

## You show Girl! Show grooming

by Heather Schoeborn

This is by the far the best part about showing your horse, getting them gorgeous and ready to be presented! One of the basic and fundamental things is a good bath to start. Some horses coats are a little dryer and some are a little oilier, much like people. For the Dry skin horses, you need to bathe a day or two early so they don't flake off or have dander. This also gives them some time to develop some of their natural oils to come back for a nice glossy coat. Also use a good conditioner on their body and especially their mane and tail and feather. When washing the mane, make sure you get the hair along the ridge of the neck clean down to the skin and the tail bone clean as well. With the oily horses wash night before and make sure you use a good shampoo that isn't too heavy. Also use a good cream rinse on your oily horse too. After I have washed my dry or oily horse I use a good hydrant spray that is light, I spray all over the horse and let sit on their wet coat. I like Eqyss Premier Spray or Rose conditioner. I then put a good detangler and conditioner in the mane, tail and feather; I use Eqyss Survivor and cream rinse. I comb the product through the mane, tail and also the feathers and leave it in. Sometimes if the mane and especially the tail is dry and brittle I will soak ends in a good cream rinse and leave it in the hair. After the hydrant spray has sat on the horses coat for a few minutes I then Squeegee off the excess water and reapply more hydrant spray. Depending on the length of your horse's coat, you do not want to spray anything that is heavy or oily on long hair, as it will just attract dirt and they will look greasy. I

always put a clean sheet on the horse and a neck warmer to keep hair clean and to help it lay flat (especially on the heavier longer coats) for white horses I like to use Biz laundry soap with Oxy clean. Some whitening products work on the short white body hair but for the tough stains on the lower tail and feathers I like to use Hydrogen Peroxide and Whitening shampoos. Washing the Tail and feathers every day for 3-4 days before show also helps get the hair whiter.

When clipping I like to clip a clean horse as this will keep my blade from dulling to fast. If you are looking to body clip I use a 10 blade for the body and I clip two weeks before the show. When clipping, it is important to clip against the grain of the hair growth. This will give you clean cuts with little to no lines. So if the hair grows to the right clip to the left. Be sure to get the under belly and in between the breast and around the throat latch and on the back side of the ears. After I have finished with the full body clip I then spray the entire body with Olive oil. Get the coat and skin saturated in it. This will bring the color back and help replenish the oils stripped away. I then clip the face with a #10 also but then switch to a #40 around the muzzle. I also clip the eye guard hairs and under the eye. This helps make the eye appear bigger and gives a polished look. If your Horse is slick with a nice tight coat I only clip all the white with a #10 blade, so all the white legs and blaze or star. I then clip muzzle and eye guard with the #40. With the Drum horses we only clip the inner ear with a #10 and/or just fold ear together and run your #10 blade up the outside edge. It is important to clip the inner nostril as well. Well as

much as you can, some horses' don't appreciate this! I also like to do all my clipping at home as the horse is more comfortable and if you need to restrain for certain areas you are in the privacy of your own barn. There are nice razors you can by for touching up the muzzle when at the show.

So now we have a clean clipped horse! Again if your horses coat is short and slick I only apply a light hydrant spray daily such as Eqyss Premier or Rose Conditioner. Keep that coat covered with a nice light sheet if not to hot, otherwise if in colder months, keep blanketed. With your longer coated horses if you can keep a sheet on them, it will keep the hair lying flat and give the coat a slick look. I will also spray all the white with Show Sheen as this will keep the white hair from staining, in case they lay in poop! What?? They don't do that? I think the only time our horses use their poop as a pillow is at the shows! The show sheen acts like a protectant so all you have to do is wipe away the stain. I know sometimes I wish I could wrap them in bubble wrap after all the long hours of grooming I did!

Well its show time! You have a clean horse, clipped to the nines and ready to be polished! I will then check my muzzle with the razor and wipe the muzzle and nostrils with a wipe. I also clean out the inner ear with a wipe. After I have done that I then put a shine on the eye guard, inner ear and muzzle and blend so it doesn't look blotchy. I like to use baby oil gel. There are other products out there you can buy for face shine. I then take small amounts of my Baby oil and apply to forelock, throat latch and along the top of the mane. I also brush the tail

*New Show  
Calendar  
on the  
IDHA  
home  
page,  
Come  
Check it  
out!!*

## You show Girl! Show grooming, continued

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*Show  
me your  
horse and  
I will tell  
you who  
you are*

*English  
Proverb*

thoroughly and apply detangler and shine to the tail and mane again. Depending on your discipline I wouldn't apply shine to mane and tail until after you have braided or banded it. I also like to comb feathers and add a little detangler. Sometimes you have to sand the hoof and apply clear polish or hoof black. I do this about 20 min before their class so they have time to dry. It is important to study your

rule books and standards for your breed and discipline so that you are prepared and legal with not only your tack but your grooming as well!

I hope this helped! Good luck and I'll see you on the show pen!!

Heather Schoeborn  
Horse Feathers Farm  
if you have any questions email me at  
heather.repro@yahoo.com :)  
*A little about the Author~  
Hello, I have been Breeding,*

*Showing and Training horses for well over 20 years. I have earned numerous World and Reserve World Championships in APHA, AQHA, and PtHA. I have earned Horse of the Year in PtHA twice and numerous Regional and Canadian National titles and am a Futurity Money earner. I specialize in Equine Reproduction and currently am Heading up Horse Feathers Stallion Station and Mare services facility in Bellville Texas.*

## White Tails...A handy was to remove stains!

You will need a cup of Bi Carb of Soda, white vinegar, shampoo, conditioner, a good quality hot oil, and access to warm water or have several buckets of warm water standing by.

This process will be much easier and more effective if you use 'hand' hot water as you need to dissolve the Bi Carb of Soda, and warm water does a better job of cleaning and rinsing than cold.

For all organic stains, such as a grungy urine stains, or just plain dirty, rather than reach for the purple shampoo, give this a try first. Although this is aimed at white tails, this method can be used on all tails that need a good clean, particularly mares, as urine will eventually make dark hair bleach, and the vinegar rinse will help with this. Dissolve the Bi Carb in one litre of hot water, then add this mix into a bucket containing 5 litres of warm water. Soak the tail for a few minutes, ensuring

you work the liquid through the stained tail by swishing the tail well in the mixture, this will cause the hair cuticle to swell and assist lifting out any built up stains and dirt.

Then rinse the tail off with clean warm water. (*Being so alkaline, it can leave the hair feeling rather dry at this point*).

Rinse the tail with a 50-50 mix of white vinegar and water, (*this will neutralize the hair, and it will feel smoother*). Use a plastic jug to do this as it makes it easier to pour through the tail.

Now, mix a quality shampoo with a generous squirt of Morning Fresh, and work through the tail ensuring you get it all the way to the roots.

Rinse off with warm water, then apply conditioner, again working well into the roots, leave it in for 10 minutes, then rinse.

Now do the same, but this time using a 1-6 dilution of

Hot Oil and conditioner, pour it through the dock and skirt of the tail, leave in for 10 minutes, then rinse off using warm water.

**Do not use the cheap \$2 store type products, they have their place, but not when you are trying to nourish the hair.**

Air dry the tail, and place in a tail bag or 3 tube tail wrap.

You can repeat this process the next day or a few days later if you feel the stain needs another treatment.

Follow up with a weekly shampoo, and condition, condition, condition.

With a long term stained tail, this process needs to be done at least a few days before showing, sometimes one treatment is not enough, if this is the case, simply repeat the process.

The key to success is to remember to remove any stains before using high light shampoo.