

Beartooth Back Country Horsemen Trail Tales

President's Pen

We've had some mild weather lately and I know some of you have been out riding. Kudos to you. I would rather save some of this mild weather for the spring trail clearings, or even the first week of hunting season. But it's a good opportunity to keep your horses conditioned in the winter this way. Less to do in the spring.



The board of directors has been busy getting organized for the year. It's shaping up to be a busy year. We should have a lot of opportunities to ride and camp.

It's time to get our certifications renewed for the volunteer projects with the Forest Service. The details are posted elsewhere in this newsletter. But here's a rundown. In February, just a couple of weeks hence, we'll have the First Aid/CPR training. In March we'll have the Spring Clinic – Defensive Horse Safety. Save the date, March 19. We'll cancel the general meeting Monday, March 21 since it is so close to the Spring Clinic.

This is a mandatory refresher training required every 3 years by the US Forest Service for personnel who work with stock. As volunteers we are required to have the same training and certifications. Anyone who is working on the trail clearing projects and pack projects needs to attend this class. Crosscut saw certification will tentatively be Saturday, April 2. These certifications also provide liability coverage for accidents or injuries while working on these projects.

John Jenkins

BBCH DIRECTORS



- President- John Jenkins
855-0238
- Vice President- Dave Heinle
321-4326
- Treasurer- Melissa Codner
308-390-0465
- Director- Keith Brighton
425-1122
- Director – Ray Longstreth
406 224 5185
- Director- Bob Knutson
698-0290

STATE DIRECTORS



- John Jenkins
855-0238
- Randy Thomsen
425-0204
- John Simmons
328-4163
- Keith Brighton (Alternate)
425-1122

NATIONAL DIRECTOR



- John Chepulis
322-4823



Everyone Brings Something to the Table.

February 21st – 6:30 P.M. Potluck - Meeting @ 7:00

Fishtail Community Center

Education Program: Sarah Barlau- Russell, DVM from the Absarokee Animal Hospital will be speaking about Horse Colic.

DUES:

Yearly dues for 2022 are:

- Business Membership \$40
- Family Membership \$35
- Individual Membership \$25

You may pay in-person at our next meeting, or mail your checks to BBCH, PO Box 614, Absarokee MT 59001. Please send updated email, address if your contact information has changed. This information is only used for the BBCH and BCHMT Newsletters and is not shared.

January BBCH General Meeting Recap



Bryan Giordano, fisheries biologist with Fish Game and Wildlife gave us a run down on how fish surveys are done and enlisted our help in a project this summer. The fish survey team shared past survey results. Including where the fish are, their ages and

sizes, etc. It varies greatly depending on the section of a river you are on. Most of the survey information is outside the designated wilderness areas. If you missed it, I will be glad to share the information on what sections of the Stillwater and Yellowstone have the highest fish densities. For a nominal fee, of course!

NOTICES

FIRST AID AND CPR

Saturday, February 26. 10:30 TO 3:30. Hanna Hall, Fishtail. Taught by Connie Long, RN. This course will provide the AHA - American Heart Association – certification for Basic Life Support (BLS) aka Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). Bring a sack lunch. This will be an abbreviated course so we will work through lunch. RSVP john.k.jenkins@gmx.us or text 406-855-0238. See next newsletter for details

SPRING CLINIC – DEFENSIVE HORSE SAFETY COURSE

COTTONWOOD EQUESTRIAN CENTER, Silesia, MT.

Saturday March 19, 2020.

THIS COURSE IS MANDATORY EVERY 3 YEARS FOR EVERYONE INVOLVED IN TRAIL CLEARING AND PACKING PROJECTS. Details forthcoming in the next newsletter. Registration 8:00 AM.

<https://bchmt.org/wp/education/>

GOALS: The goals of the course will be to meet the training requirements of The Health and Safety Code (FSM 6709.11.04.1) and to provide livestock safety training for the BCH of Montana members and volunteers thereby reducing job hazards for volunteers and personnel who work with livestock.

BCHMT State Convention

Early registration ends Feb 11. It will cost \$10 more after that. If you want to be a delegate, the club will cover the registration fee. See the most recent newsletters for information or contact me or a board member.

BCHA 2022 WINTER NEWSLETTER

When was the last time you caught up on National BCHA News? It is only a click away.

<https://www.bcha.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/BCHAwinter2022newsletter.pdf>

BCHMT Winter Newsletter

The latest issue of the BCHMT Newsletter is available online at the following link: [DD-WEB-FEB1-12-22.pdf \(bchmt.org\)](#)

NO GENERAL MEETING FOR MARCH!

The *March General meeting has been cancelled*. We will have General meetings in February and April.

SADDLE UP: MASTER OUTFITTER TRACES EVOLUTION OF PACKING

By: Rob Chaney

The January 28th, 2022, edition of the Missoulian includes a great article (with pictures) about Smoke Elser and his life as an outfitter. To read the full article, click on this link: https://www.fairfieldsuntimes.com/news/state/saddle-up-master-outfitter-traces-evolution-of-packing/article_f89b1ec8-0703-5fb8-bd99-51de7c26bfba.html

“I still try to buy old saddles,” the 88-year-old outfitter and master packer said. “They’re built better and last longer, and they’ve got better seats. You see one with foam rubber? What a joke. It’s like sitting in a wet puddle, and you can’t move around. Your hips need to move with the horse, and for that you need firm leather.”

Smoke Elser



The wall of saddles in outfitter Smoke Elser's Missoula barn attest to his decades of experience packing horses and mules into the wilderness.

TOM BAUER
Missoulian

BBCH – BOARD MEETING DECEMBER 2, 2021

Meeting called to order 7pm at Fishtail Community Center.

In attendance: John Jenkins, Dave Heinle, Randy Thomsen, Nancy Thomsen, Melissa Codner, Keith Brighton, Bob Knutson, Ray Longstreth.

Minutes – Randy Thomsen moved to approve October board minutes. Keith Brighton second. Motion passed.

Confusion at the General Meeting caused the Board of Directors to consult BBCH by laws. It was confirmed that board members serve a 2-year term, except for the state alternate which serves a one-year term. 3 board seats needed to be filled and 1 one-year seat, along with a state alternate.

Keith Brighton was elected State alternate.

Bob Knutson was elected to Board for 1 year term.

Dave Heinle and Ray Longstreth were elected to 2-year terms.

Randy Thomsen moved to fill open 2-year term board position with Keith Brighton. Melissa Codner second. Motion passed. Keith Brighton agreed to also stay as state alternate for the 1-year term.

Board elections

Melissa Codner nominated John Jenkins for president. Keith Brighton second. Motion passed.

Randy Thomsen nominated Dave Heinle for vice president. Ray Longstreth second. Motion passed.

Keith Brighton nominated Melissa Codner as treasurer. Dave Heinle second. Motion passed.

Dave Heinle nominated Nancy Thomsen as non-board member secretary. Ray Longstreth second. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report in minutes. December budget review.

Keith Brighton moved to renew In Reach by Garmin to an annual subscription if the subscription is under \$300. Ray Longstreth second. Motion passed. Board requests a budget for 2022. Bob Knutson moved to accept the Treasurer's report. Randy Thomsen second. Motion passed.

Education – Committee would like to schedule FWP to speak in January general meeting. John Jenkins will speak with Connie Long at BCHMT meeting in December to reschedule CPR class. BBCH might consider someone closer to teach class.

Communications – Melissa Codner stated Facebook page got 200 more likes this month, she will email Robin Morris, and other membership for information to start Trail spotlight posts.

Activities – Discussion on fun rides and liability. John Jenkins will ask at BCHMT December meeting.

Board would like a video to play at Christmas party, John Jenkins and Dave Heinle will put that together.

Christmas Decorations will be put up December 19th at 2pm. White elephant gifts were voted in at general meeting. Gifts must be less than \$20. RSVP must be received by December 13. John Jenkins will put in Newsletter.

Old Business

Dave Heinle moved to spend \$600 on T-shirts to give away at Christmas party. Randy Thomsen second. Motion passed.

Discussion on sending membership to Pack School. Pack Schools include Royal Tine, Bob Marshal Outfitter.

Keith Brighton moved to send 2 members to Royal Tine Guide and Packer School 3-day clinic. Member must pay non-refundable deposit of \$250, which will be reimbursed by club after completion of clinic. Club will also pay balance of clinic cost. Dave Heinle second. Motion passed.

John Chepulis is still looking into replacing 3 signs for the BBCH. Forrest Service price is \$800 a piece.

Discussion on purchase of battery powered chain saw. Ray Longstreth moved to purchase a DeWalt chain saw with a 12-inch bar, 2 batteries, charger, 2 extra chains and bar oil. Melissa Codner second. Motion passed. Randy Thomsen will purchase chain saw.

New Business

Dave Heinle suggested looking into increasing the stipend paid to club members for work projects.

Discussion on Dave Heinle's suggested \$20 per pack animal, and \$1.50 per mile with stock.

Tabled for next meeting.

Dave Heinle suggested a change of venue to Columbus or rotate between Columbus and Fishtail.

Tabled for next meeting and ask membership at general meeting.

Meeting adjourned 8:50pm

BBCH – BOARD MEETING – JANUARY 13, 2022

Meeting called to order at 7:05pm via Goto Meeting

In attendance: John Jenkins, Dave Heinle, Melissa Codner, Nancy Thomsen, Randy Thomsen, Keith Brighton, Bob Knutson, Ray Longstreth, John Chepulis, and Marilyn Simmons

Dave Heinle moved to accept the December board meeting minutes. Randy Thomsen second. Motion passed.

Treasurer's report: Garmin subscription has been changed to annual subscription saving \$10 a month. End of Year and proposed budget reports in Minutes. Discussion on laptop computer for treasurer with financial program.

Keith Brighton moved to accept Treasurer's report. Dave Heinle second. Motion passed.

Education: Ryan with FWP will be speaking on January 17 general meeting. John Jenkins will contact Connie Long for CPR/First aid class certification for scheduling. A committee to organize Defensive Horse Certification Clinic, Pack Clinic, and Spring Clinic are John Jenkins, Dave Heinle, John Chepulis, and Marilyn Simmons.

The Board is asked to send in articles, stories, or pieces of interest to the Newsletter. General Membership will also be asked to submit to the newsletter at the general meeting.

Activities: ABWF will have a rough idea of dates for projects in March. Discussion on crosscut, chain saw and first aid certifications. An in-person appointment will be made with Allie Wood to discuss the up- coming year.

Chapter t-shirts are done, Melissa Codner will bring them to the general meeting to hand out to the members.

BCHMT convention forms have arrived. The convention is March 11-13. No resolutions will be presented to the BCHMT at the convention by the board. Randy Thomsen updated the directors list with BCHMT.

The Chamber of Commerce, in Columbus, has been rented by John Jenkins for the next 6 months for board meetings, for a centrally located change of venue. A venue for general meetings is also being looked into.

Discussion on purchasing a laptop specifically for the Treasurer. Melissa Codner and Marilyn Simmons will do research and bring their findings to the board. 2022 Budget was tabled until the February board meeting.

Discussion on stipend for work projects. Dave Heinle moved to set stipend at \$.75 a mile for saddle horse/trailer that preforms work, \$1.10 a mile for livestock/pack trailer, and \$20 a day per pack livestock. Keith second. Motion passed.

Discussion on sending members to Royal Tine Pack school.

Meeting adjourned 9:10pm

BLM SEEKS CITIZEN ADVICE IN MISSOULA & LEWISTOWN IN PLANNING RE-START

After a rocky couple of years, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management is reaching out for citizen advisers for its Missoula and Lewistown office activity.

"We got to a place where we had too few people on the resource advisory councils and the nomination process wasn't keeping up," BLM Missoula District Manager Katie Stevens said.

"We're trying to get a good crop of applicants, and it's challenging to get folks seated," she added. "Nationwide, we were looking at opportunities to reduce RACs overall, and some states went to a single, statewide RAC. We might have been able to maintain a quorum if we did that. But Montana is big enough that we needed to keep a RAC on the west side, too."

In 2019, BLM issued resource management plans covering 163,000 acres in Missoula, Powell, and Granite counties, and 651,000 acres in counties surrounding its Lewistown office. The plans would also affect 1.2 million acres of BLM-overseen energy development in north-central Montana.

The Lewistown plan drew extensive criticism in 2021 after it opened 94% of its listed Areas of Critical Ecological Concern to oil and gas leasing. Federal BLM officials also disbanded the Lewistown Resource Advisory Committee.

The Missoula office has not had an RAC seated for about five years, according to BLM spokesperson David Abrams.

The plans also drew a successful lawsuit from former Montana Gov. Steve Bullock, who argued the BLM lacked an authorized director to issue the plans. At the time, William Perry Pendley was overseeing the agency, but had never been nominated to the job by former President Donald Trump or confirmed by Congress.

President Joe Biden nominated Bullock's former Department of Environmental Quality Director Tracy Stone-Manning to lead the BLM, and Congress confirmed her to the post on Sept. 30, 2021.

The BLM does not have as large a footprint in western Montana as its sister agency, the U.S. Forest Service, Stevens acknowledged. But it does touch some very popular landscapes, including long reaches of the Blackfoot River recreational corridor, the Gold Creek drainage northeast of Missoula, Garnet Ghost Town and lands around Butte, Dillon, Helena, and Bozeman.

The council gives input on topics such as fee proposals, urban interface issues, trail system use and hazardous fuels projects, Stevens said.

"RACs are super helpful with any resource issue with different points of view," Stevens said. Federal law requires citizen input on a variety of issues before the agency can move forward, she added.

Restarting the advisory committees met with approval from several organizations that had criticized the agency's past moves. Montana Wild senior field director Erin Clark anticipated a competitive pool of applicants for seats on the council.

"We are delighted that these councils are going to be revitalized and community members are sought to fill the positions," Clark said. "This is a tremendous opportunity for public input to influence how BLM properties and management move forward."

BLM will accept nominations until Feb. 11, 2022. For more information and an application, go to on.doi.gov/3o7A1bZ or contact David Abrams at dabrams@blm.gov or 406-533-7617.

BCHMT – 2022 STATE CONVENTION

After a 2-year hiatus the BCHMT Convention is a go! The 2022 BCHMT State Convention is March 11-13, in Dillon, MT. It is time to mark your calendars and reserve your lodging! The following link includes the registration form and more information. [2022 BCHMT State Convention | Back Country Horsemen of Montana](#). Convention Agenda, Raffle and Photo Contest rules follow.

2022 Montana State BCH Convention Agenda

Friday, March 11, 2022

UMW Mathews Hall/Lewis & Clark Room

Finish by 5:00	Vendor Set Up	Mathews Hall
Noon-5:00	Convention Registration, Turn in Raffle ticket sales	Lobby
Noon-5:00	Photo Registration	Registration Table
Noon-5:00	Cross Cut Sign Up Sheet	Registration Table
Noon-5:00	Auction Item drop off	Registration Table
12:30pm	Nominating Committee meeting	TBA
1:00-4:00pm	State Board Meeting (Pre-Convention)	TBA
Pending	No Host Social Gathering	Beaverhead Brewery

Saturday, March 12, 2022

7:00	Convention Registration, Turn in Raffle Ticket Sales, Photo Registration, Cross Cut Registration	Lobby Lobby
Morning	Cowboy Coffee & Donuts with Dave in his tent	Front of Mathews Hall
8:00	Opening of Convention	Lewis & Clark room
8:05	Presentation of Flag	
8:15	Invocation	
8:20	State Chapter Roll Call	
8:45	General Session Opens Treasurer's Report Volunteer Hours Report Nominating Committee	Lewis & Clark room
9:00	Silent Auction Opens	Lewis & Clark room
10:30	Morning Break (Continental Breakfast) Vote for your favorite photos	Lewis & Clark room Mathews Hall
11:00am	John Chepulis - Volunteer Hours instruction	Lewis & Clark room
12:00-1:00	Lunch - Tickets Required	UMW Cafeteria
1:00	Last call for Cross Cut Competition Registration Vote for your favorite photos	Lobby Mathews Hall
1:00-2:00	General Session Continues	
2:10-3:00	Breakout Sessions Jessica Murray - Extension Office "Grazing Management on Small Acreage"	TBA
	Kim Johnston - People & Carnivores "Bear Aware" Equipment they loan out along with the USFS	TBA

BBCH PO Box 614, Absarokee, MT 59001

3:10-4:00	Breakout Sessions	TBA
	Jessica Murray - Extension Office (maybe 40 people)	
	Pasturing & Feeding on small acreages	TBA
	Kim Johnston - People & Carnivores (maybe 40 people)	
	Living in bear country	
	Equipment they loan out along with the USFS	
4:00-5:00	Cross Cut Saw Contest	TBA
5:00-11:00	No Host Bar (with Entertainment?)(Beaverhead Golf Club)	Lewis & Clark Rm
6:00-8:00	Banquet - Tickets Required	Lewis & Clark Rm
8:00	Silent Auction Closes; Last call for Raffle Sales	
8:00-11:00	Live Auction, Raffle Drawing, 50/50	

Daylight Savings Time begins!

Sunday, March 13, 2022

7:00	Cowboy Church - Pastor Cliff Billings	Mathews Hall
7:45-8:40	Chapter President's meeting	TBA
Morning	Cowboy Coffee & Donuts with Dave in his tent	Mathews Hall Front Lawn
8:45	General Session Reconvenes	Lewis & Clark Rm
	Photo contest Winners	
	Presentation Mile High Award (saw contest) + prizes	
	Elections	
10:00-10:30	Morning Break	Lewis & Clark Rm
10:30-Noon	General Session Reconvenes	Lewis & Clark Rm
	Next Year's Convention Video	
12:00	Convention Adjournment/turn in name tags	
12:15	State Board Post-Convention Meeting	Lewis & Clark Rm
12:15	Vendor Display Removal	Mathews Hall

**Support your local
3 Rivers BackCountry Horseman Chapter
Raffle**

- 1) Celebrate Montana's Biggest Weekend
 - 4 nights at The Meine Lodge (September 1-4)
 - 2 tickets to Dillon Jaycee Rodeo
 - 2 tickets to Dillon Jaycee Concert

- 2) Fish a Blue Ribbon Stream in Montana
 - A one day fishing trip with Frontier Angler
 - and a one night stay at Lover's Leap Lodging for 2

- 3) Ski the Maverick
 - 2 Ski passes to Maverick Mountain
 - 2 Soak passes to Elkhorn Hot Springs
 - 1 Night for 2 at Grasshopper Inn B&B

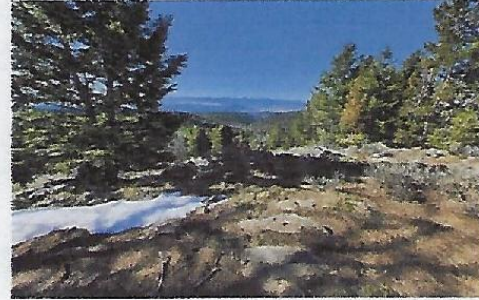
*All drawn for at Montana BCH State
Convention, March 12, 2022*

Need not be present to win \$5.00 each or 5 for \$20

**Tickets available at the Beaverhead County Fair
or by calling 406-681-3131**

2022 BCH of MT State Convention

Photo Contest March 11-13, 2022



Welcome and Thank You for entering your photo in our annual contest. Following are the contest guidelines. Please note that the convention attendees will decide the winner.

* Register your photo Friday afternoon or Saturday morning before 9:00 AM

* Photo contest will have 5 (five) categories. Members are limited to 2 (two) entries in each category.

* Categories

1-Stock & Wildlife: Horses, Dogs, Cats, etc.

2-Montana Landscape: Scenery, Mountains, Lakes, etc.

3-Kids Old & Young: People Young, Old, Not So Old

4-Back Country Horsemen at Work: Work Projects, Club Projects, Activities

5-Humorous: Comical, Funny, Makes you smile

Photos are to be taken by amateur photographers only and must be BCH members.

Photo size shall be 5x7 or 8x10 and must be mounted or matted (please, no frames).

Photographer's name, address & email/phone # shall be attached to the back of the photo.

Photos may be mailed to: Kathy Allard, 23385 Hwy 278, Dillon, MT, 59725

HORSE 11

Basic horse first aid



The charity dedicated to helping sick, injured and homeless pets since 1897.



Basic horse first aid

Whether at grass, in the stable or while being ridden, horses seem prone to inadvertent injury. Despite the safest of environments, even the most careful owner can end up having to attend to a horse emergency or administer basic first aid. Everyday cuts and grazes need proper treatment as soon as possible to prevent them from getting worse. The horse keeper must, therefore, be well prepared.





All horses should be checked thoroughly for signs of injury as part of the daily care routine, to ensure injuries are identified and professional veterinary care received.

Be prepared

A simple first aid kit, kept in the tack room or stable yard, is a necessity for every horse keeper. A few essential items stored safely in a clean, dry box, can save a lot of panic if a horse emergency occurs. The box should be labelled clearly and should include contact numbers for your veterinary surgeons. Any used or expired items should be replaced immediately.

A horse first aid kit should also be part of the equipment that is taken to shows or whilst travelling. Carrying a separate human first aid kit is also advantageous.

First aid action

The aim of first aid is to take immediate action when an injury is discovered, to prevent the condition getting worse while awaiting veterinary assistance.

- Prevent further injury by taking charge of the horse and guiding it to a place of safety
- Briefly assess any injury and be ready to relay details to the veterinary surgeon
- Call the veterinary surgeon and act on the advice received from them
- Identify the cause of the injury and take measures to prevent it happening again
- If in doubt, always call the vet



A call to the veterinary surgeon might not necessarily result in a visit. Advice given over the telephone can provide reassurance to the keeper and ensure that correct first aid treatment is given. Calling the veterinary surgeon early is essential. It is a false economy to seek professional advice only when symptoms have worsened considerably. It may cause additional suffering to the animal if attempts are made to treat an injury without due consultation, or if the severity of the injury is underestimated.

Assessing wounds

Cuts and grazes are the most common injuries that are likely to need attention – to stop bleeding and to prevent infection. The type and location of a wound, and the manner in which it was caused, can affect its severity and treatment. It is important to assess the wound quickly and to contact a veterinary surgeon in all cases other than very minor cuts and scrapes.



Veterinary attention is always advisable and is essential if:

- the horse keeper is in doubt or lacks experience to assess and treat minor wounds
- the wound is more than skin deep or more than a few centimetres long
- there is a lot of bleeding or the injury involves the eyes or joints
- the wound is very dirty and/or difficult to assess
- the horse is lame and/or other underlying or internal injury is suspected
- the horse has not been vaccinated against tetanus

Types of wounds

Clean-cut (incised) – caused by something sharp. This can be serious as there is often a lot of bleeding. The edges of the wound appear clean and straight and the wound can be a lot deeper into the tissue than may first appear.

Torn (lacerated) – caused by something hard but blunt, for example barbed wire. The edges of the wound are irregular and jagged, although bleeding is not usually as profuse as for clean-cut wounds. There may be associated swelling.

Puncture – caused by a piercing object, such as a nail or thorn. These wounds can be far deeper than the external

wound suggests and they pose a considerable risk of infection. They are also more easily overlooked.

Grazes (abrasions) – may appear superficial but have a large surface area that poses an increased risk of infection. There is often associated bruising and they can take a long time to heal.

Bruises, lumps, swellings and inflammation (even in the absence of an obvious wound) – can be evidence of an underlying injury, and veterinary advice should be sought.

Types of treatment

The aims of treatment of wounds are to:

- stop bleeding
- cleanse and prevent infection
- promote healing (as quickly and effectively as possible)

Inflammation and swelling can be reduced by addressing their cause and by applying cooling treatments. All treatments should be carried out in accordance with veterinary advice.

Bathing

Use a clean swab with warm water (containing a small amount of a suitable cleanser or antiseptic) to gently cleanse a wound. If several swabs are required, each should be used once and then discarded.





Cold hosing

Apply a steady stream of cold water, washed (for approximately 15 minutes at a time) over an injury, to soothe and reduce swelling.

Poulticing

Apply a poultice (hot or cold) to aid treatment. Cold poultices are used to reduce inflammation caused by kicks or knocks. Hot (but comfortable to the touch) poultices are used to increase blood supply to the injury and to help to draw out any infection that may be present.

Types of bandages and padding

Surgical or self-fixing disposable bandages are useful items in the first aid box. They are flexible and can be applied easily to provide support or hold dressings in place on the legs



and even on areas (such as joints and hooves) that are more difficult to bandage.

In addition to bandaging the lame limb, an exercise or stable bandage is often applied to the opposing, weight-bearing leg, to provide additional support.

Padding is essential beneath all bandages, to even out and reduce pressure and to provide protection. Gamgee, fibregee and leg wraps are all acceptable forms of protection for use under bandages.



Bandaging cautions

Bandages must be fitted correctly, to avoid causing permanent damage. They must be applied over the padding, with an even pressure used throughout. There should be no wrinkles in either the bandage or the padding. Care also needs to be taken when finishing the bandage so that it fastens on the outer side of the leg, with the fastening being secure but no tighter than the bandage itself.

Bandages that are either too tight or are left on too long (or where insufficient padding has been used) can cause permanent hair loss or white hairs on the legs. Furthermore, secondary injury to the tendons can occur if bandages or their ties are too tight or if pressure points are caused (from a twist in the bandage or a knot positioned at the back of the leg). Inflammation and bruising of the cannon bone can also result. Loose or poorly applied bandages can be dangerous and cause problems if they slip down.

When removing bandages the horse's leg should be rubbed to encourage circulation.

Taking a horse's temperature and pulse

A horse's normal temperature is 38°C, though this may vary by half a degree either way. The horse's temperature is taken using a horse thermometer



(modern digital versions are preferable to mercury-based ones). Care must be taken when performing this procedure. Ideally, the horse should be held by an assistant. After being lubricated, the thermometer should be partially inserted into the horse's rectum and tilted slightly so that it rests against the rectal wall. The thermometer should be held in place for a full minute before being removed and wiped clean. The reading may then be viewed.

The pulse rate of a horse at rest is 30 to 40 heartbeats per minute. This rate increases normally with exercise and excitement, but can also increase when the horse has a fever or is in acute pain. Likewise, the horse's normal breathing rate can also alter, or appear laboured, indicating possible ill health or distress.

The pulse can be taken at the point where the facial artery passes under the lower jaw. When the artery has been located, light pressure should be applied, using the flat of two or three fingers. The number of pulses over a period of 15 seconds should be counted, then



this number multiplied by four to obtain the pulse rate. If the horse shows signs of a fever or appears to be in pain, a veterinary surgeon should be consulted.

It is worth practising taking a horse's pulse before the actual need arises.

Nursing a sick or injured horse

The advice of your veterinary surgeon should be followed in respect of treatment and care during recovery. Additionally, the veterinary surgeon should be contacted if there is any worsening of the horse's condition.

A sick or injured horse which is being kept confined to its stable (referred to as box rest) needs additional care and attention to ensure well-being and aid recovery. If a horse is ill, it is more important than ever to observe the animal regularly and to ensure that your horse is comfortable and that the environment is clean.

Effective ventilation of the stable is essential and a light weight rug can help keep a convalescing horse warm.

Clean fresh water must be available at all times. If water intake has to be monitored, buckets should be used rather than automatic drinkers.

An infectious horse should be kept in isolation. All equipment associated with the horse should be kept separate from that of other horses, and disinfected

thoroughly when the horse has recovered. Handlers should adopt strict hygiene measures to prevent the spread of infection.

Feed should be tempting and palatable to encourage a sick horse to eat. Good clean hay should form the basis of the ration and this may require soaking prior to being fed, to increase its palatability and minimise dust. The veterinary surgeon may advise a special diet if the horse has a digestive problem or a nutrition-related condition. A horse that was in regular work prior to injury should be given a reduced feed ration to take account of the decrease in activity level.

The horse's feet should be picked out twice daily and, depending on the nature of the injury, the horse may benefit from being groomed regularly.

Boredom can be alleviated by subdividing the hay ration into several small feeds given throughout the day. If necessary, stable toys or a neighbouring companion horse can be introduced.

Related Blue Cross publications

The following leaflets from the pet care series may be useful.

- Safety around horses (H2)
- Feeding and watering (H7)
- Routine healthcare for horses (H8)
- Vaccinations and disease control (H10)
- Common ailments (H12)



Happy, healthy pets

Blue Cross advice leaflets are packed full of top tips to help owners with their pet questions. They cover a wide range of topics, from training a puppy to caring for an older cat. So if you need some support to help you with a pet problem, whether it's about a dog or a degu, we're here for you.

You can read and download our leaflets online at www.bluecross.org.uk

Visit our website to take advantage of all its features, including:

- blog posts from Blue Cross experts
- latest news
- events near you
- pets needing new homes

Or you can join in the chat on our online communities. Find us on Twitter and Facebook – just search for Blue Cross.



Blue Cross

Blue Cross has been dedicated to the health and happiness of pets since 1897. Abandoned or unwanted, ill or injured – we do what's needed to give every pet a healthy life in a happy home. We're a charity, so the more help you give us, the more help we can give pets.

How you can help

Blue Cross doesn't receive any government funding, so we rely on the generosity of pet lovers like you. There are lots of ways you can help the sick, injured and abandoned pets in our care, like making a donation, fundraising for us or leaving us a legacy.

Please call us on 0300 777 1897 or visit www.bluecross.org.uk



Blue Cross head office
Shilton Road, Burford, Oxon OX18 4PF

Telephone: 0300 777 1897
Fax: 0300 777 1601
Email: info@bluecross.org.uk

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1/11/2022: The images you encounter riding county roads in the winter – this one made me smile!


Please send any submissions for the Newsletter to Robin Morris, junkerette@msn.com,
by the 5th of each month. Thanks!

Thank you to these local businesses for their continued support!




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