

Autumn checklist



What to check before winter, in September and October (southern hemisphere: March and April)

Horse _____ Year _____

Grass and field

- ☐ Shorter grazing, mornings after cold nights with sun; take care after the first frost and after rain on a dry spell
- ☐ Sensitive horse: muzzle or paddock in the peak weeks
- ☐ Fences, electric and gates checked before the mud
- ☐ Poisonous plants removed (acorns, sycamore, ragwort)
- ☐ Worm egg count done (September), tapeworm test and winter redworm treatment discussed with the vet

Rugs

- ☐ Rugs washed, repaired, waterproofing tested (bucket of water on the back)
- ☐ Rug rule agreed with whoever helps: rain sheet when wet, fill below _____ °C at night
- ☐ Clipping: yes/no decided, and what that means for the rugs
- ☐ Hand under the rug every morning: the habit picked up again

Hay and water

- ☐ Hay for winter ordered: _____ kg or lb / _____ bales (hay calculator)
- ☐ Hay stored dry and airy, off the ground
- ☐ Trough: kept ice-free (ball, insulation, heater) and checked twice a day
- ☐ Salt lick or salt, to keep the drinking going
- ☐ Plan for extra hay in frost (+10 to 20 %)

Health

- ☐ Vaccinations checked in the passport or records; next date in the calendar
- ☐ Weight and condition recorded (tape, photos), because winter hides a lot
- ☐ Teeth checked if more than a year ago
- ☐ Farrier cycle for winter agreed
- ☐ Normal values (temperature, pulse) measured once and put on the "Before you call the vet" sheet

Yard and paperwork

- ☐ Stable dry, airy and draught-free; lighting works for the dark hours
- ☐ Stable card and horse sitter instructions up to date
- ☐ Insurance and contact details of vet and farrier checked
- ☐ Christmas: who feeds, and is it arranged?