EQUINE KNOWLEDGE

Missing Words Worksheet: Mucking Out & Yard Maintenance

Instructions: Fill in the missing words to complete each sentence. Check your answers are correct on the website: go to Care A → Mucking Out & Yard Maintenance → Worksheet Answers.

1. Bedding is used for the following reasons:
    1. To encourage the horse to r…… and l…….. down.
    2. To encourage the horse to s……..…
    3. To absorb a……..…
    4. To prevent i…….. such as bruising, capped elbow or hocks.
    5. To provide cushioning for the horse's l……., and to prevent jarring against the hard surface.
    6. To prevent the horse s…….. or falling.
    7. To provide w……., insulation and prevent d……..…
    8. For c……
    9. For the horse's c……

2. The following points needs to be considered when choosing the suitability of bedding:
    1. C……
    2. A……..…
    3. Q……. of the bedding.
    4. Ease of d……
    5. S……..…
    6. The amount of d……. the bedding produces, especially if the horse has a r……. issue or allergy.
    7. If the bedding will be an i……. to the horse's skin.
    8. if the horse e…… their bedding, some beddings are more eatable than others (s…….).
    9. A…….. of the bedding.

3. Dirty or wet bedding will create a breeding ground for b……. This can cause a host of issues for the horse including t…… or soft hooves, plus the higher levels of ammonia can irritate their r……. system.

4. D…….. or mouldy bedding can result in serious, or even permanent, damage to the horse's l……

5. Mucking out is the removal of d…… and w…… bedding from the horse's stable. It should be performed d…… to allow the horse to live in a clean and healthy environment, plus prevent the spread of d……..…

6. Bedding down is the term given to laying b…….. on the stable f……

7. The wheel barrow is used to carry m…….. or h…….. items - it should be strong, d……. and lightweight.

8. A pitch fork is used for mucking out and laying s……. bedding.

9. A shavings fork is used for mucking out s…….., paper, and h…….. bedding.

10. A shovel is used for p……. up small amounts of muck and s……. dirt from the stable floor.

11. The yard brush is used to sweep the floor of the s…….. and y…… It should have s…… bristles and be hard wearing.

12. Rubber gloves are worn when picking up small amounts of d……., usually from a s……. or h…… bed, that the fork has left behind.

13. A skip bucket is used for putting droppings in whilst s……. out.

14. The bed should be laid roughly …..-….. inches deep over the entire floor. This depth is dependant:
    1. h……..… and w……. of the equine.
    2. whether r…… matting is fitted on the floor.
    3. t…….. of bedding used.

15. A lack of bedding on the stable floor will:
    1. offer no p…….. to the horse's limbs, or body.
    2. become saturated from absorbing the u……., forcing the horse to stand on a w……., dirty bed.
    3. make the horse smell strongly of a……..…
    4. discourage the horse from r…….. as they will be reluctant to lie down.

16. Too much bedding on the stable floor will:
    1. cause s…… on the limbs whilst moving around the stable.
    2. not be c…… effective.
    3. lead to a w……. of clean bedding.

17. To check the correct depth of bed, use a p…….. fork and stab it into the surface of the bed. R…….. all over the bed, the fork must n……. hit the concrete at any point.

18. A good quality bed should allow the horse to l…… down, or roll, in comfort without causing themselves i……..… The bankings must be high enough to prevent d……., whilst protecting the equine from getting c……..…

19. Certain beddings contain excess d…… and m……. which can lead to skin, foot or respiratory conditions. They may not be suitable for equines with a…… or s……..…

20. When using the deep litter method, avoid s…….. bedding and instead use h……. or s……..…

21. Safety procedures when mucking out with the horse in the stable:
    1. The horse must always be t……. up, however good they are!
    2. Tie the horse up on the o…… side of the stable you are mucking out.
    3. Keep assessing the horse's m……. whilst you are working in the stable with them.
    4. The horse should be t…… to be obedient and move away when given the correct voice commands.
    5. To keep the horse occupied whilst being mucked out they can be given a h…….
    6. To prevent the horse slipping, a layer of b…….. must be left down where they are stood.
    7. To prevent accidentally hitting or wounding the horse, always p……. the mucking out tools a…….. from them.
    8. The wheel barrow handles must be positioned o……. of the door.

22. If the horse has the potential to be a……., move them to a d…… stable whilst they are being mucked out.

23. Every horse must always have constant access to fresh, clean w……..… To prevent b…….. and grime building up on the receptacle, causing the water to become stagnant, it should be cleaned out t…….. daily.

24. There are two main methods of providing water in the stable: b……. or an a…… watering system.

25. Skipping out is the term given to the removal of d…… only from the horse's bed.

26. Skipping out should be done r…….. during the day to maintain the c…….. of the stable, for the health of the horse, and to make mucking out f…….. and easier.

27. Straw is classed as a d…….. bedding and can be purchased in s…….. and large bales. It is available in several varieties including: o……., w……. and b…… straw.

28. Wood shavings is an a……. bedding, made from thick or finely chopped wood. They can be purchased in plastic bags, or wrapped b……, and range from ……kg – ……kg in weight.

29. Rubber matting offers p……, and reduces c……, to the horse's limbs against hard flooring. It can be fitted onto the floor and walls of s……..., trailers, horse boxes, field s…… and w……. down areas.

30. Wood pellets are a highly a…… bedding, made from s…… wood. They are d…….. free and, as they absorb large amounts of wet, are designed to be used for d……. litter. Sold in 15KG plastic wrapped bags.

31. Hemp and Flax bedding are an a……. bedding, made from chopped stems of hemp and flax plants. Providing a firm, dense bed they are suitable for d……. litter and ideal for horses with r……. problems as it is d…….. free. Sold in p…… bales, making them easy to manoeuvre and store.

32. Paper and cardboard originates from n……, magazines and any other unwanted paper or c……. sources. G…… paper should be avoided. It is purchased diced or s……. and creates a d……. free, absorbent bedding. Sold in plastic bales, making it easy to manoeuvre and store.

33. A permanent muck heap should have a c…… base with t…… sides made from either concrete slabs or sleepers.

34. Once daily mucking out has been completed, the muck heap should be n…….. up by forking it back and arranging it in l…… steps. This helps to prevent s…….. combustion (setting on f……).

35. A non-permanent muck heap is usually a t……, which can be taken away and tipped on a designated area of the l……..… It can then be left to r……. down and used as f……..

36. Horse manure must be rotted for at least t…….. years before spreading onto g…….. land. This prevents the re-infection of p……..…

37. Yard tools must be stored u……. in a designated, safe area, i…….. to horses. If left around the yard, they can be a h……. to both humans and animals.

38. Unwrapped bedding or hay must be stored in d……., airy conditions. Plastic wrapped bales can either be stored in an o…….-sided barn or outdoors. Ideally all bales should be stacked on top of w…… crates to prevent the b…….. bales getting ruined.

39. Horses are creatures of h……. and thrive when they live in a steady r……..… This is because they are a f…… animal and can become easily a……. or upset by the unknown.

40. Reasons for having a routine:
    1. Horses t…….. in a good routine.
    2. For the happiness and w…….. of all horses.
    3. To enable the yard runs e……
    4. To prevent any jobs from being f……