



Winter Feeding

Horses are very adaptable to different conditions! Horses and donkeys are amazing creatures that have evolved to withstand all kinds of extreme conditions. They can thrive in nearly all types of environment on earth, from the hottest deserts in northern Africa to the coldest reaches of frozen Siberia. However, human domestication has interrupted equines' natural evolutionary process in response to local environmental conditions. A horse built to survive intense desert heat with its light body mass and thin fur will not long survive the extreme sub-zero temperatures of the arctic. Yet man may value the speed of the lightweight desert horse and transport it to northern climates where it is ill equipped to survive on its own.



The wild horses in the Ghost Herd living in the Sapphire Mountains across the river from the ranch are much more adapted to survive harsh winter conditions than are our own. Ours get abundant hay while the wild horses must dig in the deep snow for forage.



Lots of fresh hay and access to ice-free water are the keys. Keeping the hay barn full and making sure that the watering stations don't freeze are a must for Dunrovin to keep the animals happy and healthy.

As you can see, Jewel and Kola do their part by patrolling for mice among the hay!



It's great to see their coats covered in ice! A house with a snow and ice covered roof indicates that the house is well insulated. It's the same with horses and donkeys. When snow and ice pile up on their backs, we know that they are in great condition with lots of fat and heavy fur to keep them warm.



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