

Pony Tails Kids Club August Fun Fact!



**Hey Pony Tails Friends, it's me Alice!**

I don't know about you but I think summer just flew by, I can't believe it's already the end of August.

Oliver, Howdy, Panama and I had such a fun summer. What did you do this summer? Did you get to do any horsey type things? I'm sad to see summer go, but I always look forward to Fall. My humans are very busy making sure I'm kept healthy and happy during the upcoming months. They've made an appointment for my veterinarian to come see me. My vet is like your doctor and dentist all in one. One of the things my vet will do is check my teeth.

Horse's teeth, unlike humans', continue to grow with age. They also wear down with use, but the changes in the characteristics of the teeth over time make it possible to make a rough estimate of a horse's age by examining them. My vet examines my teeth to make sure they are nice and smooth and haven't worn funny so they have pointy edges that will hurt me when I chew. If he does find any points he will do a procedure called floating. Floating a horse's teeth means to file or rasp the teeth to make the chewing surfaces relatively flat or smooth.

Horses also need to have their teeth just

right so when they have a bit in their mouth, the bit will sit properly and not pinch or hurt. Here's a video so you can see what floating a horse's teeth looks like: (it looks terrible but it really isn't that bad, and I always get treats after!)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_himWyAgp9I](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_himWyAgp9I)

Are you getting ready to go back to school? Here's some fun from Horse Lovers Math to get you in the back to school groove!

**What do we mean by percent?**



Percent means 'per 100'. It is a mathematical way of describing part of something that has been split into a hundred equal pieces.

A percent can go from 0 percent to 100 percent with 100% being all of the 100 pieces and 0% being none of them.

**How do you write percent?**  
75% can be written as a fraction:  $75/100$  (Think 75 out of 100). It can also be written as a decimal: .75.

Notice how percent, fractions and decimals are related?

We're using math to describe and understand the relationship between the weight of the rider and saddle (the part) to the weight of the horse they're riding (the whole).

Horses and ponies are strong. But there are limits to their strength. How much weight is too much for a horse or pony to carry?

In an effort to find out the answer to this question, a group of scientists set out to learn more about the relationship between rider weight and the size of the horse they are riding, in order to ensure the well being of the horse.

They designed an experiment using eight horses that were ridden while carrying anywhere from 15 to 30% of their body weight. The horses ranged in size from 400 to 625 kilograms.

You can learn about their experiment in Horse Lover's Math's post, How Much Weight Can Horses Comfortably Carry?

<https://www.horseloversmath.com/how-much-weight-can-horses-comfortably-carry>

The researchers determined that the maximum load a horse can comfortably carry is 20% of their body weight.

How to calculate the percent of a number:

Let's apply what we know. Say we have a horse weighing 500 kg and we want to determine the maximum amount of weight this horse can comfortably carry.

$500 \text{ kg} \times 20\% = 500 \text{ kg} \times .20 = 100 \text{ kg}$ . This horse could comfortably carry a load up to 100 kg.

Dude ranches use this information in their business. It's important for them to keep their horses healthy and strong. In recent years, ranches have found they have had to add bigger horses to their stables to help carry larger tourists over the rugged terrain of a wilderness trail. Many ranches have added draft horses to their string to make sure everyone who wants to ride, can ride, no matter how much they weigh.

Learn more about what some of these ranch operators are doing in Horse Lover's Math's post, Big Riders Need Big Horses

<https://www.horseloversmath.com/how-much-weight-can-a-horse-carry>

What about Alice and Howdy? How much weight could they comfortably carry? The answer will be in next month's Pony Tails Club email.

Howdy stands 15 hands high and weighs 450 kg

Alice stands 12.2 hands high and weighs 190 kg

Do you have a friend that's crazy about horses and ponies?  
Why not invite them to join Pony Tails Kids Club!

[Join Here!](#)



Horse Council BC gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the Province of British Columbia through the Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture

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