

GIRL POWER ANSWERS



1 A female horse over the age of three is called a filly.

TRUE
 FALSE

A filly is a female horse **under** the age of three.

2 The name for a female horse used for breeding purposes is a broodmare.

TRUE
 FALSE

It's actually a broodmare!

3 The mother of a foal is known as a dam.

TRUE
 FALSE

And did you know the foal's father is called a sire?

4 You can't do anything to help control a mare's hormones.

TRUE
 FALSE

Vets offer an injection that's designed to stop the mare from coming into season altogether. And, although they won't directly control her hormones, you can feed a mare specific supplements or calmers that help manage her behaviour.

5 Raising her tail, urinating more often and being more irritable and grumpy than usual are some of the signs a mare might show when she's in season.

TRUE
 FALSE

Not all mares will show the same signs, though. You might find others squeal more, are more easily distracted, less active than usual or more sensitive to touch.

6 A mare's gestation period – how long she's pregnant for – is 11 months.

TRUE
 FALSE

On average, a mare will be pregnant for 11 months which is around 330–345 days! Some mares might foal slightly earlier or later than this, but that's down to individual differences.

7 You should never ride a pregnant mare.

TRUE
 FALSE

If the mare was ridden before she became pregnant, it's OK to ride her in the early stages of her pregnancy, but you should stop in the last few months.

8 Mares only come into season in spring.

TRUE
 FALSE

Although most mares of breeding age only come into season in spring and summer, you might find that others come into season in winter, especially if the weather's mild and she's stabled and rugged up well.

9 Mares are more likely to be moody compared to geldings.

TRUE
 FALSE

Unlike geldings, mares go through a reproductive cycle that can largely shift their hormone levels. This can cause sudden mood swings and behavioural changes.

10 Most mares don't have canine teeth, whereas all male horses do.

TRUE
 FALSE

Canine teeth form as a result of the hormone testosterone which is found in large quantities in males. This is why mares are very unlikely to have canine teeth. However, if your mare does have them, it's likely she has a heightened level of testosterone which might mean she's the boss of her herd!

