



New England Miniature Horse Society

Why You Should Own a Miniature Horse

Minis eat less. Since Minis typically weigh between 200 and 250 lbs, they only eat one fourth – or less – of what an average full-size horse eats. The same goes for wormers and supplements (but not vaccines). Minis need good quality hay and clean, fresh water.

Minis need less space. The turnout space required by one full-size horse can be enough for several Minis. A shed or simple run-in may be suitable shelter for a Mini or two, and a fence sturdy enough to contain even rambunctious Minis is typically much cheaper than standard horse fencing. (Check your local zoning rules, of course.)

Minis are easier to handle. AMHA Miniature Horses are up to 34" tall, measured at the last hair of the mane. Their small size makes Minis easier to control and less intimidating for youngsters or anyone who is unused to horses. And while they can't be ridden, they are fun to drive for pleasure or show. Minis are able to pull up to twice their own weight in a cart.

Minis are easy to care for. Miniature Horses need the same care as their larger counterparts. You still need to pick out their little hooves, brush their coats, administer wormer, and so on, but with Minis it can all be done easily and safely by people of nearly any age and ability.

Minis go barefoot. Miniature Horses generally don't need shoes, although specialized pads, shoes or boots are available for special needs, such as driving on difficult surfaces. You'll need to have the farrier come by for a trim every several weeks, but the cost will be a lot less than it is for a full-size horse.

Minis are a family thing. Perhaps the most rewarding aspect of Miniature Horses is the togetherness and sharing that occurs when a family gets involved with them. Learning how to properly care for a Miniature Horse teaches kids of all ages patience, discipline, responsibility and respect. And the feeling of pride and sense of accomplishment that comes from winning that first show ribbon is contagious. Pretty soon everyone in the family will want their own Mini!

Everyone loves Minis. Minis are a popular attraction wherever they show up. A visit to a school or nursing home; walking or driving in a parade; or making an appearance at a birthday party; Minis bring warmth and smiles to everyone who meets them.

Minis are the perfect pet. After many years of careful breeding, the modern Miniature Horse has the refined appearance of a scaled-down but properly-proportioned horse. At 34" or under (measured at the last hair of the mane) an AMHA Mini has all the intelligence and curiosity of its full-sized relatives, while being more gentle and affectionate.

The New England Miniature Horse Society promotes several shows a year, at which Mini enthusiasts of all ages compete at multiple levels in several disciplines. We offer halter classes, in which horses are judged on conformation and appearance, and performance classes including showmanship, hunter and jumper, obstacle, liberty and a number of driving classes. Our shows feature Novice classes for youth and adults who are new to showing Minis. It's a great way to get started. We hope to see you at our shows!