

Mini DOs and DON'Ts

These do's and don't's are based on OUR experiences in raising these little ones - we consulted with multiple vets in the area, read as much as we could, talked to as many mini owners/breeders as would give us a minute of their time and after compiling all the info/advice, this is what we have found works for US. Use this as guide to find what works for you and your mini.

DO

- Feed your mini at least a 14% (pelleted is recommended) feed twice a day for the first 18 months of life, then a 12% or even 10% will be fine. Amounts will vary, but start with 2 cups twice a day and monitor their tummy. Fresh water should be available at all times of course.
- Hay your mini twice a day IF you DO NOT have lots of green grass for them to munch on during the day. It is recommended you stall your mini, if you can, at night to get them off the grass for several hours. If you have lots of green grass small amounts of hay can be given for overnight, again watch that tummy!

Recommended amount of hay with minimal grass - 1/2 a pad twice a day (regardless of the pad size)

Recommended amount of hay with plenty of green grass - 1/2 a pad when stalled

Types of Hay that are GOOD for minis - NOTE: A course hay is MUCH better than a fine soft hay - PER THE VET

Timothy/Orchard mix

Timothy/Alfalfa mix

Brome or Brome mixture

Straight Orchard (IF it is not REAL fine/soft - better in a mix)

Types of Hay you should NOT give a mini

Coastal (not even in a mix)

Bean Hay of any kind (this is totally OUR personal opinion)

Straight Alfalfa

- Be sure to clean your minis feet out every few days to avoid thrush.
- Worm your mini every two months according to the rotating paste schedule attached. Be sure to give your mini MORE than what they weight...small minis 300lbs, larger minis 600lbs. You can not over worm but if you do not give them enough it does no good.
- It is recommended you have a trace mineral block available IN THE PASTURE with unlimited access (see the DON'T below regarding these blocks) The trace mineral block is brown in color (NOT WHITE) and you can get them at any feed store for \$5-\$8.

DON'T

- DON'T use halters with a CLIP on the side., make sure the halter BUCKLES! We recommend you purchase your halters from Mellisa at Kay Jay Farm - website: www.kayjayfarm.com - phone: (256)751-4661 - email: kayjayfarm@kayjayfarm.com she is very reasonable and has a very safe website for ordering online, lots of colors to choose from as well.
- DON'T assume your mini can have anything a big horse can...ask your vet about EVERYTHING!
- DON'T feed an "All Stock Feed" these feeds tend to be very cheap but please do not feed this to your little one!
- DON'T put mineral blocks of any kind in the stall
- DON'T feed Coastal or Alfalfa Hay (see good and bad hay choices above)
- DON'T FEED YOUR MINI TREATS OUT OF YOUR HAND, put them in their feed bucket or on the ground. Feeding treats out of your hand will encourage biting. Do not give your mini lots of treats and when you do give them treats make sure they are made for horses. Apples and carrots are very good choices if you do not want to purchase treats.
- DON'T over feed your mini, it does not take much for these little ones. Keep your eye on their tummy, they should not get real "pot bellied". HOWEVER once they hit a year old they may go through a "lanky" looking stage, and they may get a "tummy" and their hips many not be well filled out... this is normal, don't try to "fill them out" with feed, they will start to fill out more at about two.
- DON'T let your little one get away with being rude...ALWAYS correct any behavior you do not approve of immediately. Pop their behind or on their front shoulder, avoid the tummy or face. You should ALWAYS pop their little noses if they even attempt to nibble. You MUST break bad habits or they will turn into problems you can not control.