

Lesson Plan: Stall Cleaning

Georgina Waldman, C2 - Tuckahoe Pony Club, Delmarva Region

Instruction Level: D's

Time Allowed: 20 minutes

Objectives: to understand:

- Why we clean stalls
- Types of bedding
- How to clean stalls
- Proper disposal of manure

References:

Harris, Susan E.. United States Pony Club Manual of Horsemanship 'Basics For Beginners' D Level. New York: Howell Book House, 1994. Pages 176-177

Sawyer, Katie. "Horse Stall Bedding ." Pennsylvania State University Department of Equine Science. 2004. Pennsylvania State University.
<<http://www.das.psu.edu/user/equine/ansc407/horseBarnsProject/sawyerbedding.html>>.

Equipment Needed:

Rice Crispies (bedding)
M&M's (poop)
Some milk (pee)
plastic forks (muck forks)
paper/plastic plates (stalls)
small cups (muck tubs)
Optional: Shredded wheat (hay)

New Vocabulary:

Absorbent: able to soak up liquid easily.

Bank: to pile bedding higher against the stall walls and in the corners, which helps a pony from getting cast or stuck in his stall if he rolls.

Casting: when a pony rolls in his stall, if he gets too close to the wall he will get stuck and not be able to roll back. Banking a stall will help prevent this. Also called "stuck".

Compost: when manure is left outside in a pile it will begin to breakdown into nutrients that work very well as a fertilizer.

Discussion:

Why do we clean pony's stalls?

- If we don't it will become messy, smelly and dirty and unhealthy.
- A clean stall and stable area is safer, healthier, has fewer flies and is nicer for you
- Flies breed in manure, wet and rotting hay and spilled grain.

How often should a pony's stall be cleaned? Stalls should be cleaned once a day.

What should we take out? Poop, wet bedding and soiled hay

What should we leave in? Good bedding

Where should we put what we take out of a stall?

- Manure and soiled bedding should be piled neatly at a distance from the stable, so you will not have flies and odors around the stable.
- It can be composted or hauled away.
- A manure pile generates heat, so it should not be piled against a wooden building.

Why do we use bedding?

- Bedding gives him a cushion to stand or lie down on .
- He can get sores on his legs if he's sleeping on concrete or boards.

What should we use for bedding?

It depends on a lot of things:

- Cost: Where do you live? - some bedding is cheaper in parts of the country. Around Southern Pennsylvania, Maryland and Delaware straw is preferred because the mushroom growers will come and take it for free.
- Does your horse like to eat his bedding? Some horses like to eat straw which can lead to colic. Make sure you pick a bedding that your horse doesn't like the taste of.
- Does your horse have respiration or breathing problems? Pick a bedding that doesn't get dusty. Straw is sometimes a good choice for this.

Types of bedding:

- **Wood product bedding: Shavings, sawdust, chips:** Should be pine, never black walnut shavings (it is toxic to horses). Good points: Very absorbent. Burns slower than straw in case of a barn fire. Helps keep odor down Bad points: Dusty. You have to be careful what kind of wood the mill was using - old wood can contain metal chips which are dangerous.
- **Straw:** Very comfortable and encourages resting. Good points: Low dust. Bad points: Requires a lot of labor for cleaning stalls. Difficult to dispose of unless in an area with mushroom farmers (mushroom farms use straw with horse manure to grow their mushrooms); Highly combustible. Some horses like to eat it. Not as absorbent as others
- **Shredded Newspaper/ Recycled Paper Pellets:** Good points: Fairly new to the horse industry. No pollen, little dust. Very absorbent. Bad points: Compresses easily. Can be expensive.
- **Sand:** a drainage bedding. Good points: Great for horses that have foundered Bad points: If horses digest may cause sand colic.
- **Corn husks and stalks.** Comfortable. Good points: Potentially cheap (depending on where you live) Bad points: No absorption properties. Horses might eat and become ill

What do we need to clean a stall?

Something to sift and remove the poop from the bedding:

- Pitch fork - good for straw or
- Manure Fork ('Picker') - good for sawdust, other bedding (plastic forks won't hurt rubber stall mats)

Something to put it in:

- wheelbarrow or
- muck basket or muck tub

Something to replace what was taken out:

- some form of bedding

How do we clean a pony's stall:

Step	What do we do:
1	PICK POOP. Pick up all the manure and soiled bedding and put it in the wheelbarrow or muck tub.
2	SORT and PILE - Sort through the bedding with the fork, turning it over and throwing out the soiled bedding. Separate the good bedding and pile it in a clean area.
3	LET DRY. If your pony is going to be out for a while let the floor dry (you can sprinkle the areas with a little powdered lime occasionally to help it dry).
4	BED AND BANK - Before your pony comes back in, put in as much fresh bedding as you took out dirty bedding. Mix it with the old bedding. <i>Spread the bedding over the floor, then BANK it higher against the stall walls and corners. This helps your pony from getting stuck or cast if he rolls in his stall.</i>
5	SCRUB TUBS - clean your pony's feed tub, then the water tub or bucket and refill with fresh water.

Activity:

Hand out, one per student:

- plastic bowls or plate (stall floor)
- fork (manure fork)
- cup (muck tub)

- 1) Let students scoop some bedding (Rice Crispies) onto their stall floor (plate).
- 2) Sprinkle some Shredded Wheat on the stall floor to simulate hay.
- 3) Make soiled bedding by pouring a little milk on the bedding, then toss some M&M's on top.
- 4) Have students use the fork to follow the five steps of stall cleaning.
 - Remove the soiled bedding and poop and put it in the muck tub.
 - Sort the hay and clean bedding into piles,
 - Re-bed and bank with more Rice Crispies.
- 5) Students can eat the materials as a snack when they're done!

Review:

Put in correct order:

SORT AND PILE
BED AND BANK
SCRUB TUBS
PICK POOP
DRY

Correct: PICK POOP
SORT AND PILE
DRY
BED AND BANK
SCRUB TUBS

Why do we clean a pony's stall?

To keep it dry, not smelly, and healthy

What's better to clean a stall bedded with straw, a manure fork or a pitch fork?

Pitch Fork

Why is manure piled against a wooden building a fire hazard?

Because it generates heat it can get very hot.

Why do we 'BANK' stalls?

So a pony doesn't get cast, or caught in his stall while rolling.

Which direction should the tines on forks and rakes be facing when they are hanging?





The tines should face the wall to keep an aisle clear and safe.

If there is not enough bedding in a stall, what part of the horse can get sores?

The legs, especially if the horse goes to lay down.

STALL CLEANING

What do we need to clean a stall?

Something to put the soiled bedding in		Something to pick with	
			
Muck Tub	Wheelbarrow	Pitch Fork (good for straw)	Muck Fork or Picker (good for shavings or sawdust)

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