

Early Spring at Dunrovin!

The best word to describe spring in Montana is temperamental. Spring at Dunrovin often looks like a tug of war between winter and summer. Montanans use terms like false spring, first spring, fool's spring, spring of deception, repeat winter, second and third winter, mud season, and other less family-friendly words to describe the way the weather can quickly whipsaw between cold blizzards and heat waves—sometimes within the span of hours. Montana holds both national and world records for extreme short-term temperature changes. Dunrovin's animals (including its *Homo sapiens*) simply adapt to whatever weather a spring day capriciously serves up.



Dunrovin's equines take advantage of snow and ice free pastures and paddocks by catching afternoon naps under the watchful eyes of their herd mates. While horses and donkeys can sleep while standing, they relish an opportunity to lie down.



Spring Brings Play and Work as Well as Naps!



Like all animals, Dunrovin's equines know to conserve their energy during the cold months of winter. Hence they enter spring with pent-up energy that expresses itself through spontaneous playing. The staff takes a couple of months to burn off their extra spring energy and settle the horses back to their jobs of carrying guest ranch visitors safely down the trail. Spring training focuses on the horses' mental, emotional and physical conditions. It begins as soon as the ice has melted and the footing is safe for riding. Watch in the coming weeks as Dunrovin initiates its equine drill team to build the horses' physical stamina and adjust their attitudes from being on winter break to that of cooperating with their human handlers and riders and keeping their horseplay confined to their free time in the pastures.

