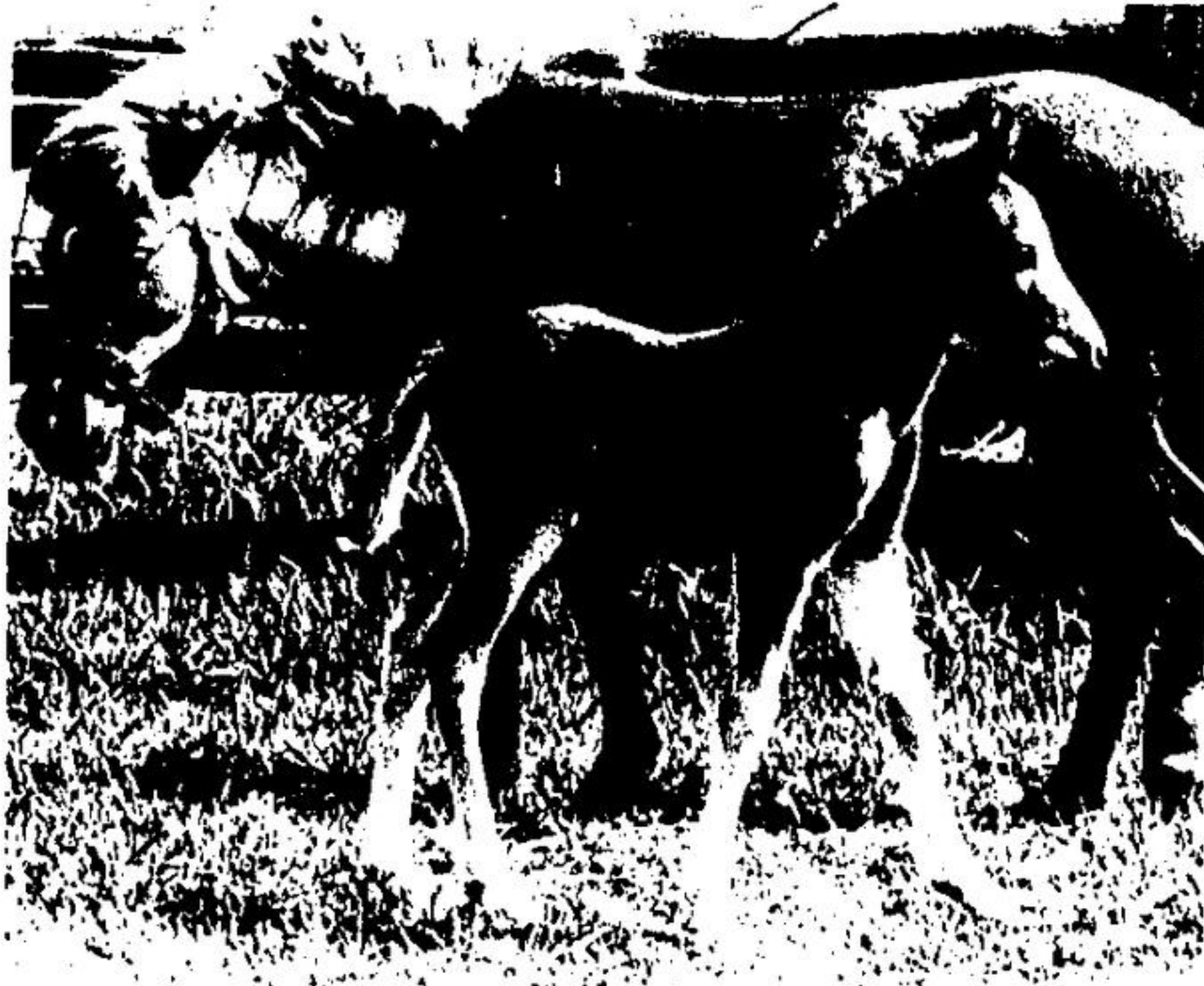


Pet of the week



DAVID MONROE of Five Sideroad had a mare which gave birth to a colt late last week. The monroe family have not arrived at a name for the colt yet but it was born of Red and McDuff. Mrs. Monroe wrote a poem about the incident.

Let's talk about horses

by Jennifer Barr



Question: I've just bought a horse and am keeping him on a neighbour's farm. What do I need to buy for him now? I have a halter and some brushes but I don't know how much money I'll need to get the saddle and other equipment.

Answer: I hope your horse has lots of good food to start with. When the inside of his body is taken care of you can look after the outside. There are several good tack shops in the area. Shop around because prices vary a great deal.

You will need a lead line and a 25' lunge line — ropes with snaps on the end will do if you don't want to put out the \$5 and \$10 these will cost. If you wish to have a lunge whip one can be obtained for \$8-\$10 or you can substitute a long willow switch at first.

Grooming tools are a must. A body brush, dandy brush, curry comb, hoof pick and a good fly repellent are essential. You don't need a fancy tack bag — a six quart basket or plastic pail is more efficient. Tuck in a handful of soft rags for cleaning tack and odd parts of the horse. This set shouldn't cost more than \$10.

Saddle and bridle are the major items of purchase. The prices here are very variable — you can get a cheap saddle for \$100 or a superb model for \$1,500. However, most beginners settle for an average all-purpose saddle priced from \$150 to \$250, and a saddle pad at \$20. Western saddles are usually a little cheaper for the same quality than English. The bridle will run \$20 to \$40 for a utility job — western are about ten dollars

The New Colt

A wondrous miracle took place, In the big gray barn last night, While we all slumbered in our cozy beds, And the doors all locked up tight.

A wobbly kneed colt came to our woe mare, Its coat like brown velvet fair, I found him by chance, as I checked at dawn, And hastened the good news to share.

We all peered in at the big barn door, And watched with wonder and surprise, Indeed it's a miracle; of that, I'm sure, I could tell by the children's eyes!

J. Munro

purchased separately and costs \$5-\$15.

The rider will need boots and a hat initially. Most of us have jeans or sensible pants in our wardrobes these days.

Later When you become ambitious enough to take your horse to shows, trail rides or other events, you will want to acquire a smart halter and leadline, sheet or blanket, bandages and tail wrap (these are for the horse, not you).

You will then wish to be correctly dressed yourself in a western suit; or breeches, jacket, and stock if you ride English.

The purchase of a horse is only the first in a long line of purchases — you'll be forever writing cheques. However, you don't need everything at once and there are lots of shortcuts. You can get your basic equipment for \$300-\$400 by being sensible and shopping around or you can go to a high pressure salesman and drop \$1,000. It's your choice.

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

H.S. HOLDEN
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