

## INFORMATIVE—RESEARCH

## Horses

### Why I Chose This Animal

I chose horses because I like to ride them. I also like to pet them. At the camp I go to everybody gets to have horses back riding lessons. Horses are so beautiful and fun to ride.

### Horse Families

A mother or female horse is called a mare. A father or male horse is called a stallion. A foal is a baby horse.

### Markings

A star is a little white diamond on the forelock. The forelock is a horse's forehead. A race is a white line down the middle of the horse's face. A blaze is kind of like a race but wider. If the white line on its face spreads out to its eyes it is called a white face. A small amount of white on its muzzle is called a snip. A muzzle is a horse's mouth.

### Breeds and Color Coats

Icelandic and Shetland ponies are very small when they are full grown. Chestnuts are red-brown and Roans have white hairs on their brown coat. Cream is a rare color. Rare means you don't see the color cream very much. Brown horses are brown all over. Blacks are black all over. Piebalds have black and white spots. Skewbalds are brown and white. Duns are a sandy brown with black manes and tails. Palominos have a yellowish coat and a shiny mane and tail. Grays have black and white hairs that make the color

gray. Bays are brown with black manes, tails, and legs. Whites are white all over.

### Breeds I Like

I like thoroughbreds because they are such a pretty brown. I like Arabians because their different coats are very beautiful and they're one of the oldest horses. I like Morgans because they have a beautiful reddish-brown coat. I like Lipizzaners because their white coats are so very pretty. I like Icelandic and Shetland ponies because they are so very cute, pretty and small.

### Horses from Different Countries

Hokaidos are from Japan, Sumbas are from Indonesia, and Pintos are from America.

### Horse Movement

A horse can walk, trot, canter, and gallop. A trot is kind of like a skip. A canter is like a fast skip. And a gallop is like running.

### Friendly Horses

Horse can be great friends. Some horses can be dangerous. Most horses are are very lovable.

### Foals

Baby horses are called foals. When a foal is ready to be born, the mare (the mother horse) lies down. As soon as the foal is born it struggles to break out of the membrane

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sack. When the foal breaks out of the sack it breathes on it's own. In about less than a minute the foal tries to get up and walk on it's own. Foals are born with their hooves first and head last. They drink their mother's milk until they're nine to ten months old.

**How Long a Horse Lives**

They live about 12 to 14 years.

**Horses Habitat**

You usually find horses in a barn. Some horses are wild. You can find horses on ranches, too.

**What Horses Eat**

Horses eat hay, grass, barley and oats. The best food for a tired horse is oatmeal. Don't give a young horse too much oatmeal, it makes them too hyper. Horses love carrots, apples, molasses and sugar cubes. A block of salt gives the horse important minerals and makes them thirsty so they will drink enough water.

**The Most Dangerous Horse**

The most dangerous horse is the Percheron. Some people cannot pronounce that so they call them war horses. It is only dangerous if it is a wild horse. If it is it can kill you in 7 to 8 minutes. If it is trained it is nice like any other horse.

**The Fastest Horse**

The fastest horse is the wild stallion. If you

thought, like I did that the Wild stallion was really dangerous you were wrong. A wild stallion can kill you but it could take up to one hour.

**The First Horses**

The first horses were no bigger than a fox and looked like a donkey. They had short tails and small ears. These horses lived millions of years ago, but now they are extinct. The only way we knew there were horses like that was because the first humans (our ancestors) painted these horses on ancient cave walls. These horses lived in North America and over the years they changed into the horses we know now.

**Horse Survival**

Most horses live on farms or ranches, but some horses are wild. Wild horses can survive hard weather and they graze on hills, marshes and grasslands. These days wild horses are very rare. People work to keep these wild horses free.

**My Description of a Horse**

A horse is a mammal because it has fur, drinks milk and their babies are born alive. They have four legs and hooves. They have beautiful long manes and tails.

I like horses and I know a lot about them. I like to ride them and they're so beautiful! Their coats are beautiful, I wish I had a horse of my own!