Days End Farm Horse Rescue, Inc.

CARING FOR YOUR PONY
COLORING BOOK

Art work donated by:
Jackie McCowen, Utah
Although we love our ponies very much, they are a very big responsibility. We want to do our best to give them everything they need to keep them healthy and happy. Besides a lot of love, attention and exercise, ponies need care from a veterinarian to keep them free from parasites and up to date on their vaccinations. They need a good blacksmith every six to eight weeks to keep their hooves the proper length and the proper angle. We must also provide them with a nutritious diet and shelter from the weather.
We know that all ponies are different. They look different and their needs are also different. All ponies need clean drinking water and nutritious food to keep them healthy. They need a salt block to make sure they get the minerals they need in their diet and to encourage them to drink water. They also need a place to go out of the cold wind, the wet rain a and the hot sun. The place they live needs to be kept clean and dry. Make sure that your ponies’ field doesn’t have any nails, soda cans or other things in it that might cause him harm.
Ponies are herd animals and as such are very social. Make sure that your pony has a buddy to keep him company. They get very unhappy when they are alone. Horses are a lot like people and although they enjoy their interaction with their human friends they still want the companionship of another animal. Goats have also been known to make friends with horses and make a good stable companion.
Ponies wear halters to make it easier for people to take them for a walk. Your pony’s halter should be bought to fit your pony. If the halter is too small or too large, your pony could hurt himself. Halters can get caught on trees. Sometimes when a horse uses his back legs to scratch himself he can get his leg caught in the halter if it is too large. Small halters can cause marks or indentations in the horses face.
Now it’s time to ride and you need to get your pony from his field. Be sure to take a lead with you. Make sure if you need a treat to catch your pony that you keep the treat hidden so you do not entice the entire herd over to you. Walk slowly and talk quietly. He will probably come right to you. If he does not want to be caught, be patient and DO NOT yell! Your pony will not appreciate it if you yell at him any more than you like it when your mom yells. Be patient and be determined, he will come.
Once you have your pony, attach your lead to the ring under his chin. Now hold the lead just below the hook with your right hand and hold the rest of the lead in your other hand. Be careful not to wrap the lead around your fingers or your wrist. As long as the lead is held correctly and the pony spooks you will not get hurt or dragged and you can release the lead if necessary to insure your own safety.
Now, let’s walk the pony out of the field. Your pony can be lead from either the right or left side. It is usually best to get your pony used to being led from both sides. Watch out for other ponies or horses when you take your pony out of the field. If they want to approach you simply put yourself between the others and your pony and wave your hand in front of them and usually they will leave you and your pony alone. KEEP YOUR FEET AWAY FROM YOUR PONY’S HOOVES. He can not see your feet and my step on them accidentally.
Once you’ve brought your pony out of the field you can secure him to a fence post with your lead. Give him a treat to thank him for letting you catch him. You can use carrots, apples, pears, watermelon rind or small amounts of grain as a treat. Be careful using too much grain as ponies are prone to founder from overeating. Some of our ponies like cough drops, candy canes and fig bars.
Always tie your pony to something solid. NEVER tie them to anything that moves or is easily broken. Ponies are very strong especially if they are scared. It is best if you tie a quick release knot if you are unsure if he has been taught to tie. Have someone show you how! With a quick release you can untie him easily if you need to.
Make sure that your lead is not too long. It should only be long enough for the hook to touch the ground. If the lead is too long, your pony can get his leg caught on it. Should this happen, approach him very carefully and from the other side of the fence. Talk to him very quietly and calmly. You can either unhook him from the other side of the fence or cut the tie with a knife. If you are afraid have someone else help you get him free.
Now that your pony is safely tied, you can groom him. Here are some of the tools you may choose to use:

★ 1. A metal and/or rubber curry to help loosen the dirt or mud.
★ 2. A hoof pick to clean out his hooves.
★ 3. A comb for the mane and tail.
★ 4. A soft brush to remove all the dirt you loosened with your curry.
★ 5. A sweat scraper to get the sweat or water after a long ride or bath.
Grooming is a great way to spend time getting to know your pony. Always remember to use soft brushes on his face and legs. Ponies have very little fat in those areas and you need to be gentle. When you are brushing your pony, use a lot of wrist action and always brush the same way that the pony's hair lays. Do not brush against the grain.
As you groom your pony, feel him all over with your hands. Get to know what is normal for your pony and what is not. If anything feels warm and swollen and does not look normal, call your veterinarian to check it out. The more you know about what is normal for your pony, the better you will be able to tell when something is wrong. This also includes how he acts, eats and rides. Be sure to keep one hand on him while grooming, this will allow you to know where he is at all times. When walking behind him be sure to stay out of kicking range.
Your pony’s mane and tail also need to be groomed. Always use a metal comb or a tail rake for the tail. Plastic has a tendency to break easily if your pony’s mane or tail are thick. Do a little portion of the tail at a time. It is also much easier to start at the bottom and work your way up.
Always clean your pony’s hooves as part of your grooming routine, before and after you ride. If a stone gets caught in the hoof along with the dirt or mud, your pony can get a bruise and become lame. (Try to imagine walking around with a penny in the bottom of your shoe all day!) One hoof problem that is fairly common in horses is thrush. Always keep anti-thrush preparations on hand. If your pony’s hoof smells real bad and has black stuff in the frog area, check with someone knowledgeable. It may be thrush. Although not life threatening, it can cause serious problems for your pony.
Use a thick saddle pad or blanket under your saddle so there is no pressure on your pony’s back or withers. Be sure that the pad is CLEAN and DRY! If you want to ride bareback, you can use a bareback pad. Make sure that you get the kind WITHOUT the stirrups. If you ride with a pad with stirrups it is easy to become unbalanced and then the bareback pad will twist and fall under the pony’s stomach. Where will you be? Many pony’s problems can be traced back to poor fitting equipment. Always check with someone knowledgeable before purchasing equipment for your pony.
Make sure you brush your pony before you saddle him up. Dirt, mud or burrs cause saddle sores. Put your pad over the withers and slide it down where it belongs. Always follow the normal lay of the pony’s hair. Put on your saddle. You should be able to see your pad from all sides. Pull your pad up under the horn so your saddle does not slip and so there is no pressure on your pony’s withers. Tighten your girth very slowly so you do not catch any of your pony’s hair in it.
In the summer before you go for your ride or before you put your pony back in the field, apply fly wipe. This will keep the flies off your pony and make him very happy. Be careful not to get any fly wipe in his eye because it can sting or cause harm to his eyes. You can also bathe your pony when the weather is warmer. This is usually an enjoyable play time for you and your pony. Always start with a bucket of water and some shampoo. Some ponies may not find bath time fun if they have not had one before. Hoses can sometimes be frightening, be careful.
Now it is time to go for a ride. Some kids and adults like to ride their ponies or horses without saddles. This is called bareback. Riding bareback will give you better balance and allows you to feel all your pony’s movements. Consider taking riding lessons from a professional instructor or working with a trainer. Anything you can do to strengthen the bond and avoid mixed signals to your pony will make for a better pony/rider relationship. In a lot of cases, an uncooperative pony is really due to an inexperienced rider.
Be careful where you ride. Always look out for glass, bottles, potholes or anything that might hurt your pony. NEVER ride on ice and be careful in the mud. They are both very slippery and may cause injury to your pony. If you plan to ride on trails through the woods, be careful to look out for low branches, brambles and tree trunks. Ponies only know how big they are and can not measure how much more distance they need to add to include their rider. They depend on you to steer them clear of any hazards for yourself or them.
Riding bareback in the winter can really be fun! Your pony’s body will keep you warm and comfy. Always ride with a friend. There is safety in numbers. If you get hurt your friend can either help you or go for help. Be sure to warm your pony up before beginning hard exercise and to cool them down after hard exercise. Improper warm up can cause major health problems for your pony. ALWAYS REMEMBER, IF YOU LOVE AND CARE FOR YOUR PONY PROPERLY, YOU WILL HAVE A LONG, HEALTHY AND HAPPY LIFE TOGETHER. HAPPY TRAILS!
Days End Farm Membership and Donation Form

Please accept my membership enrollment to help abused and neglected horses

_____ $ 10.00 Junior Membership
_____ $ 20.00 Annual Membership (Individual)
_____ $ 40.00 Annual Membership (Family)
_____ $ 100.00 Professional / Trade Membership
_____ $ 500.00 Lifetime Membership

$ ______ DEFHR Friend/Donation (May be any amount you wish)

Please check one: _____ Cash _____ Mastercard or Visa

Name ____________________________________________
Address ___________________________________________
Home Phone __________________ Work Phone ____________
Expiration Date __________ Credit Card # ____________
Signature _________________________________________
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This is my donation in memory of ____________________

_____ This is a gift membership for __________________

Please return this completed form to:

Days End Farm Horse Rescue, Inc.
PO Box 309
15859 Frederick Road

Your donations may be tax deductible per 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code*

*IF YOU ARE NOT ALREADY A MEMBER PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING THE HORSES NEED YOUR HELP

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