Surviving the Muddy Season: When Your Horse is More ‘Mud Monster’ Than ‘Majestic Steed’



Ah, autumn and winter: that splendid time of year when your pristine, show-ready horse transforms into a mud-caked monster with a passion for rolling in the sloppiest of puddles. Welcome to the muddy season! If you’re a horse owner, you know this time of year can

quickly turn your majestic steed into a ‘Mud Monster’ faster than you can say “don’t roll in that!” But fear not! With a little preparation and a sense of humour, you can navigate the mire with grace and style. Here’s your ultimate guide to surviving the muddy season:

1. Turnout Rugs

Turnout rugs are, of course, your first line of defence against the mud mayhem. Higher denier rugs tend to be more robust and longer wearing, so it pays to invest in quality rugs to keep your horse dry. For those poor-doers who struggle to maintain weight, a heavier rug is essential. This will help keep them warm and prevent unwanted weight loss.

For overweight horses and ponies, avoid over-rugging and opt for sheets or lightweight rugs. This allows them to burn calories as nature intended and use their reserves to stay warm.

2. Hoof Care

When possible, bring your horse in from the field and let them stand on dry ground for a few hours. If access to dry ground is limited, consider investing in high-quality field mats or creating a designated dry area to give your horse’s hooves a much-needed break.

In addition, using antimicrobial products such as sprays and clays can provide an extra layer of protection against fungal and bacterial infections. Make sure to clean and dry your horse's hooves when the farrier or hoof care provider is coming, not only will they thank you but it helps ensure they can address any issues effectively and keep your horse's hooves in top shape.

3. Invest in Drainage or Hard Standing Mats

Consider investing in drainage solutions or hard-standing mats for gateways and high-traffic areas. These can help reduce mud poaching and keep the ground more stable, which will save you and your horse from wading through deep, muddy messes. Your future self (and your horse) will thank you!

4. Waterproof Coats and Wellies

Don’t forget about yourself in the mud season mayhem! Investing in a good pair of wellies is essential. They’ll keep your feet dry and warm as you navigate the fields, and let’s be honest, a reliable pair of wellies is a true game-changer for any horse owner.

Similarly, long waterproof coats are a godsend. A durable, waterproof coat will keep you dry and comfortable. Choose one that’s both practical and stylish—after all, you might as well look fabulous while facing the elements!

5. Keep Your Spirits Up

Remember, the muddy season only lasts half the year (give or take a few months depending on your location). It’s easy to feel overwhelmed when faced with endless mud and grooming, but keep your spirits high! The muddy season is a temporary challenge, and soon enough, you’ll be back to complaining how hard the ground is.

6. Winter Feeding: The Mud Monster's Diet

As your horse embraces their inner 'Mud Monster,' it’s important to ensure their diet is providing everything they need to support their ongoing health and wellbeing. The muddy season can make grass harder to come by, so investing in high-quality hay or haylage will be key. SPILLERS has a range of feeds to ensure there’s an optimum diet for every horse, providing the right balance of energy, vitamins, and minerals to support their immune system and overall condition. And if you're ever in doubt, don’t hesitate to chat with our expert nutrition team. They’re always ready to help you turn your mud-caked friend back into the majestic steed you know and love—while still allowing for a cheeky roll in the mud now and then!

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