

The Importance of Barn Records

Start With a Stall Card and Build Your Book From There

By Dawn Bellinger

What would happen to your barn if you got sick and someone else, who didn't know your horses, had to come in to take care of them? How would that person know what they eat, when they last had their last vaccines, their allergies, or their condition? If you have boarders, they would also need the owner's contact, vet and farrier information. And, it would be nice to mention any of your horses' stable vices.

Why wait until you own a barn of your own to start keeping track of all of these things and more? Pony Club teaches its members to track all of this information from the minute you become a member. Any rider can create a Stall Card for their horse or pony. If you take your horse to a show and stay overnight in a stall, you should affix it to the stall door. Google "stall card template" and you'll have a number of choices.

A stall card needs your contact information (and the owner's too if you're not the owner), your pony's vet and farrier information, a photo of your pony, and your pony's information (age, sex, height, allergies, medications, and vices). Why do you need a photo of your pony? What if your pony got out and also let his friends out? A photo would be a quick and easy way for someone to identify which pony goes in each stall.

The stall card is the kernel of your barn records. To create your full record book, just expand on your stall card for each horse in your barn. Again, any rider can create a record book for any horse or pony they take care of regularly. Pony Club teaches members to start their record book almost as soon as they join. By the time that member is testing for higher certifications, their record books are full and complete for each horse they have ridden regularly.

When my daughter got her first horse at age 17, she already had records for nine prior leased horses. Keeping track of one more was easy.

Building on the stall card, you should add a feed schedule and a detailed list of routine care (vaccines, deworming, shoeing, vet visits, and dental care) for each horse. Add a conditioning schedule for each horse to include special tack or equipment you use. Finally, create a section of your notebook to track the costs so that you know how much you're spending!

Creating a record for each horse you own or lease or even just ride regularly will teach you what you need to know to care for your own barn full of horses.

Then, by the time you're a barn owner yourself, you'll know how to keep track of every horse in your barn and how much it will cost. Start by creating your stall card and then work on your own Barn Record Book. It's never too soon to begin!

About the author: Dawn Bellinger is a Pony Club alum and the mother of a graduate H-A Pony Club member from Virginia.

 <h3>Stall Card</h3>	
Club or Center/Region <u>Virginia Region Pony Clubs</u>	
Rider Name(s) <u>Suzie Q</u>	Mount's Name: <u>My Good Guy</u>
Competitor #(s): <u>123</u> Certification(s): <u>D-3</u>	Age: <u>18</u> Sex: <u>Gelding</u> Height: <u>15.1</u>
List competitor information for ALL riders using mount.	Vital Signs at Rest: Temp <u>100.2</u> Pulse <u>31</u> Resp <u>19</u>
_____	Stable Vices: <u>Cribs</u>
_____	Allergies: <u>dust - please water hay</u>
_____	_____
The following information is required so these individuals can be contacted when not on rally grounds. Provide emergency contact information with area codes.	List any medications, supplements, nutraceuticals and/or loose salt administered. Include name and amount(s).
Chaperone: <u>Mrs. Q</u>	<u>salt block in feed tub</u>
Cell phone number (703) <u>841-4959</u>	_____
Adult Emergency Contact: <u>Mrs. Q</u>	_____
Home phone number (703) <u>841-4959</u>	_____
Cell phone number (703) <u>841-4959</u>	_____
Veterinarian: <u>Dr. Amazing</u>	_____
Phone number (703) <u>512-3485</u>	_____
Farrier: <u>Mr. Strong</u>	_____
Phone number (540) <u>896-4587</u>	_____
_____	
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