

Horse Fact Sheets – Clipping

One of the main reasons for clipping is to avoid excess sweating and subsequent loss of condition, another purpose of clipping is to aid the comfort of the horse during the winter months. The longer and coarser winter coat usually starts to grow in Autumn. This extra insulation causes the horse to sweat more during work, which if not dried off may cause chills. A clipped horse is also easier to clean and groom.

Styles of clipping

Three common clipping styles are illustrated. The darker brown is the unclipped hair.

The more hair that is removed the less tolerant the horse will be to the cold and wet, and the more the horse will need to be stabled and/or well rugged. Immediately after the horse is exercised a rug should be applied to avoid chills.

The blanket clip is similar to the hunter clip only the hair on the back area is left to provide a little more protection for the kidney and rump areas.

The trace clip leaves most of the exposed areas of the horse unclipped.

You will notice in the illustrations that the hair is removed from the 'midriff' area of the horse, these areas are the most prone to the accumulation of sweat.

'Rugging Up'

Whichever clip is used we must compensate for what hair is removed by 'rugging up'.

The Canvas or New Zealand Rug is designed to protect a horse from wind and rain. It is used mainly for horses that are out (not stabled) and in work, or for horses that live in cold weather climates. Traditionally made of canvas or flax, and lined, the rug is very warm and weatherproof.

For more information on rugs, see the Pony Club fact sheet on Rugging:

<http://www.ponyclubvic.org.au/?Page=148>

More fact sheets can be found on the Mooroolbark & PCAV web sites.

