

Horse and Pony

KS2 Monday

Science

Horses can sleep both lying down and standing up. They have four legs which mean they can keep their balance and they can lock their knees so they don't fall over when they sleep.

Baby horses are called foals. Foals can run shortly after birth and stay close to their mother.

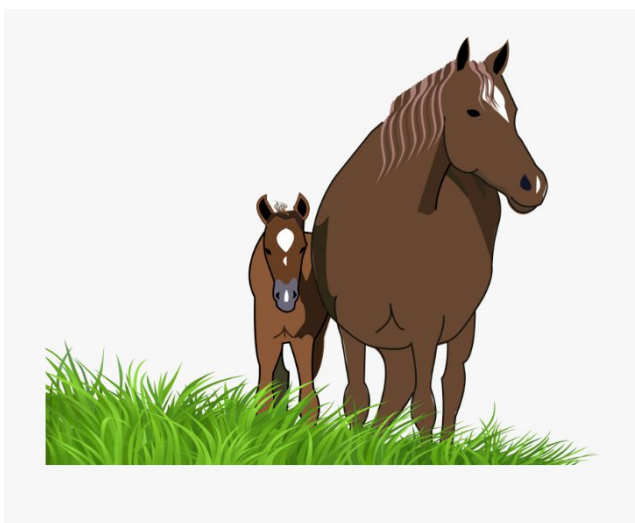
A **male** horse is called a **stallion**.

A **female** horse is called a **mare**.

A **young male** (1-3 years old) horse is called a **colt**.

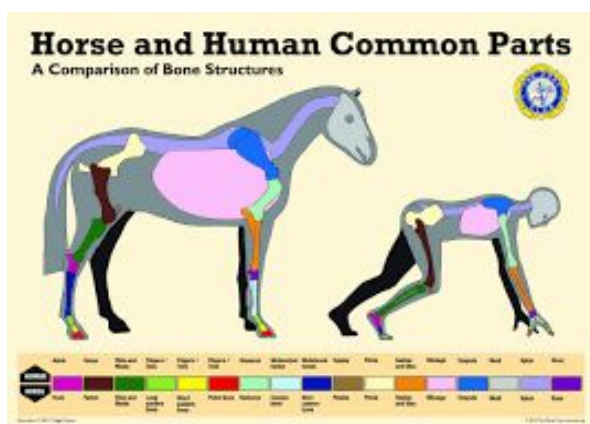
A **young female** horse is called a **filly**.

A pony is a small horse that will never be as big as a grown up horse, it is not a baby horse.



Horses have been domesticated for over 5000 years. This means they have been taken from the wild and kept and bred by humans and made tame.

Domestic horses have a lifespan of around 25 years. Horses that live in the wild do not live as long because they do not get looked after if they get hurt. Wild horses are hunted by wolves, mountain lions and used to be hunted by people.



Horses have around 205 bones in their skeleton. An adult human has 206 bones but a horse's bones are much bigger.

Horses are herbivores (plant eaters). They have long legs so they can run fast from danger so they have to have long necks to be able to reach the grass they eat. They have a big head and long nose so that they can keep their eyes and ears out of the grass to watch out for danger whilst they eat.

Horses can see all around them without moving because the horse's eyes are on the side of their head. They can't see directly behind their tail or under their nose so you should never stand right behind a horse or put your hand quickly to their face, they can be scared and might kick or bite if you do. Instead you should make a noise to let them know you are there, move slowly and hold your hand out so they can sniff you before you stroke their neck, which is their favourite place to be stroked.

Horses are very fast. They move at four types of speed (called gaits); walk is the slowest (one leg at a time), then trot which is a bit faster and bouncier than walk (two legs at a time – one front and the opposite back one together then the other two), canter is even faster (one back leg, then the other back leg with a front leg, then the last front leg in a skipping motion) and the fastest is gallop at around 44 kph (27 mph). The fastest recorded sprinting speed of a horse was 88 kph (55 mph).

Parts of the Horse

Can you label this picture of the horse with all the parts listed?



Hind legs Fore legs Hoof Poll Neck Forelock Tail Muzzle
Hock Knee Shoulder Eye Ear Nostril Fetlock Mane

True or False

This is George, he is a friendly horse but sometimes he gets confused. Can you tell which of his statements are true and which are false?

1. I am a male horse which is called a stallion

2. I can run very fast. The fastest way I can move is called a trot.

3. A baby horse is called a pony

5. If you walk behind me I might get scared

4. My favourite place to be stroked is on my nose

6. Horses have been with people for 5000 years



10. A female horse is called a colt

7. My favourite food is cheeseburgers

8. I will live to around 25 years old

9. I can lock my knees to sleep standing up