

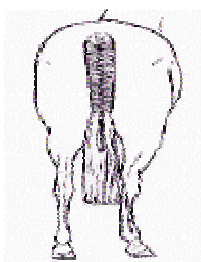
Horse fact sheets – Tails

A horse's tail is very important to him. Not only does it act as a flyswat in summer, it keeps him warm in winter! The area between his hind legs is the only part of a horse not kept warm by hair and so it loses the greatest amount of warmth if left exposed by over trimming. To make the best of their appearance, thin or thick, different tails are treated in different ways. Below are examples of the different ways tails can be enhanced.



Banged Tail

A 'banged' tail is cut straight across the bottom to give it a neat and tidy appearance. It also helps to make a thin tail look thicker.



Plaited Tail

The tail is first 'pulled' and then plaited neatly around the dock for showing.



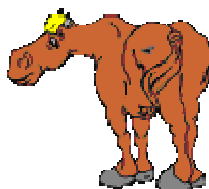
Pulled Tail

The hair around the dock area, at the top, is pulled out to give the tail a more refined look and make plaiting easier. Show horses often have pulled tails.

Natural Tail

A natural tail is left thick and long, it will help swat flies and keep him warm on cold nights.

(It's the horse's favourite!)



DID YOU KNOW?

Some breeds are famous for their tails. For example Appaloosa's often have sparse, (thin), tails while Friesians are renown for their long luxuriant tails.

Horses will often stand 'head to tail' and shelter each other from annoying flies by swishing their tails for each other!

As well as using them for fly swats, horses use their tails to send signals to each other about how they are feeling.