

Horse News and Views



Occasionally, areas of a horse's coat change colour. The usual change is to white. Alterations can occur to either the hair colour or the skin colour, or to both. Freeze branding, pressure sores from saddles, or bandaging can damage the hair and result in the growth of white hairs. The hair follicles are intact and functional. Coat colour can also change from the loss of skin pigment and can occur with or without the development of white hairs. This is seen in sparsely haired areas, such as around the muzzle, inside the ears, around the vulva and around the eyes. Loss of skin pigment can occur as a result of both inflammatory and non-inflammatory processes. Consult your veterinarian to determine the cause. (Ref. Pilsworth RC, Knottenbelt DC. Skin diseases refresher - coat colour changes. Equine Vet Ed 2005;7 (4): 224-226.)

Draft horse owners who want to estimate the weight of their horse may want to visit the Rural Heritage web site
www.ruralheritage.com/horse_paddock/horse_weight.htm

Check out the Foaling Date Estimator on the Gaited Horse web site. In addition to estimating the foaling date for a mare, this calculator also gives suggested dates for other activities, such as pregnancy diagnosis and vaccines. Check with your veterinarian to determine whether these fit with his/her recommendations.
www.gaitedhorses.net/gestationalcalc.shtml

The Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food has regained its Rural Affairs mandate and is again referred to as OMAFRA. Therefore, web site addresses have changed. The new address to access the livestock section of the Ministry's web site is
www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/livestock
The horse subsection is on the bottom, left-hand corner of the page.

For further information, contact Dr. Bob Wright (519) 846-3412 or visit our web site: <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/livestock>

 **Ontario**
Ministry of Agriculture,
Food and Rural Affairs

**Ontario Association
of
Equine Practitioners**

**UNIVERSITY
of GUELPH**

Horse News and Views is prepared by
Dr. Bob Wright, Animal Health and Welfare,
Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs,
Wellington Place, R.R. #1, Fergus, Ontario N1M 2W3
Telephone: 519-846-3412 Fax: 519-846-8101
E-mail: robert.wright@omaf.gov.on.ca

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