

Poo facts!

Brace yourself, as you are about to experience an overload of weird and wonderful facts about horse poo!

Reasons why you should clear up poo:

WORMS

Worm eggs live in poo. When they hatch, larvae (Ed's note: the grub-like parasites that hatch from the worm eggs) crawl out into grass and are then eaten by other ponies as they graze. The larvae then grow inside the pony's gut, which is very bad news!

RAGWORT

Destroyed grass then leads to bare patches... Ragwort is a poisonous plant that can kill horses, and it thrives on bare patches of ground. I think it's fair to say that picking up your pony's poo is a very good idea indeed!

LOOK AFTER YOUR GRASS

Leaving droppings on the ground for a long time will destroy the grass underneath, so make sure you poo pick at least every couple of days!



Ragwort is very dangerous for horses. Don't let it grow near your nedly!



Watch out for nasty little worms!



Horses poo around ten times a day because of their high fibre diets.

Red says, "If Redwings has 1250 residents, can you guess how many poos we have to pick up every day?"

Poo can tell you a lot about your pony's teeth. If their poo has got large bits of hay in it, then it could mean your pony is unable to chew properly.

Red says, "Make sure your pony sees the dentist every six months to a year..."

I bet you didn't know...

A horse can produce nine tonnes of poo a year... That's more than the weight of a Tyrannosaurus Rex dinosaur!

Ponies tend to create a latrine area, which basically means they poo in the same place in their fields!

What does it mean if your horse has runny poo? If your horse is happy, he is probably just excited about something! However, if he's looking dull and depressed, it's time to call the vet as there could be something bad going on inside his tummy!

No poo? This could be a sign of colic, which is caused when there's a blockage in the pony's intestines.

A healthy poo should be greeny-brown in colour and firm. It should break apart when it hits the ground.

Poo can tell you how many worms a pony has in its body, which will help you decide if he needs a dose of wormer or not.

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When you've finished mucking out or poo picking, your pony's poo is normally put on a muck heap. The bad news is that midges love these muck heaps and some ponies are allergic to their bites - a condition called Sweet Itch. Try to keep your muck far away from your pony!

Here's a wonderful fact... Horse poo is often used on flower beds because it provides the soil with lots of nutrients, which gives the plants a 'jump start'!

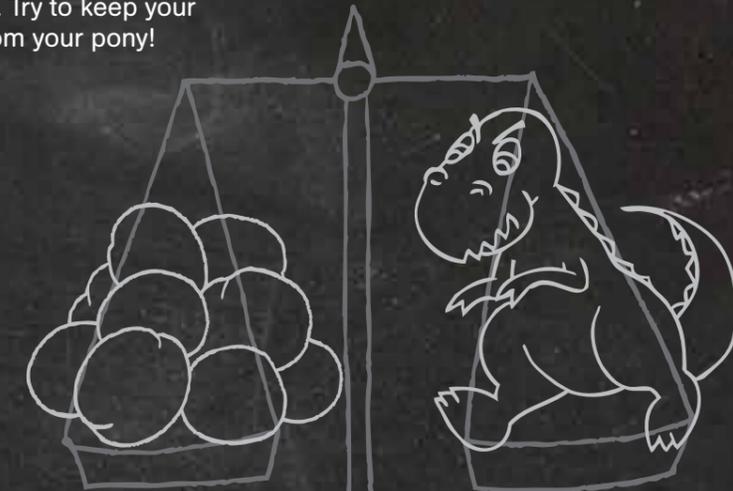
Apparently in America, horse poo is called 'road apples' - that's definitely a weird fact!

At Redwings we use a tractor and sweeper to clear the horse poo!

Would you like one more fact that'll make you go 'eeewww!!!'? Of course you would! Dung Beetles, known as 'rollers', feed on poo and even lay their eggs inside it - lovely!



Your horse's poo will show how healthy his teeth are!



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