

Horse Mad Facts

Did you know:

- Horses have been around in some form or other for at least 50 million years!
- Foals are born with legs 90% of their full adult length.
- Most foals are born at night.
- All Thoroughbreds birthdays are celebrated on the same day – August the first.
- A horse has two blind spots – right behind the horse and just in front of and beneath the nose.
- A horse's height is measured in hands (10.2 cms)
- The world's smallest horse is the Falabella which ranges from 38 – 76 cm tall.
- Apart from Antarctica, Australasia is the only continent with no native horses.
- The oldest ever horse lived to be 62!
- Horseshoes are said to be lucky and the luckiest horseshoe of all is one from the hind leg of a gray mare.
- Foals can stand an hour after they are born.
- There are over 150 different breeds and types of horses.
- There are about 75 million horses in the world.
- A horse has approximately 205 bones.
- A horse's teeth can be used to estimate its age.
- A zebroid or zorse is a cross between a horse and a zebra. A cross between a zebra and a donkey is a zeedonk.
- The smallest pony ever was a stallion named "Little Pumpkin" who was only 35 cms tall!
- The fear of horses is known as equinophobia.
- Horses can't breathe through their mouths.
- Breeding a male donkey to a female horse results in a mule. Breeding a male horse to a female donkey results in a hinny.
- Mules and hinnies are almost always sterile.
- A donkey stallion is called a jack. A donkey mare is called a jenny.
- One of the tallest horses on record was a Percheron called Dr Le Gear. He stood 21 hands high (2.13 metres) and weighed 1 370 kilograms!
- Arab horses have 17 ribs (all other horses have 18), five lumbar vertebrae (other horses have six) and 16 tail vertebrae (other horses have 18).
- The last remaining truly wild horse is the Przewalski Horse (Asiatic Wild Horse). It has 66 chromosomes – all other horses have 64.
- The Brumby is the feral horse of Australia, the Kaimanawa is the feral horse of New Zealand.
- The sensitive, wedge-shaped part of a horse's foot is called the frog.
- The right hand side of a horse is called the off side. The left hand side is the near side.
- Horses sleep between two and three hours per day. Only 45 minutes of this sleep time is spent lying down.
- Modern horses are known as *Equus caballus*.
- Zebra stripe patterns are as distinctive as human fingerprints.