



## Clipping Tips Holly Grayton

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### CLIPPING TIPS

Well it's that time of year again! These fuzzy monsters are growing in their winter coat, but we aren't done showing yet.

Here are some tips to get the most out of your clip, and to help it last as long as possible.

- 1- It's important all the time that you groom as thoroughly as possible. That means get out the curry comb as much and as vigorously as possible. If you have a healthy coat pre-clip, you should get a shiny horse once you have clipped. And if you have a dull coat pre-clip, you really have no chance at a shiny clipped horse!
- 2- Wait until they have stopped shedding! If you clip before they are done shedding they won't even have finished growing their first winter coat, and you will likely have to clip again very soon. Sometimes this can't be avoided if you are showing in the early fall, but hold off as long as possible.
- 3- Once they have stopped shedding give them a good bath, scrubbing all the dirt out. If you clip a dirty horse it will not only dull your blades faster, but you may also get track marks that are near impossible to fix after.
- 4- Always clip with the sharpest blades and cool clippers. I prefer to clip with two sets of clippers and blades when possible. When clippers get hot, they can leave track marks that are tough to fix. Be sure to clip in many different directions against the grain of the hair – this will help to avoid that zebra look at the end! \*\*Please remember that horses are sensitive and you are running clippers in private and sensitive areas. So be aware of a swishing tail or pinned ears that are your warning signs that they may lift a leg at you in protest! Also if you choose to have your veterinarian sedate your horse to simplify the clipping process, be very aware of how the sedation affects your horse, especially as they are coming out of the sedation. The horse may be surprised to find you clipping away underneath them!
- 5- When you are clipping the horse's head and ears, always have someone hold them, or put a twitch on. This may seem like excess for some horses, but it's for safety! If they sneeze or move their head for a fly while you are close to an eye, this can be disastrous, so use what you have to keep them still and safe.
- 6- Post-clip, it's bath time again! Many horses have reactions to the heat of the clippers or the clipper oil, so I always wash them right away after. Also they must be itchy and getting little bits of hair in their blankets doesn't seem fair. So soap them up one more time, but this time when you're done and they are all rinsed off, fill a bucket with warm water and a tablespoon of mineral oil. (Not more



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than a tablespoon, trust me...) Then, with a clean sponge rinse their whole body. Scrape the excess water off and cover them with lots of coolers to warm back up. The warmth and the oil will smooth out a lot of the lines that may still be on them. For the next short while, keep them well-blanketed as they have just lost a layer of insulation. Also, take a little longer to warm them up when you ride next, as they have less to keep the heat in during your work out.

- 7- Keep up the curry combing post-clip to keep their shine. Keep a spray bottle of Healthy Horse Care or water to keep static down.