

# HorseSense Learning Levels

## EQUINE TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

### TERM

### DEFINITION

## Yellow HorseSense

ABRASION	Wound caused by superficial scrape to the skin.
ABSCESS	Pocket of infection in the horse's hoof, usually very painful.
ALFALFA	Roughage feed for horses made from the dried grassy leaves and stems of a legume.
APPALOOSA	Coat color with patterned spots; patterns include blanket, leopard, snowflake, and marble. Also the name of the breed developed specifically for this coat color.
ARABIAN	Oldest pure breed of horse, bred for desert climates and for their spirited, affectionate nature; this breed excels at endurance riding.
AT REST	Term used when horse is calm and completely cool.
BACTERIAL INFECTION	Infection caused by microscopic one-celled organisms that can be found in every environment.
BALD FACE	Marking in which the horse's entire face is white, with pink skin. The eyes are often light-colored or blue.
BAY	Brown coat color with black points: mane, tail, legs and ears.
BEET PULP	Roughage feed for horses made from the fibrous pulp after sugar is extracted from beets.
BELL BOOTS	Protective boots made of hard rubber that fit around the horse's pasterns and cover the hoof wall to protect the coronary band and heels.
BIT LOOPS	Small leather straps with two loops, used to keep full-cheek snaffle bit from over-rotating; also called "keepers".
BLAZE	A wide stripe of white running from the horse's forehead down the length of his face.
BOWED TENDON	A flexor tendon on a horse's leg that has ruptured and shortened in healing, assuming a curved appearance.
BRAND	Permanent mark on horse's coat made by pressing either a hot or a freezing cold piece of iron onto the coat.
BREED	A type of horse developed for certain desired characteristics (color, height, endurance, speed, temperament, etc.); also refers to the act of mating two horses for that purpose.
BREED TYPES	Broad categories which may include many breeds of horses with a common feature.
BRIDLE STUDS	Curved, blunt-end hooks used to attach leather straps together in some bridles or reins.
BUCKSKIN	Tan equine body color, ranging from a pale gold to a deep golden brown, and black points, similar to bays.

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CAPILLARY REFILL TEST	Pressing your finger against a horse's gums to determine how long it takes for the "white fingerprint" to refill with blood; if the horse is well-hydrated and his circulatory system is functioning normally, the refill rate should be within two seconds.
CHESTNUT	Coat color that is a solid brown color all over, ranging from a light golden brown to a deep chocolate brown. Their manes and tails must also be brown or flaxen.
CHOKER	A blockage in the horse's esophagus in which he cannot swallow or drink, but will still be able to breathe.
CLYDESDALE	One of the largest draft breeds, standing 16.2-18 hh tall, developed for strength and prized for the feathering on the lower legs. These horses are commonly used for hauling heavy loads and farm work.
COLIC	Equine bellyache. The symptoms are sweating, pawing, lying down, then getting up, restlessness, rolling, kicking or biting belly, groaning, and change of attitude. Can be lethal if not treated promptly.
COLOR BREED	Breed category of horses that breed "true" to color, consistently producing offspring with the same color or coat pattern.
COLT	A young male horse, under the age of 4.
COMPLETE FEED	Horse feed with extra roughage and nutrients, usually labelled as "senior feed" for older horses or horses that don't have access to good quality hay.
CONCENTRATES	Feed made from grain that provides extra short-term energy.
COOLER	Fleece blanket that wicks moisture from a horse's body after winter exercise and keeps him warm while he walks and dries.
CORONET	A thin white stripe that runs along the horse's coronary band.
DAM	A horse's mother.
DAPPLE	Mottled circular pattern of dark and light hairs in horse's coat.
DERMATITIS	Skin condition of roughened, raised spots, usually itchy and sore; often due to allergic reactions.
DISCIPLINES	Competitive equestrian sports.
DORSAL STRIPE	Dark stripe that runs along the horse's spine from mane to tail.
DRAFT HORSE	Breed category of horses that are large and powerful, capable of pulling heavy loads; originally designed for medieval warfare and farm labor.

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DRESSAGE WHIP	Flexible whip, up to 43" long, held by rider or ground handler and used to tap a horse to encourage him to move forward.
DRY ROT	Brittle and weak leather caused by lack of moisture.
DUN	Coat color with primitive markings on a grayish-yellow or dull red or brown coat.
ERMINE SPOTS	Marking that consists of black spots along the edge of the hoof.
FILLY	A young female horse, under the age of 4.
FLAXEN	Blond or light streaky mane and tail color.
FLEABITTEN	Coat color that has small flecks of chestnut hair scattered across a gray coat.
FOAL	A baby horse.
FORAGE	Plant material, primarily leaves and stems, eaten by grazing animals like horses.
GAITED HORSE	Breed type with unique way of going, in addition to the standard walk, trot, canter or gallop: includes the running walk, the rack, the pace, the tolt, etc.
GELDING	Male horse that has been castrated to prevent him from producing offspring.
GRADE HORSE	A horse with unknown breeding.
GRAY	Coat color in which the horse is born black, bay or chestnut, and gradually whitens with age.
GUT SOUNDS	The subtle, regular noises made by a horse's digestive tract; can be used to diagnose digestive problems like colic.
HALF-CANNON	White marking from the coronary band to the mid-point of the cannon bone, stopping well below the knee or hock.
HALF-PASTERN	White marking that extends from the coronary band to the middle of the pastern.
HAND	Unit of measurement, equal to 4", used to measure a horse's height.
HORSE	Any equine over the age of 4 years that stands 14.3 hh or taller.
IMPACTION COLIC	Blockage (usually hay) in a horse's intestinal tract, caused by poor digestion, parasites, or dehydration, that prevents fecal matter from moving forward.
IN HAND	Working with a horse when you are on the ground, holding a lead line or reins.

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<b>Yellow HorseSense</b>	
INCISED WOUND	A minor cut with neat edges that does not require stitches.
INFLAMMATION	A response of body tissues to injury, with heat, swelling, redness and pain.
INTERFERING	Term used when a horse strikes the inside of his opposite leg with a hoof; often seen in horses with toes that point out or legs set too close together.
INTERNAL PARASITES	Eggs and larvae of various insects that live inside a horse's body, causing disease and death if untreated; the number one cause of colic in horses.
JOG OUT	Leading a horse by his bridle, at a trot, to check the horse for lameness.
LACERATION	A cut with torn edges that requires stitches.
LAMENESS	Any loss of free movement in the horse's gait that causes him to move in a restricted or unbalanced way; usually caused by strained muscles, joint damage, or hoof issues. The opposite of soundness.
LAMINITIS	Painful and potentially crippling inflammation of the hoof, characterized by heat in the hoof and a horse's reluctance to move; he may lean back on his hind legs to relieve pressure on his front hooves.
LEG BARRING	Dark horizontal stripes on the back of the leg, seen in dun horses and some breeds (such as Fjords).
LEG STRAPS	Straps on some horse blankets that wrap around the horse's hind legs to keep the tail end of the blanket in place.
LEGUME HAY	Non-grass hay made from the leaves and stems of a plant group that includes alfalfa and clover.
LINIMENT	A medicated liquid, usually containing alcohol, camphor, and an oil, applied to the skin to relieve pain, stiffness, etc.
LIP TATTOO	Permanent marking in which dye is placed under the skin of a horse's upper lip, commonly used by the US Jockey Club to identify racing Thoroughbreds.
MARE	An adult female horse aged 4 years or older.
MARKINGS	Areas of differently colored skin and hair on a horse's body.
METABOLIZE	The process of converting digested food into energy.
METAL DEPOSIT	Shiny black residue on tack that must be scrubbed away before sealing leather with oil or glycerine.
MINIATURE HORSE	A dwarf horse, too small to ride.

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NEAR SIDE	The left side of the horse's body.
OVERO	Scattering of white markings on a solid coat color; the topline is dark with completely white legs and faces.
OVERREACHING	Term used when a horse strikes the heel or pastern of his front leg with a hind hoof.
PAINT	Breed of horse developed specifically for pinto coloring.
PALOMINO	Coat color with a golden body and a flaxen mane and tail.
PEACOCK STIRRUPS	Safety stirrups with a thick rubber band.
PELLETED FEED	Horse feed made from steaming grain and extruding it into uniform small pieces.
PIEBALD	Pinto coat color with large splashes of black and white.
PINCH TEST	Evaluating a horse's hydration by pinching a fold of skin on a horse's neck, then seeing how long it takes for the skin to return to its normal position.
PINTO	Coat color with large splashes of white with another color, commonly seen on Paint horses.
PONY	Any equine over the age of 4 years that stands under 14.2 hh in height.
PONY BREEDS	Horses standing under 14.2 hh, bred for their small stature.
PRIMITIVE MARKINGS	Dorsal stripe and leg barring.
PUNCTURE WOUND	Wound caused by an object piercing the skin and creating a small hole in body tissues; deep wounds can create pockets of infection.
PUREBRED	A horse whose sire and dam are both the same breed.
QUARTER HORSE	American breed of horse developed for speed over a short distance. Though still used for racing, they are most often used for ranch work and western riding disciplines.
RAINROT	Common skin disease, caused by an organism that lives in soil, that creates crusty or waxy scabs and lesions in the horse's coat.
ROAN	Coat color with white hairs mixed in with a solid body color, making the coat appear a different hue from a distance.
ROUGHAGE	Food for horses made from plants that are mostly fiber, like grass hay.
SADDLE SOAP	Glycerine product used to seal moisture in leather tack.

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SADDLEBRED	Gaited horse breed, originally developed by American plantation owners for long hours in the saddle, now commonly used for saddleseat riding.
SCRATCHES	Common equine skin condition of the heels and back of the pastern, also known as "mud fever", "greasy heel", and "dew poisoning".
SCURF	Tiny loose flakes of skin, also referred to as "dandruff", that help to insulate a horse's winter coat.
SHEET	Lightweight, loosely woven blanket, often used for the "in-between" days of cooler weather in the spring and fall. They are useful for layering (especially on a clipped horse) and keeping a horse clean for shows.
SHIPPING BOOTS	Padded wrap-around boots, with Velcro straps, that protect the horse's legs while traveling; boots extend from just below knee or hock to the ground, wrapped snugly around the hoof to protect the coronary band and heel bulbs.
SIRE	A horse's father.
SKEWBALD	Pinto coat color with large splashes of white and any other color.
SNIP	A small white patch, often diamond-shaped, on the horse's muzzle.
SOCK	White marking that completely covers the fetlock joint, but stops below the cannon bone and tendons.
SOUNDNESS	The horse's ability to move freely and in balance, at all gaits. The opposite of lameness.
SPASMODIC COLIC	Equine bellyache caused by gas trapped in the intestinal tract.
SPLINT BOOTS	Protective boots that cover the horse's lower legs to protect them from blows; also known as "brushing boots". Used for horses that interfere, or for protection in riding disciplines with a higher risk of leg impact, such as jumping or barrel racing.
SPORTHORSE	A type of horse bred for athleticism, specifically in English events such as dressage, jumping and eventing.
STABLE BLANKET	Horse blanket designed for a horse living indoors, with a snug fit to help trap the horse's body heat.
STALLION	An adult male horse who has not been gelded and is capable of producing offspring.
STAR	A small patch of white in the center of the horse's forehead.
STOCK HORSE	Breed category of strong, fast working horses, typically used in Western riding and ranch work. They are excellent sprinters and most have "cow sense," or the natural ability to herd cattle.

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STOCKING	White marking that extends all the way up to the knee or hock, in some cases running over the joint and onto the upper part of the leg.
STOCKING UP	Swelling of a horse's lower legs due to decreased circulation; common with stall rest and when trailering for long periods.
STRESS POINTS	Places on your tack where the leather contacts metal.
STRIPE	A narrow marking of white running from the horse's forehead down the length of his face.
SUPPLEMENT	Powder, pellet or liquid designed to be added to a horse's food to meet a particular nutritional need.
SURCINGLE STRAPS	Wide straps on a horse blanket that wrap under the horse's belly.
SWEET FEED	Whole grain feed mixed with molasses.
TACK CONDITIONING	Applying oil to leather to keep it soft and pliable.
TACK SPONGE	Small round sponge used exclusively for cleaning or conditioning tack.
THOROUGHBRED	English horse breed, developed for speed and athleticism. This breed is often used for racing, jumping, and eventing.
THRUSH	Common bacterial infection that occurs on the hoof of a horse, specifically in the region of the frog.
TOBIANO	Pinto coat coloring with large, bold splashes, often with white legs and backs and dark-colored chests.
TORSION COLIC	Twisted or kinked section of horse's intestine that causes severe pain; can result when a horse rolls trying to relieve colic pain.
TPR	Accronym for temperature, pulse, and respiration - the "vital signs" that change during exercise, illness or injury.
TURNOUT BLANKET	Also referred to as a "rug," this horse blanket is made of heavy-duty material, preferably waterproof, that allows it to be worn by a horse at pasture.
TURNOUT SCHEDULE	Periods of time in which a horse may roam freely in a pasture or paddock, for exercise or grazing.
TYING UP	Painful episode of severe muscle cramping characterized by a horse's rigid, trembling muscles, excess sweating, and rapid breathing.
UNSOUNDNESS	Permanent lameness resulting from damage to a horse's bone, joint, tendon or ligament.

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VETERINARIAN ( or VET)	A medical professional who treats animals.
VIRUS	Microscopic parasite which can infect living organisms; easily transmitted because it needs a host organism to survive.
VITAL SIGNS	Measurements of a horse's temperature, pulse, and respiration, which indicate health or illness/injury.
WARMBLOOD	Horse breed developed by crossing a draft horse and a “hotblooded” horse—usually a Thoroughbred.
WELSH PONY	Pony breed developed in Wales for its small stature and athleticism, used for driving disciplines as well as children's riding.
WHITE LINE DISEASE	Also known as seedy toe, this bacterial infection results in a breakdown of the wall of the hoof.