

Alice's Blog for September

Cleaning out the Tack Room

This month my Humans are talking about cleaning out the tack room. I think it must be a big job because it seems like they have been avoiding this for a long while. I am not sure why, because my stall is cleaned daily and my paddock and field are picked out every day too. How hard can it be to clean out a tack room?

The Tack Room is not very big, but I do know it holds a lot of things including Saddles, bridles, boots and saddle pads. I have not had to wear those things for a long time. I am a retired Pony who serves as a companion baby sitter for my Little Brother Oliver so I don't have to wear tack anymore. I just wear my halter and my blanket (when it is cold or rainy). My Little Brother Oliver has to wear lots of the things that come out of the Tack Room. I don't think he likes some of the things in the tack room, because whenever the humans bring it out it means he has to work. He doesn't put up much of a fuss anymore because he has learned that it is hard work to try to avoid working! Hiding under the tree doesn't help him avoid work because my humans find my little brother Oliver there every time. He needs a new hiding spot.

The saddle is what the rider sits on. There are several different kinds in our Tack Room. There is a Jumping one, a couple of Dressage saddles, and even a Western saddle. Humans use the different saddles for different ways of riding. The Western one is like the ones Cowboys use, the Jumping one is the kind that the people who ride their horses over jumps use and the Dressage one is special for people who ride fancy tests in small rings. My Little Brother Oliver is a "Dressage" horse, so he wears the Dressage saddle when he is ridden.

Humans also use bridles on horses. Bridles are the leather things that horses wear on their heads when people ride them. They are like halters but have bits that go in the horses mouths and reins that attach to the bit so that humans can steer them. Most bridles have only one bit, but there are some that have two!

There are a lot of saddle pads in the Tack Room. One of the humans said that they must magically multiply whenever the door is shut, because they have no idea how there got to be so many in there. There are a lot of pretty colored ones and a bunch of white ones. People use saddle pads underneath the saddle on the horses back. It helps make the saddle more comfortable for horses and protects the saddle from sweat and dirt.

I also see in the Tack Room a whole lot of bandages and boots. I don't mean the kind that humans wear in the rain but long stretchy bandages (they call them polo wraps but that does not make sense to me at all). Polo wraps are used to protect a horses legs when they are ridden and to give some support to their legs. The boots and bandages don't cover the whole foot so they don't get wet in a puddle, they only cover the big long bone in the horse's legs just above their fetlock and below the knee. They are supposed to be for protection as well. Then there are the Bell Boots which just cover the hoof. My little brother Oliver wears them all of the time because he is clumsy and steps on himself a lot. I don't have to wear bell boots at all but I think a sparkly pink pair would be fun! My little brother Oliver has a pair that are shiny patent black with rhinestones, I think I am actually jealous of them, but they are way too big for my pretty and delicate feet. My little brother Oliver has big feet.

There are so many other things stored in the Tack Room like our blankets, brushes, extra bits, stable wraps, first aid supplies and much, much more. There are some pictures and some horse show ribbons too. The humans said that there is just too much in there and it needs to be organized. My little brother Oliver and I have decided to both hide under the big tree when they start cleaning out the tack room.

Do you have to clean your room? Does your Mom or Dad tell you that you need to get organized? My humans say that when they clean out the barn and tack room they always find something that they forgot they had or could not find before. Maybe that will happen to you as well.

Horses are lucky because the humans do the cleaning for us! We are lucky too because the jar of sugar cubes and the bucket of carrots is always by the barn sink and they are never lost in a messy tack room.

Love Alice the Pony