

March 2007

Grooming Your Horse
How to Really Turn Out Your Horse – Chad Traugott – February 18, 2007 OPRC

Chad Traugott gave an inspiring demonstration on horse grooming and presentation. Chad used Snoopy, Betsy Burnett's horse, to demonstrate to the ladies of the club various tips and methods for bringing out the best in all horses. Snoopy was a model gentlemen enjoying the fuss and pampering.

The following are handy supplies:

Cheap Hair Gel (ie. Dippity-Doo)
Show Sheen
Hoof Polishes (Absorbine Clear, Black)
Baby Oil
Micro-Tek Shampoo & Equine Spray

Grooming: Use a Rubber Grooming Mitt to massage the horse's entire body including the face. This mitt helps bring out the natural oils into the skin and makes the horse's hair shine. This should be a daily activity.

Washing: Shampoo your horse and get as much dirt as possible off the horse. For gray horses mix **Vetrolin Bath** with a splash of **Quick Silver** and a squirt of **Betadine**. Also use **Rubbing Alcohol** for stains.

In the winter use a hot wet towel and rub in reverse of the growth of the hair in circular motions. To dry use a dry towel and rub the towel following the hair growth in circular motions.

To get the dirt out of the horse's coat, spray Micro-Tek Equine Spray over the horse's body and wipe off with a dry towel. The towel will pick up the dirt. Amazingly.

Wash hooves: Scrub the hoof with water then dry the hoof.
Next apply 2 coats clear hoof polish to white or striped hooves.
Apply black polish to black hooves.

Here are tips about clipping: Go against the growth of the hair. Clip a horse with brand new blades. Buy 2 sets of blades and switch between the blades as you body clip the horse. Have a dish of alcohol or Blade Wash to cool the blades. Buy inexpensive clipper guards at discount stores for @ \$20 and use them for clipping the feathers on the horse's legs. The guards will keep the clipper blades at an even distance from the horse's leg. When clipping the ears for the showing, clip all the ear, inside and out. When clipping a field hunter, just clip the outside of the ear and not the inner hairs. On the coronet band use your finger as a guide and clip up the hoof to your finger. In the back of the hoof clip a triangle up the pastern to the fetlock. To work on a foot, pick up the opposite hoof of the horse. This will allow the leg that you are working on to remain still and on the ground.

Bang a horse's tail 4" below the hock by pointing the scissors at a 45 degree angle toward the hocks. This allows the tail to look like it is cut straight when the horse naturally carries its tail. Show hunters leave their tails natural.

Hair Gel: Use the gel on both sides of the horse's mane to get it to lay flat. After it dries, brush the mane for a healthy full look. Gel forelock and comb.

Detangle tail using Show Sheen. Then apply Hair Gel to Dock of tail down to the end of the tail bone. This gives a smooth clipped look.

For quick tack cleaning dip leather into a solution of 2 capfuls of **Amonia** and **warm water** to clean. Then apply **Leather New** for moisture. (You can also use Murphy's Oil Soap sparingly.)

Baby Oil: Apply lightly to the tips of the ears, orbit and corners of the eyes, muzzle and knees. Be careful this collects dust