

# Did Ya Know

**Did ya know** horses have an emotional intelligence that humans have yet to adopt? They are advanced in the emotions of gratitude and forgiveness. These two feelings are the greatest vehicles toward a more peaceful and powerful life.

**Did ya know** a horse seems to have a deep soul, beyond what one can explain? When we are in their presence, we tend to meet our own souls. What a gift to us, what a gift!

**Did ya know** that estimates suggest that there are around 60 million horses in the world?

**Did ya know** that a 19th-century horse named “Old Billy” is said to have lived 62 years?

**Did ya know** when horses are born their hooves are soft and tissue-like? They harden from walking and exposure.

**Did ya know** that when you fasten dryer sheets to the tail and mane of a horse, it keeps the flies away?

**Did ya know** that apples, carrots, and celery on top of plain whole oats are much better for horses than feeds with corn or added molasses?

**Did ya know** that often a mare in the wild will nurse an orphaned foal?

**Did ya know** that mustang geldings often will look after colts and fillies if there is no mare in the band to do it?

**Did ya know** that horses love natural salt, like Redmond salt or Himalayan salt rocks much better than chemical salt blocks?

**Did ya know** that horses’ hooves are connected to their hearts and the heart pulse of the earth?

**Did ya know** that the stallions, when rescued, need to be kept apart from other stallions until gelded?

**Did ya know** that teeth care for a horse is as important as it is for a human?

**Did ya know** that horses can express joy (at feeding time), sorrow (when they lose a friend or young one), anger (when they pin back their ears and strike out), indifference (when they turn their butt to you and ignore you) and happiness like while being groomed (when they shut their eyes and smile). They are capable of showing us not only how they are feeling but express their feelings in very honest ways that can be easily seen if we pay attention.

**Did ya know** that many horses do not need shoes? Their hooves were created to work just fine as a shoe itself. If trimmed and cared for properly, a horse can live all its life with no shoes. Many horses that have had shoes in the past can transition into not wearing shoes by slowly building up the hoof's strength with boots or by not forcing any activity on hard or rocky ground.

**Did ya know** that many first nations people used 'products' from nature to groom their ponies? These included bunches of fresh, long, sweetgrass to rub shine into the coat, or teasels to comb out the mane and tail or even sand rubs to clean dirt and mud from the coat. Horses were blessed and prayed over before battles, as well as times when they were just being ridden while traveling. People would often sleep with their ponies so they could hear their heartbeats, which were believed to be bound to the earth through the hooves!

**Did ya know** that sometimes horses will paw and lick at the ground to get minerals that they need?

**Did ya know** that because of the way their eyes are placed on their heads horses cannot see directly in front of or behind themselves? That's why it's important not to stand directly in front of or behind them.

**Did ya know** that in the wild a horse may travel up to 20 miles in one day while grazing or seeking water? They stay on paths and wander very far with their bands and herds.