

Equine Fun Facts

- Horses can sleep both lying down and standing up
- Horses can run shortly after birth
- Domestic horses have a lifespan of around 25 years
- A 19th century horse named 'Old Billy' is said to have lived 62 years
- Horses have around 205 bones in their skeleton
- Horses have been domesticated for over 5000 years
- Horses have bigger eyes than any other mammal that lives on land
- Because horse's eyes are on the side of their head they are capable of seeing nearly 360 degrees at one time
- Horses gallop at around 44 kph (27 mph)
- The fastest recorded sprinting speed of a horse was 88 kph (55 mph)
- Estimates suggest that there are around 60 million horses in the world
- When horses look like they are laughing, they are actually engaging in a special nose-enhancing technique known as "flehmen," to determine whether a smell is good or bad
- At one time people thought horses were colour blind. They're not, though they are better at seeing yellows and greens than purples and violets
- A horse's teeth take up a larger amount of space in their head than their brain
- Horse hooves are made from the same protein that comprises human hair and fingernails
- The Przewalski's horse is the only truly wild horse species still in existence
- An adult horse's brain weighs 22 oz, about half that of a human
- Horses cannot vomit
- The first cloned horse was a Haflinger mare in Italy in 2003
- Horses produce approximately 10 gallons of saliva a day
- Horses height is measured in units known as "hands." One hand is equal to four inches. The tallest horse on record was a Shire named Sampson. He was 21.2 hands (7 feet, 2 inches) tall. He was born in 1846 in Toddington Mills, England
- Horses drink at least 25 gallons of water a day (more in hotter climates)
- It takes 9-12 months to re-grow an entire horse hoof
- Horses have 16 muscles in each ear, allowing them to rotate their ears 180 degrees