

"Rumors & Lies & Plain Old Horse S#%T !!"

I have often wondered just how some of the more ridiculous and insane rumors ever got started in the world of Horses. Some are so preposterous and crazy; those seem to sift themselves out of reality. Yet some are so deeply rooted they actually take a life of their own and become urban legend. Some actually make it into the real world and are believed by so many, that few question their validity. Unfortunately this does pertain to this false information and just plain old Horse apples! That I am going to discuss with you right now.

A horse's hoof or foot, whatever you so choose to call it. Is the center of one of the longest running, most believed piles of Horse apples there is in owning and caring for a Horse. When the temperature starts to go south on the thermometer, and chores take longer to do. Along with breaking ice and cleaning it out of tanks, which I hope you do twice a day! You start to hear about how Horses' hooves grow slower during cold weather, no reason to have them trimmed until it warms up in the spring. This statement causes so much trouble for the health of a Horse's foot.

I want to break this down into very clear terms, so there is no more confusion or questions for you on this subject. A Horse's metabolism has very strict protocols for maintaining the overall health of the Horse. There are systems that maintain muscle health, systems that help with bones, systems that help with energy and stamina, there are a lot of individual systems in the Horse that combined provide the animal with a real well balanced system for maintaining everything that is needed in the Horse's body.

There is such a system for the growth and maintenance of hair, mane and tail. Also these same sets of systems that provide hair growth are also responsible for the health and maintenance and growth of the Horse's hooves. That is right, hair, mane, tail and hoof. All under one assigned system of the Horse's metabolism. Can you now see where I am going with this? Here is where the rumors and lies form. Some Horses keep growing their hooves all through the winter months as if it is July. Other Horses literally stop all hoof growth and focus their energy on growing thicker hair for the colder months of winter. Some Horses can do both! Grow hooves and hair at the same time. It really boils down to each individual animal's metabolism and ability to grow hair and hooves at the same time.

If you have more than one Horse in your care, chances are there will be the need for trimmings during the winter. Each Horse's metabolism is completely separate and different. Some Horses will grow hooves during cold weather others will not! Only you as the health care provider for your Horses know about such matters. Check your Horses' hooves just like it was the middle of June. Look for growth and if needed, get the Horses' feet trimmed. Just do not buy into the blanket statement of cold weather and Horses' hooves slowing down. It does not work like that for all Horses. Some yes, maybe there are some that it applies to. Not all Horses everywhere!!

Along with this is the uphill battle to try and convince someone around you that you are not crazy. Or that you have been given wrong advice. There are many occasions with Horses and other people's opinions that you just need to go your own way and wish them well. Peer pressure, barn pressure all are ever present in the world of Horses. You may just have to go your own way with this information. It will prove itself right by you noticing which of your Horses grows hoof even in the winter months. Remember some will and some will not. At least you will be in a position to do the right thing for each Horse in your barn. Take care of your Horses and yourself.

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