

MUDDY MATTERS

Mud – ponies love it, we hate it, right? But we're here to help you ditch the dirt so you can keep your pony looking smart and feeling good this winter. Test your knowledge here!

Are you ready to win the battle against mud this winter? Our quiz will help you find out

1 How can you help to prevent gateways from getting too boggy?

- A. Keep your pony stabled
- B. Have hardstanding put down in gateways
- C. Remove mud with a shovel each day

3 What's the best way to deal with wet mud on your pony's legs when he comes in from the field?

- A. Hose the mud off and leave his legs to dry
- B. Leave the mud to dry, then brush it off
- C. Just leave it. Your pony will only get muddy again tomorrow!

2 In winter you need to watch out for health conditions such as...

- A. Mud fever and thrush
- B. Heat stroke and sunburn
- C. Sweet itch and fly bites

4 You've been for a long hack and your tack is covered in mud. How should you treat it?

- A. Hose it off with a pressure washer
- B. Wipe off mud with a damp cloth, leave the leather to dry, then apply saddle soap
- C. Use saddle soap to remove the mud

5 Mud can cause hooves to soften, which may increase the chance of your pony pulling a shoe. If this happens, you...

- A. Wait until your farrier's next due
- B. Only ride in the school
- C. Clean the hoof and call your farrier straight away

6 How can you help to stop mud from sticking to your pony's legs?

- A. Apply a mud-repelling product such as pig oil before turn out
- B. Bandage his legs
- C. Feed him garlic

7 Your pony's rug is completely covered in mud. How do you clean it?

- A. Use the good old pressure washer!
- B. Leave it to dry then gently brush off the worst. You can get your rugs professionally cleaned after winter
- C. Scrub it with a wire brush. That should do the trick!

8 You keep slipping in the mud when you get your pony in. Do you...

- A. Get your friend to video you, so you can both have a laugh later
- B. Walk through it as quickly as you can to reduce the chances of slipping
- C. Choose footwear with good grip, then shorten your stride length, relax and take your time

