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Miniature Horses



Information and Fun Facts



MINIATURE HORSES

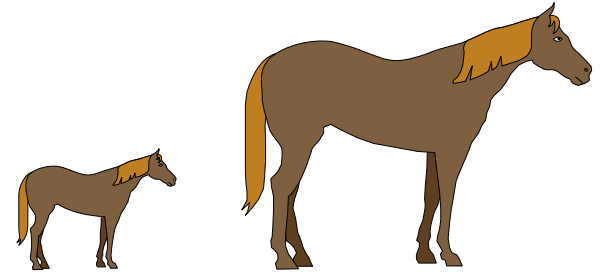
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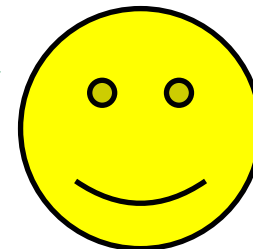
- What is a miniature horse?

- ◆ A little horse ... of course



- How are they different from regular size horses and ponies?

- ◆ They are much smaller
- ◆ They don't wear horseshoes
- ◆ They eat less
- ◆ They are believed to have better temperaments



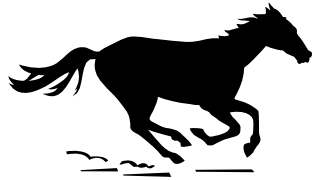
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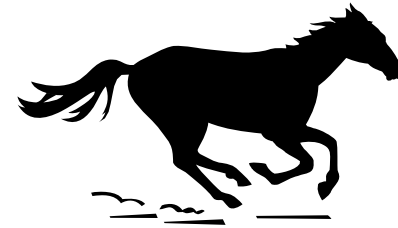
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How big are they?



Size A

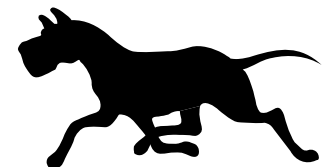
- Up to 34 inches tall at the withers
- Approximately 150 lbs.



Size B

- Over 34 and up to 38 inches tall at the withers
- Approximately 350 lbs.

About the size of a Great Dane





What can you do with them?

- ◆ Drive with a cart, buggy, or hitch wagon
- ◆ Ride (children up to 100 lbs. on larger minis)
- ◆ Race and obstacle courses/trails
- ◆ 4H and Horse Shows
- ◆ Breed
 - 11 month gestation
 - Foals are 16-22 inches and 19-30 lbs.
- ◆ Guides for the blind
- ◆ Play catch - in the field



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How long have they
been around?

◆ About 300 years

Where did they come
from?



18th Century

19th Century

20th Century

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1765 - London, England
First written reference in
the Gentlemen's
Magazine.

In the 18th century they
became popular with the
wealthy European
families.

1847 - England outlawed
child labor in the coal
mines.

So the smallest Shetland
ponies were sent from
the Shetland Islands to
England to pull coal in
the mines.

At the same
time small
horses were
being shipped to
the US from
England and the
Shetland
Islands.

Breeding
continued in
the US with
small ponies.
Registries
formed in the
1970's.

There is
tremendous
popularity
with horse
enthusiasts!

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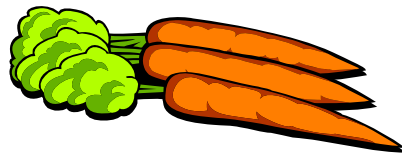
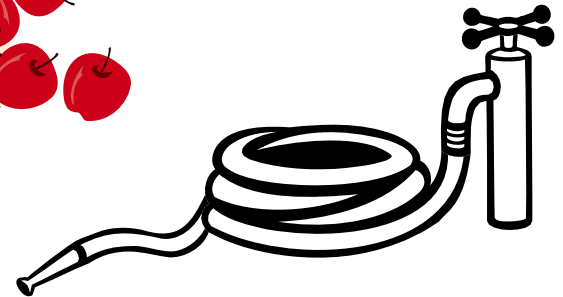
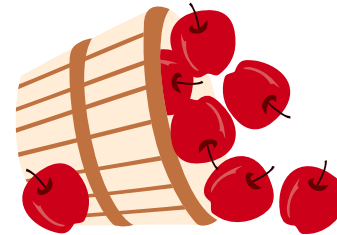


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What do they eat?

◆ The same as regular horses
(just in much smaller quantities)

- Grain
- Hay (alfalfa and grass) -or- 1/3 acre of grass per horse
- Salt lick and minerals
- Water
- Apples, Carrots and other treats!



A typical mini eats about 1 flake of hay and 2-3 cups of grain a day

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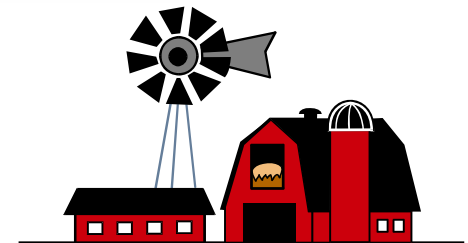
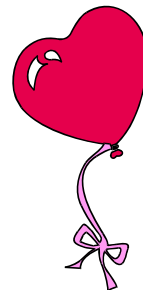
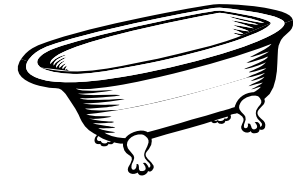
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How do you take care of them?

- ◆ Feed and provide water twice a day
- ◆ Brush, bathe, and clip on a regular basis
- ◆ Hoof trimming every 6 - 8 weeks
- ◆ Exercise daily
- ◆ Regular vet care
- ◆ Some even enjoy a daily massage
- ◆ Love them



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Before you buy, decide:

- ◆ Do you want to breed? If so consider confirmation, size, action, bloodlines, and registration.
- ◆ Do you want to show just at local shows or also at registered miniature horse shows?
- ◆ Do you want a horse that is already trained?
- ◆ What's your favorite color?
Minis come in all colors - pinto, paint, appaloosa, roans, etc.

Good Books on Minis and Driving

- Miniature Horses - Their Care, Breeding and Coat Colors by Barbara Naviaux
- Miniature Horses - A Veterinary Guide for Owners and Breeder by Rebecca L. Frankeny
- Horse Owner's Veterinary Handbook by James M. Giffin and Tom Gore
- Driving - An Instructional Guide to Driving Singles and Pairs by Clive Richardson

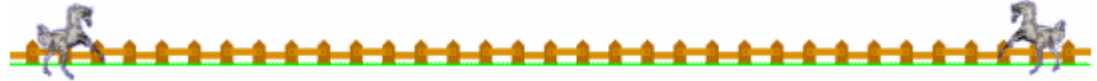
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- What else?



- ◆ They are:

- curious
- playful
- easy to train
- intelligent
- affectionate
- easy to care for

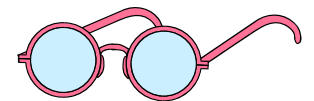
- ◆ Each one has it's own distinctive personality

- ◆ They like a consistent routine



- ◆ Often live 30+ years

- ◆ Even some people keep them in their houses (potty trained of course)



Is this the first time you've seen a miniature horse?