



Let's talk about horses

With Jennifer Barr
 Question: How soon do horses shed out their winter coats. I'm getting fed up with my horse looking such a mess.

Answer: Don't get fed up yet, there's a way to go. A horse with a long coarse winter coat isn't usually shiny and sleek until the end of May or early June. He goes through several stages. From February on, you'll notice falling hair at a faster and faster rate until grooming him will resemble the plucking of a chicken.

The outer long hair will slough off revealing a short velvet undercoat. This rapidly gives way to the shiny polished sleekness of glamour. Some fine-haired breeds, notably Arabs and Thoroughbreds, shed out faster than cold blooded horses. Foaling mares also shed out earlier.

Vigorous grooming with curry comb and shedding blade will help to get rid of the hair sooner.

Question: What kind of horse should I buy for pleasure riding? I'm not a very good rider and need something very safe. I've heard Quarter horses are quiet natured.

Answer: Yes, most Quarter horses are amenable fellows but you'll get the odd ding-a-ling as with all breeds. A short coupled chunky horse with a quiet eye and easy manners stands a good chance of being a quiet ride.

However, don't worry about breeds, there's good and bad in them all. Get some riding lessons first to give you confidence. Have a knowledgeable friend help select a mount for you and make sure he's safe under all conditions—the English call it "bomb proof"—lovely phrase.

A well-trained mixed breed will probably serve you well but take your time and make very sure you have confidence in the horse before you buy him.

Please send letters to Jennifer Barr, R.R.2, Acton.

Car fire last week

Last week both Acton and Rockwood brigades attended a car fire on the Guelph Line a mile below the Eden Mills Rd. Driver was Frank Green, Guelph, and his 1971 Olds was a total loss.

The Rockwood brigade was called from a neighboring house and they responded, while notifying Acton brigade since it was in their area.

District chief Holmes had been up in Rockwood just the night before discussing cooperation with the men there.

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