blockage. Immediately remove all food and water until a veterinarian arrives.

Just to be safe

Isolate your horse from others if the signs point toward strangles, a respiratory infection, or another contagious disease.

Keep the horse with the runny nose in his stall or in a small turnout where he is at least 10 feet away from other horses—far enough to avoid nose-to-nose contact—at least until the veterinarian can make a diagnosis. You’ll also want to take measures against spreading any potential infection yourself, on your hands or clothes. If you need to handle other horses while you wait for the veterinarian, wash or sanitize your hands; ideally, you’d change your clothes, too, or at least put on a coverall.

You can read more articles on EQUUS at <https://equusmagazine.com>

*****If you suspect your horse is sick, call your vet immediately. For health-related questions, always consult your veterinarian, as they have examined your horse, know the horse’s health history, and can make the best recommendations for your horse.*****



MLHC Connecting with current members - Using an app called ‘GroupMe’

We have created an account/Group and you will soon see a text message inviting you to join MLHC GroupMe and how to download the app from the Play Store on your phone (not sure what it’s called for iPhones). **NOTE: Only current MLHC members will be invited to utilize this app. If you are not interested you can just delete the text message.** If you need help you can send a text to Lisa T. @ (317) 964-3579 and she can assist you.

The purpose of utilizing this tool is to let folks know if there are trees down, or something is broken, let folks know you are camping, or ask folks to meet up for a day ride. It’s all about enjoying our horses, meeting great new people, and most of all having a wonderful time.

FACEBOOK - Muncie Light Horse Club

Did you know that you can post pictures on the MLHC Facebook page? NO? Well, you can post pictures and even tag the club by typing @Muncie Light Horse Club when you share pictures. We love to see where everyone’s been camping and out for a day ride, so share your trips and rides!

MLHC Website (www.muncielighthorseclub.com)

Did you know that you can see who your executive board and board of directors are and read a little bit about each person? You can also see upcoming events, meet our various sponsors, read 2023 newsletters, and download membership forms. The website is always evolving with suggestions.





Muncie Light Horse Club
P.O. Box 744
Muncie, IN 47308

BE THANKFUL
BE GRATEFUL
BE BLESSED

Email: muncielighthorseclub@gmail.com
www.muncielighthorseclub.com

2023 Calendar

October 16th - Member Meeting 6:30 P.M. @ MLHC Barn (6498 S County Rd 475 E, Selma, IN) CHILI COOK-OFF and a fun Halloween Craft, Bring your own drink, and something to share at the pitch-in.

October 21st - Ball State Homecoming Parade 7:00 A.M. @ Muncie Central High School (801 N Walnut St, Muncie, I 47305)

November 6th - MLHC Board Meeting. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend. Please let a board member know if you are interested in attending so we can get you the meeting information.

November 13th - MLHC 2024 Elections and Pitch-In 6:30 P.M. @ Mansfield Park (2801 S Eaton Ave, Muncie, 47302)

November 27th - (Dec Mtg) MLHC Board Meeting. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend. Please let a board member know if you are interested in attending so we can get you the meeting information.

December 3 - MLHC Christmas Party Pitch-In 1 P.M. @ Murpah Shrine Club (3671 N Shrine Drive, Muncie, IN) Gift X-Change (no more than \$15), Games, Prizes, Great food and people.