

How to Groom Your Horse



Hoof Pick



Curry Comb



Dandy Brush



Body Brush



Mane and Tail
Brush



Bucket for Clean
Water



Natural Sponge



2 Grooming Cloths - 1 for
eyes, ears, muzzle, sheath,
dock. 1 for polishing coat

It's important to keep a horse's skin, hair and feet clean and healthy! Here's how:

1. Gather your grooming tools. It's a good idea to keep them together in a kit like the one shown above.
2. Pick up your horse's feet and remove any rocks or packed dirt with the hoof pick. Work downward from heel to toe. Check for any signs of foot infection. This is called thrush - it's really stinky and gross!.)
3. Use the curry comb first. A curry is made out of hard rubber with teeth to remove caked on dirt and sweat marks. Move the curry in a circular motion over the horse's body. It is important **NOT** to use a curry comb below the knees (in front) or the hocks (in back) or on the horse's face. There is not enough muscle in these areas and the curry comb may hurt them
4. Next, pick up the dandy brush, which has very stiff bristles. This brush removes the dirt that the curry comb loosened. Use short, firm strokes. Its okay to use this brush below the knees and hocks and on the face. Just be gentle.
5. Then, use the body brush to remove the bits of dirt and polish up your horse's coat. This brush has soft bristles so you can brush your horse's entire body without harm. Use long, sweeping strokes.
6. The mane and tail come next! Use a mane and tail comb or brush to untangle and smooth the hair. Comb or brush a small amount of mane or tail at a time to avoid pulling out the hairs. (For some horses, like Rudy, groomers use a special technique to pull hair out of the main to thin and shorten it. That keeps Rudy looking sharp!)
7. Finally, use a wet sponge or grooming clothes to clean your horse's eyes, muzzle, nose, ears, and any other parts that need a little extra gentle attention.
8. **BONUS!** Run your hands all over your horse's coat to really help him or her **SHINE!** (This is called hand finishing). Rudy says hand finishing feels like a horsie massage!



Rudy says: Will you please groom me today?

Can you tell how you would use each of these grooming tools to help keep Rudy's coat and hooves clean and healthy? Point to where you would use the tools as you tell about them.

Grooming equipment should consist of the following equipment:

