

PRINTING TIPS FOR CARDS

YELLOW LEVEL HORSESENSE - In the Tack Room

Stuff Happens Cards are designed to print on plain 8.5"x11" white card stock.

This file contains 6 pages of cards. Print all 6 pages, then cut them into 4 cards each, which will give you a total of 24 cards in the set.

The first page of cards is an optional "back side" for the cards. You can just print the card pages and leave the back side of each card blank – but we like the name of the card set on the back to help keep things organized.

If you choose to add the back side, print 6 copies of that back page, then set those pages in your printer so that the remaining pages will print on the reverse side. When you cut them apart, you should have the name of the card set on the back of each card.

REMINDER: *Make sure your printer settings for the PDF file are NOT set to "shrink to fit"!*

Stuff Happens
in the Tack Room

YELLOW LEVEL

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Your skinny old horse, Mr. Bones, has been turned out in a pouring rain all day while you were away from home. The temperature was a balmy 57°F when you left in the morning, but a cold front has moved in and by the time you get home in the evening, it's 28° and poor Bones is standing by the gate shivering.

Your show horse, Sheen, started to grow a thick winter coat in October. You plan to enter a bunch of shows in November and December, so you had Sheen clipped to keep him from overheating. Now that winter weather has arrived, you're worried that Sheen will be cold and lose weight without his protective winter hairiness.

You live in a part of the country where late autumn weather is very unpredictable. You put heavy turnout blankets on your horses last night when it was 36° and left them on this morning because it still felt cold to you ... but while you're at school, the temperature has climbed back up to 62°.

There's a big storm front headed your way. The forecast calls for all-day rain that turns into sleet and then 18" of snow by nightfall. But it's still a balmy 45° before you leave for school, so you turn out your horses in the only blankets you have: these seriously adorable hot-pink zebra-striped stable blankets that are just SO CUTE.

Your new young pony, Frazzle, has never had a blanket before. You find this cool rainbow-smiley-face turnout blanket on Ebay for him. You want to see if it fits, so you get a friend to hold Frazzle's lead rope while you heave the heavy blanket over Frazzle's back the first time.

You have just finished a winter riding lesson. Your instructor tells you to put a blanket on your lesson pony after you've cooled him out and groomed him, then turn him out in the paddock. You get the blanket on him, but the buckles are strange looking and you're not sure they're fastened correctly. Oh, well, somebody will probably fix it later.

You are putting a turnout sheet on your horse, Boo. You fold the blanket and place it over his withers, then unfold it to cover his hindquarters. While you're back there you decide to fasten the leg straps before moving to the front to fasten the chest buckles - when suddenly a loose llama runs past Boo. Boo snaps his halter and takes off down the driveway with the blanket around his legs.

You're helping the barn manager with evening chores, which includes bringing horses in from the pasture and taking off their turnout blankets. You know you're supposed to unfasten the leg straps first, then the surcingle straps, then the chest buckles ... but the buckles on the leg straps are covered in yucky dried horse poo! EEEUUUWWWW!

You're running late for your jumping lesson, and of course your pony, Off Road, is layered in mud when you bring him in from the pasture. You do a pretty good job of brushing the areas covered by his tack, but by the time you get to his legs your lesson group is already heading to the arena - so you just slap on his splint boots and go.

You spent the whole morning rollerskating with friends - AMAZING fun! - but now that it's time to tack up for your riding lesson your legs are so tired that you need to sit on the ground and rest a bit while you fasten your pony's bell boots behind each hind hoof. Gotta save your strength for the jumping lesson, yanno!

You're tacking up your pony, Fussy Pants, for a barrel racing lesson. You wrap Fussy's new splint boots around her legs and pull the Velcro tabs tight inside each leg - but the boots look a little small so you push them up until the wide cushioned pads are just under her knees.

Your riding instructor tells you that your pony, Twinkletoes, has been forging at the trot, and suggests you get Twink some protective boots. You look up protective boots in your tack catalog - but you have no idea which ones to get. There are SO MANY KINDS OF BOOTS! You finally decide on the purple splint boots because they'll match his new saddle pad.

You are taking your new Percheron, Hot Stuff, to his first show. You start to lead Hottie onto the trailer ramp when your instructor sees that you've forgotten to put on shipping boots - which, actually, you kind of forgot to BUY. You ask if you could borrow Munchkin's boots, just this once, because 12hh Munchkin is Hottie's best friend and you're sure Munchkin's owner wouldn't mind.

When you get home from a long weekend of showing, you're sunburned and hungry and SO TIRED. You help unload the horses, and feed them, and turn them out in the paddock for the night ... and decide to just leave the rest of your tack and equipment in the trailer. But when you arrive for a lesson later that week you open the trailer to find that your tack is now green and fuzzy.

You haul your horse, Marco Polo, to a local trailhead for a ride with a group of friends. When you start tacking up, you discover that you've forgotten Polo's stirrup leathers. A friend has a spare set that have been in her trailer for years ... and they're the right size for you ... but they're stiff as old cardboard with missing stitching under one buckle.

You have a fleece girth for your pony, Piglet, that was once fluffy and white ... but Piglet has a very thick and muddy winter coat and you don't see any point in washing his girth until he sheds out in the spring. That girth is just going to get nasty again, right? And Piglet doesn't care. He doesn't even LIKE his girth: he rolls his eyes and squirms every time you tighten it.

You forgot to clean your filthy tack before a big show - but it's okay, you've got your horse's water bucket in the trailer, a bottle of germicidal hand cleaner, and a sponge in his grooming kit. You could do a quick cleaning job in time for your first class.

You found a great deal on some used tack on Craigslist. The leather on the bridle is a bit dry and dusty, but it's not cracked and the stitching looks pretty good. Probably all it needs is to be soaked overnight in a bucket of warm water with a little bleach - that will kill any germs on it. In fact, you decide to use a scrub brush on it after soaking - best to get ALL of those germs, right?

You are cleaning tack with your new best friend from the barn. Your stirrup leathers have embedded sweat and dirt from your last trail ride, so you fill a pail with warm water. As you start to wipe them down with a damp rag, your friend hands you the saddle soap and tells you you'll never get those nasty leathers clean unless you first use lots of soap.

You're preparing for your first show. You know it's important for you and your horse to be turned out perfectly, so you allow plenty of time to thoroughly clean your tack the night before the show. As you take apart the bridle, you see some nasty encrusted grime on your snaffle bit - eeuwww! - but it's nothing that some metal polish and elbow grease can't fix!

You take all your horse's tack home for a thorough cleaning. You disassemble every piece of tack from your bridle and saddle and set up your cleaning supplies in front of the TV so you can watch a horsey movie while you clean. However, by the time Little Creek has saved Spirit, you've tried three times to put the bridle back together: the browband is backward and the bit is STILL twisted!

This is the first time you have ever cleaned your school horse's tack, which is well-used but in good shape. After taking off the stirrup leathers, you wipe down the saddle with a damp rag. You then rub in a LOT of leather conditioner, coating the ENTIRE saddle, because you want to make sure every little bit of that expensive leather is protected.

Your barn has a big tack cleaning party for the school horse tack. After all the tack is reassembled, participating students get to go on a trail ride ... but when you start to mount your pony you realize your stirrup leathers are missing. You ask a friend to hold your pony while you find the leathers, but then you can't get them back on your saddle - they no longer fit under the stirrup bars.

Your barn has a big tack cleaning party for the school horse tack. After all the tack is reassembled, participating students get to go on a trail ride ... but when you try to put the clean bridle on your pony the crownpiece won't go over the pony's ears - it's like the bridle shrunk in the wash!