

Keep Your Horses Happy

Article and photos by Kathie Ferrante: Owner, training/ instructor with the Ferrante Ranch and Ferrante Ranch Performance Horses

How is caring for horses different in winter than other months?

During winter, horses burn more calories to keep warm and to grow a winter hair coat due to the shorter days. So a slight increase in feed is needed to maintain a healthy weight.

During rainy seasons, it can be difficult to keep a regular work schedule, so it's important that you find a way to exercise your horses during the wet months. Also, keep in mind with shorter days and hair coats long, horses tend to sweat with a longer coat, therefore leaving the hair coat wet on a cold night. These issues can be taken care of with body clipping, artificial lighting or not getting a horse into a heavy sweat.

With wet corrals and damper stalls, it's important that hooves are taken care of — keeping them dry and free of bacteria.

Do horses look different in December compared to warmer months? Hair coats can be longer in winter months. Some barns provide artificial lighting which will keep a horse's hair coat looking like it does during the summer months and all year around.

How could horse owners include their horse in holiday traditions? We have for several years taken a holiday family photo with our horses. In some neighborhoods,

you can organize a group of carolers on horseback on a weekend afternoon. There are also local holiday parades that you and a group can sign up for. You can go as a specialty or go as a group. Putting on a winter horse camp in your community provides fun horse activities for youth riders.

Kathie Ferrante is owner and operator of Ferrante Ranch, a premier horse training ranch in Ventura County for more than 40 years. "Our family has been in the horse business for over 150 years with training, showing, rodeo and providing horses for the military."



Youngest daughter, Josie Ferrante, is currently on scholarship with TCU's equestrian team.

Kathie says, "Here at the Ferrante Ranch we provide a family atmosphere so the whole family can enjoy the lifestyle with horses. Our students learn cutting, reining, cow horses, rodeo events and social riding. Caring for horses is the top priority here, especially during extreme heat in summer or cold weather during winter."

Ferrante Ranch is at 7694 Bradley Road in Somis. Call 805-276-4892.



The Ultimate Somis Compound



Tucked away on a quiet cul-de-sac, this 1.4 acre property has TWO RESIDENCES of 4,250 and 1,450 sq ft. A 1,600 sq ft WORKSHOP is waiting for the ultimate car & RV enthusiast. Meticulously maintained, the property also boasts a TWO-STALL BARN, PEBBLE-TEC SALT WATER POOL, FENCED SPORT COURT, and numerous outbuildings and sheds for extra storage. The 6br/3.5bth main residence has vaulted ceilings in the open living and family rooms, and TWO MASTER BEDROOMS on opposite ends of the one-story home. The 3br/2bth guest house was built in 2007; located in a private corner away from the main residence, it would be perfect for in-laws or as a separate guest/rental unit. Sixty-eight solar panels on the roof of the main residence serve the entire property, allowing multiple AC units, numerous appliances, continuous pool pump, and dusk-to-dawn exterior lights. A 1,500 sq ft covered patio includes outdoor kitchen area with built in gas BBQ and outdoor refrigerator, ideal for entertaining family and friends. **6012 Palomino Circle, Somis**



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