

Grooming

Grooming is an act that should be done daily. It spreads the skins oils over the coat making it shine and removing the extra oil and grime. It also stimulates circulation which also keeps his coat/skin and muscles healthy. In daily grooming you should also check your horse over for cuts and also check for heat/swelling in your pony's legs.

To groom your pony, first you will need a Hoof pick. Stand by the leg facing the hindquarters. Pick up the foot and hold it by the hoof, not the pastern. Take the hoof pick and start at the groove beside the frog. Always pick out the hoof from heel to toe. If you can get the hoof pick under the dirt it comes out easier than if you scrape a little at a time. Pick out all four feet.

You do this so your pony doesn't get thrush from manure/wet shavings and so the rocks that may be in his feet don't make him sore.

Next you'll want to use the rubber curry comb to remove caked mud from your pony that could also make him sore/uncomfortable and make his coat unhealthy. You use the curry comb in circular motions starting from the top of the neck down and to the hindquarters. Be careful in the flank area, on the legs and face , and on any other area that your pony may not like. These are sensitive areas.

After you have loosened the dirt with the curry comb you need the dandy brush, which has short stiff bristles, to remove the loosened chunks of dirt and hair. Use short swift movements with the hair in the same order as with the curry comb and be careful in the same areas.

You can use the body brush/soft brush to get the rest of the dust off of your pony. Use short firm strokes in the same order as before. You can use this brush on the legs and face, but still be careful in the flank area.

When the body brush gets dirty, scrape a metal curry comb through it or use the dandy brush to clean it.

You can brush the main and tail with the dandy brush or a body brush, or you can use a main/tail comb to remove tangles and shavings that may have found their way into the main and tail.

Use a damp sponge to clean the eyelids, the muzzle and the muzzle (in that order). Use a different sponge to clean your pony's dock.

Remember, this daily grooming. For a show or a pony club event, you should give your horse a bath, pull his mane and clip the fetlock and the hairs on the muzzle.