



# HORSE TALK

November 2011 Volume 3 Issue 7

Get your horse's picture HERE!  
Email it to [tack@mcfarlanes.net](mailto:tack@mcfarlanes.net)



*As the day light hours get shorter and the temperature changes you may be thinking...*

### ***To blanket or not to blanket?***

The short answer might very well be "to blanket." However, for many horses blanketed during cooler months, that extra layer provides more comfort to their caregivers than to the animals themselves. Horses have evolved to have an excellent built-in temperature control: a very thick winter hair coat. Horses require between 10 and 21 days to acclimatize to colder temperatures. For instance, on the first day of 35° F weather, the horse might feel cold, but over 10 to 21 days of similar cold weather, he will "get used to it" and be more comfortable.

If temperatures drop suddenly, you will notice behavior changes, including increased use of shelters if available, huddling together in groups with other horses, and turning their hindquarters into the prevailing wind. These are all activities that help conserve heat. The shivering response will also occur in very cold horses, which generates a pretty substantial amount of body heat, helping to warm internal organs.

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**McFARLANES'**

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M-F 7am to 7 pm  
Saturday 7 am to 4 pm  
Sunday Closed

Studies in Canada found that for adult horses in cold climates, the lower critical temperature, or the lowest temperature they can tolerate prior to a drop in body temperature, is approximately 5° F, provided they are well-nourished. Given time, any horse can adapt to this low temperature. For temperatures lower than that, they will quickly lose body heat and need our help in order to deal with the cold. We can help either by providing shelter, extra forage, blankets, or a combination of all of the above. Shelter alone can reduce heat loss by up to 20% through protection from wind and rain!

During cold weather, the horse's hair stands on end, which creates an airspace around the horse where it can trap heat, enabling it to stay warm. This insulation will break down when rain or wind are added to the equation-the former causing the hair to lie flat and the latter blowing away the warm air trapped in the upstanding hair. This phenomenon can also happen when a horse is inappropriately blanketed. In other words, when a blanket with inadequate insulation is put on a horse during milder weather, it forces the hairs to lie flat, taking away the horse's natural insulation.

Here are some simple guidelines that horse owners might find helpful in determining whether or not their horse needs the protection of a blanket:

- Horses that are clipped or kept in barns under light to discourage winter coat production should be blanketed when temperatures drop below 60° F or when it is windy or rainy.
- Horses with a moderate hair coat can tolerate temperatures as low as 40° F. If they have a heavy coat, they can tolerate temperatures down to about 30° F. Wet conditions change these temperature limits, so keep that in mind when blanketing!
- A horse that has recently moved from a warmer climate might benefit from some external help. Once they've spent the 10-21 days being exposed to the colder weather, they will adapt and need less help, but you might find it beneficial to blanket them until the next winter.
- Older horses that move around less benefit from blanketing in colder weather. Moving generates body heat which is why we often see horses' levels of exuberance rise with cold weather!
- Remove the blanket on a regular basis--check to make sure your horse is not losing body condition, doesn't have blanket rubs or injuries, and is not developing a skin problem such as rain rot under the blanket.

When the weather is rainy, check to make sure the blanket is waterproof--you will be fighting a losing battle trying to keep a wet horse warm with a wet blanket! Place your hand under the blanket around the neck--your horse should feel dry and toasty warm.--

*Erin Pittman*

**Hunting Season is here! Here are some ideas to help you stand out in the woods this hunting season.**

\*Use SureFlexx Blaze Orange to wrap your bridle, your horses legs, or tail

\*Or use Flag Tape, like you might tie on your fence, it can be tied to saddles, bridles or in your horses mane or tail in the pasture (note: great to tie on electric fence in the winter so you and your horse know where the fence is)



\*Use a blaze orange fabric over your saddle blanket or pad

\*Wear your own blaze orange clothing

\*Purchase a bell to hang off your saddle so they can hear you coming

\*Don't like blaze orange? Try bright pink, Neon Green, or yellow



## Winter Blankets are here!!! Now mini and pony size blankets too!!



Landa Standard Neck  
Lite Weight \$94.99

### Landa Lite:

- 600 Denier Ripstop Outer
- Waterproof & Breathable
- No Rub 210T Nylon Lining
- Traditional Side Gusset
- Low cross surcingles
- Available in Sage & Olive



Genero Standard Neck  
Lite Weight \$74.99

### Genero Lite:

- 600 Denier Ripstop Outer
- Waterproof & Breathable
- No Rub 210T Nylon Lining
- Low cross surcingles
- Twin chest straps front
- Available in Black & Silver



Genero Standard Neck  
Medium Weight \$84.99

### Genero Medium:

- 600 Denier Ripstop Outer
- Waterproof & Breathable
- 220g of polyfill
- Low cross surcingles
- Twin chest straps front
- Gerocity Pattern



Orican Standard Neck  
Lite Weight \$104.99

### Orican Lite:

- 1200 Denier Ripstop Outer
- Waterproof & Breathable
- No Rub 210D Oxford Lining
- Traditional Side Gusset
- Low cross surcingles
- Available in Denim & Navy



Orican Standard Neck  
Medium Weight \$110.99

### Orican Medium:

- 1200 Denier Ripstop Outer
- Waterproof & Breathable
- 220g Poly Fill & Oxford Lining
- Traditional Side Gusset
- Low cross surcingles
- Available in Chocolate/Blue & Denim/Navy



Saxon Standard Neck  
Heavy Weight \$99.99

### Saxon Heavy:

- 1200 Denier Ripstop Outer
- Waterproof & Breathable
- 300g of polyfill
- No rub 210T Nylon lining
- Low cross surcingles
- Available in Hunter/Black & Blue/Chutney



Pony Standard Neck  
Medium Weight \$93.99

### Pony Medium:

- 600 Denier Ripstop Outer
- Waterproof & Breathable
- 220g Polyfill
- Traditional Side gusset
- Low cross surcingles
- Available in snowflake



Mini Turnout  
Medium Weight \$44.49

### Pony Medium:

- 600 Denier Rip Stop Outer
- 200g Polyfill
- Double front buckle
- Large Variety of colors & sizes

Don't see the style or color you were looking for?

We can special order them!

Get your orders in early and cold weather is coming fast!

**Falling Leaves.....Falling Prices**

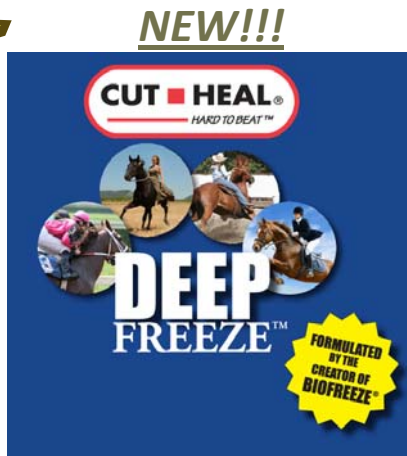
**All Leather Cleaners &  
Conditioners on Sale!**

Putting the saddles away for the winter or do they need a good cleaning from the summer riding season?

**All Saddle Blankets & Pads**

**On Sale!!**

Sale ends 11/19/11



Pain Relief Gel **\$15.99**  
Cooling Shampoo **\$17.99**

**NEW!!!**

Triple Crown  
Rice Bran Oil  
**\$43.99**

