

# WINTER *tips*

FROM PENN VET'S NEW BOLTON CENTER

## KEEP HORSES SAFE IN COLD WEATHER

For more  
information, visit  
[www.vet.upenn.edu](http://www.vet.upenn.edu)

1

### PROVIDE ADEQUATE SHELTER

As long as they are metabolically healthy, receive enough calories, develop a nice winter hair coat, and have appropriate shelter, horses can happily ride out a bad winter. Be sure to provide a structural shelter for horses to escape the elements, when needed.

2

### PROVIDE ADEQUATE CALORIES

Horses expend significantly more calories keeping warm in the winter than they do any other time of year. High-quality hay should be the staple of any winter diet, especially for horses that are turned out a lot.

3

### WATER NOT ICE

One of the major causes for colic in the winter is an impaction caused by inadequate water intake. Provide a constant source of water with heated water tubs or non-freezing automatic watering systems to prevent a common winter colic that could end tragically.

4

### BLANKET CONSISTENTLY AND CHECK FREQUENTLY

Waterproof/breathable blankets can help protect against driving wind and rain. However, blankets should be removed frequently to check for changes in body condition or the occurrence of bacterial skin diseases, such as rainrot.

5

### BE SMART ABOUT CLIPPING

Be very cautious about clipping horses that live outside throughout the winter, as they will then need to be blanketed as temperatures fluctuate. Horses that are entirely clipped, including the head and ears, need to be kept inside during excessively cold temperatures, as frostbite can occur.

6

### MAINTAIN AIRFLOW

While it is tempting to close the barn to retain warmth, horses require good ventilation for healthy respiratory function. When doors and windows are closed, dust and particulate matter accumulate in the air, which can create an allergic airway reaction or exacerbate a pre-existing condition.

7

### HAVE A PLAN TO PLOW

With ice and snow, make sure that your farrier and veterinarian have access to your horses. Plowed and salted driveways are important, especially in an emergency situation.

8

### PAY ATTENTION TO FOOTING

Be very cautious about ice on surfaces where horses walk. Keep large amounts of ice melt handy, in addition to sand or grit for added traction.

## IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

Questions? Contact Field Service at 610-925-6310.

New Bolton Center's Emergency Service is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

Call 610-444-5800 or visit New Bolton Center at 382 West Street Road, Kennett Square, PA.

