

Winter Grooming: Tips and Tricks

General Information:

- We could really use storage bins.
- We have a bookstore order form for kids and their parents to look at.
- According to Mrs. Hoyer, dyeing your boots black for the hunting season is a good idea. (You can get black leather dye at WalMart.) Only polish when necessary, (sometime before you use them and before you put them away).

General Grooming Information:

- During the winter keep a blanket on your pony if you clip it.
- If your pony gets too dirty, hot-towel it rather than bathe it. *Note: Bathing your horse in the winter is another way of saying that you are trying to freeze it to death, so the hot-towel method is far more preferable and humane, and I guarantee that your pony will agree with me.*
- On white ponies, or ponies with white spots, baby powder can be used to cover up dirty spots. Always brush out the unnecessary powder so that it doesn't clump or come off on your clothes.
- Oil your horse's hooves so that snow doesn't stick to its feet. Some good things to use are: any hoof oil you find at a tack shop, vaseline, or Pam, really, it does work.

Demonstrations & Hands-On Practice: (A volunteer pony was used)

- Watched V.T. clip the pony's bridle path and ears, followed by the eyes. Leslie, Stephanie, and Tracey attempted this.
 - The bridle path should not be longer than a folded back ear (unless breed requires it).
 - Avoid cutting the eyelashes.
 - Ergots should be pulled off often, as well as the chestnuts. Every pony's ergots & chestnuts are different from another, kind of like a person's fingerprints.
- Kerry shaved the pony's feathers, and p.c.ers got to try.
 - When you are shaving the pony's feathers, put one knee on the ground so you don't lose your balance.
- Stephanie demonstrated how to pull a pony's mane, and the p.c.ers got to try it.
 - On sensitive ponies, use Absorbine on the base of the mane to take away some of the sting.
- Mrs. Cornette demonstrated how to braid a pony's mane, and the p.c.ers got to try it.

by Leslie Smith November 21, 1998 Speakers & Demonstrators: VT Podbielski, Kerry ?, Stephine Cornett, & Mrs. Cornette