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Pennsylvania Cutting Horse Association



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YOU CAN NEVER CROSS
THE OCEAN UNLESS YOU HAVE
THE COURAGE TO LOSE SIGHT
OF THE SHORE



A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT



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On behalf of the PCHA I would like to wish everyone a wonderful, healthy, and happy holiday season and best wishes for 2018. I would also like to thank everyone for their support of myself and the PCHA in 2017. We are busy planning for 2018 so now is the time to come forward with any ideas and thoughts you may have. We are looking forward to another great year in 2018!

As winter and snow are upon us for the next while I'm sure we all will be decreasing the amount of time we are riding, but hopefully we can get some riding in on the nicer days of winter. I'm sure we will all be looking forward to spring soon, but for now we may as well slow down and enjoy the beauty of winter and time spent with family and friends over the holiday.

*Merry Christmas To All,
Andy*

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Please email your newsletter submission to Joanne Thayer or Pankey Nelson

Original pictures and graphics only. Letters to the Editor must be signed, non-slanderous, and in good taste. PCHA reserves the right to edit submissions.

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33 Top Tips to Help You Survive the Winter CONTINUED

Looking after yourself

26. "Wear thermal liners in your boots and fingerless gloves so you can still do fiddly jobs. Always wear a t-shirt or vest tucked in to your breeches." Sue Cutts, riding school proprietor
27. "Always wear a hat — you lose most of your body heat through your head." Polly Williamson, former eventer turned trainer
28. "I used to suffer from chilblains down my legs. To combat this I bought thermal jodphurs and a pair of overtrousers, which are fantastic for hacking out in." Bryony Wilson, eventer

Clean and tidy horses

29. "Cut tails shorter than normal early in October to keep the hindlegs and tails mud-free. For added cleanliness, plait the bottom of tails in a thick plait." Lucy Thompson, eventing trainer
30. "Equine hoods are a godsend for keeping horses clean and warm— try spraying a little show sheen on the inside of the hood to prevent rubbing." Bryony Wilson, eventer
31. "After working, wash horses down with warm water and cider vinegar when they're sweaty — it's good for the coat and skin." Laura Tomlinson, British Olympic dressage rider
32. "Thatching is still the best way to dry off a tired horse after hunting. Use dry, shaken-out hay under a rug, and always towel dry the ears and legs." Polly Williamson, former eventer turned trainer
33. "Rug technology is so good nowadays that you should be able to buy one good, warm and breathable turnout rug — I hate to see horses weighed down with multiple rugs." Sandra Low-Mitchell, showjumper



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12 Christmas Wishes for Horses & Owners from Veterinary Experts



excerpted from article by [Stacey Oke, DVM, MSc](#) Dec 25, 2012

Veterinarians work with horse owners to provide the best possible care from snip to tail. This holiday season, consider the following "wishes" your equine experts made to help maximize your horses' quality of life.

12 Drummers Drumming: Cardiology

"I wish for all owners to be able to take their horses heart rates and know their horse's range of normal rates," said Kim McGurrin, DVM. Knowing your horse's "normal" heart rate is an asset in advance of an emergency.

11 Pipers Piping: Respiration

Ed Robinson, BVetMed, has wished for years, as reported in numerous articles on TheHorse.com, that owners would "... focus on the horse's breathing zone--a 2-foot sphere around the horse's nose from where he draws his breath."

10 Lords-a-Leaping: Lameness (Skeletal)

Mike W. Ross, DVM said, "I wish horse owners would think about alternatives to longeing. Constant turning places forces of torsion on the distal limbs, exacerbates lameness, and may potentially lead to chronic arthritic conditions."

9 Ladies Dancing: Lameness (Soft Tissue)

"Know what your horse's legs look and feel like to best detect tendon or ligament injury," wished Sue Dyson, MA. Dyson gives a haiku wish: Well-meaning owners bandage. Be warned! Don't apply bandage/boot too tight.

8 Maids-a-Milking: Neonatology

During an American Association of Equine Practitioners' Annual Convention, Ahmed Tibary, DMV, wished for breeders "to call for veterinary examinations ... within 12-18 hours of foaling, even when everything seems to be normal."

7 Swans-a-Swimming: Physical Therapy

"I wish that owners would use more cross training to keep their horses fit and interested in work," revealed Hilary Clayton Vice President of the American College of Veterinary Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation.

6 Geese-a-Laying: Reproduction

"I wish horse owners were more aware of different ways to prevent abortion/miscarriage due common causes such as placentitis," said Kristina Lu, VMD, Lu also wished for expedited research in this field.

5 Gold Rings: Farriery

To help keep horses' toes in gleaming good health, focus some attention on the hoof walls. "Help maintain good-quality walls. Apply a water-repelling hoof dressing such as pine tar before each bath," advised Scott Morrison, DVM.

4 Calling Birds: Welfare

James Yeates, BVSc, BSc, said, "We (at the RSPCA) wish that all owners will give their horses the right company, environment, diet, and health care."

3 French Hens: Nutrition

Attention to diet is a major aspect of horse ownership, and equine nutritionist Kathleen Crandell, wished "for owners to understand how important forage is in their horse's diet, & that the diet should be balanced relative to the forage."

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2 Turtle Doves: Internal Medicine

Simply wishing for it won't keep your horse healthy. It takes regular veterinary examinations, vaccinations, good nutrition, and, of course, a little TLC. "I wish for all horses to have a warm and dry winter ... and a regular mash, topped with a carrot (on Christmas)," shared Nicola Pusterla, DVM.

And a Partridge in a Pear Tree: Parasitology

Referring not only to changing deworming protocols, Craig Reinemeyer reminds everyone of a famous quote from Charles Darwin, "It is not the strongest of the species that survives, nor the most intelligent that survives. It is the one that is the most adaptable to change."

Horses, Christmas & My Wish to Santa

excerpted from an article by Amanda Pierce, on thehorseaholic.com

It's the holidays, and I have a huge list for Santa this season. It's not saddles, horse blankets, bits or breeches. My Wish is to see less horses going through my local auction and ending up in the kill pens, waiting to be rescued. Horses are a business. Period. The harsh reality is that there is a large number of horse people that depend upon what they make to survive in the industry. Unfortunately, the horses do not always come out on the better end of the business. So Santa, hear me out, and spread the word. It is time to put an end to horses going into auctions, and let's start getting them the homes they deserve! Santa, I do not expect you to help every single horse out there, but we need to start with the horses and owners we can reach.

Santa, I would love for every foal produced to be from sound, well built, good tempered individuals that can produce horses that can have a successful long term job. I wish that every foal born into a breeder's program with those genetic qualities can have the basic skills taught before the age of two. I would love for that mare owner to have the proper skills to train their foals to be caught, groomed, tied, have their hooves handled, accept basic vet care, and to be polite to humans. Young horses should have the ability to know that horses need to leave the horseplay in the pasture with their buddies. Those immature foals deserve an education that is built upon proper foundations so that they may have a correct start in life. *That's my first wish Santa, for horses to be bred with thoughtfulness, and that they are trained in the basics.*

....

Santa, can we then take those well cared for, older horses and get them fresh jobs in their increasing age? Therapy barns, college equestrian programs, young children starting to ride, instructors teaching lessons, are always looking for suitable horses to teach the next generation. ... It is wonderful Santa, when you can find a proper place for the older horses to go and that they are useful to someone else at the end of their career.

This is a tough one Santa, but can we take the shame out of humane euthanasia? If at some point the horse is not sound of mind, sound of body, or for some reason unable to be safe along the process of becoming a useful aged horse, can the owner opt to euthanize without guilt or judgement? It is never an easy decision, but sometimes it is the best decision for the horse and it's owner. ...

Santa, I know after many years that I, as one person, cannot save all of the horses that need saving. I wish I could, but alas, without winning a large lottery, I cannot. I CAN however, breed carefully, train thoroughly, and care properly for the horses I own. I CAN make a difference for the horses on my farm to do everything in my power to keep them safe throughout their life. I CAN make a small difference in a large way to the horses I love, and if more people would do the above Santa, I think it would be a better for many of the horses out there! Thank You Santa, and have a wonderful holiday.



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