



Sylmar Neighborhood Council

July 15th is National Horses Day!

ALL ABOUT HORSES

**Neigh, gallop, and learn about
these strong and friendly helpers!**

A NONFICTION UNIT

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MEET THE HORSES!

Neigh! A tall animal flips its mane —it's a horse! **Horses** are strong animals that can run very fast. People have cared for horses for a long, long time. Horses can help people ride, do farm jobs, and have fun.





WHAT HORSES ARE LIKE

Horses are **mammals**, which means they have hair and drink milk when they are babies. They have four long legs, **hooves**, and a tail. Horses also have a **mane**, which is the long hair on their neck.





WHERE HORSES LIVE

Horses live on farms, ranches, and open fields called **pastures**. They may sleep in a stable or barn to stay safe from bad weather. Horses like wide spaces where they can walk, **trot**, and run freely. People care for horses by giving them food, water, and shelter.

FROM FOAL TO ADULT

A horse's life begins as a **foal**. Foals can stand and walk shortly after they are born. They drink milk from their mothers to grow strong. As they grow, foals begin eating grass and hay. Over time, a foal becomes an adult horse.



WHAT HORSES EAT

Horses are **herbivores**, which means they eat plants. Their main foods are grass and hay. Horses spend many hours each day eating. They also need fresh water to stay healthy. Eating slowly helps horses digest their food well.



INSIDE A HORSE FAMILY

Horses like to live in groups called **herds**. Living together helps horses feel safe and calm. Mothers stay close to their foals, and young horses learn by watching older ones. Horses use sounds and body movements to communicate with each other.





HOW HORSES MOVE

Horses can move in different ways. They can walk, **trot**, **canter**, and **gallop**. Their strong legs and hooves help them move smoothly across the ground. Horses use their tails and ears to help balance and show how they feel.





KEEPING SAFE

Horses stay safe by staying with their herd and watching their surroundings. People help keep horses safe by using fences, clean shelters, and gentle care. Horses like calm voices and slow movements around them.



DID YOU KNOW?

Horses can sleep standing up sometimes. They can do this because their legs can “lock” to help them stay balanced. But they also need to lie down sometimes to get deep sleep.

QUESTION TIME!

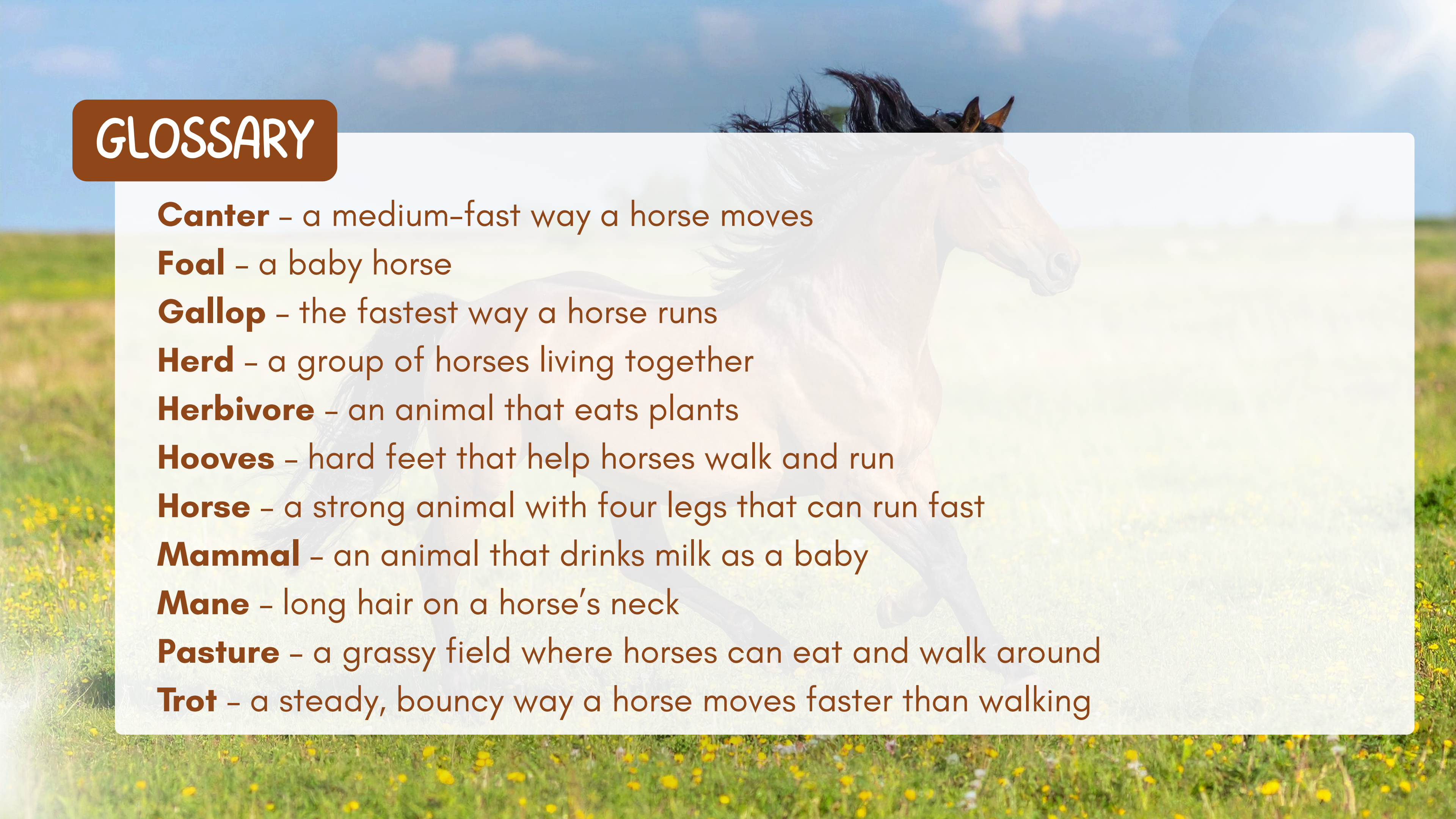
1. (True or False) Horses are mammals.
2. (True or False) Horses eat meat.
3. (True or False) Baby horses are called foals.
4. (Fact or Opinion) Horses eat grass.
5. (Fact or Opinion) Horses are the fastest farm animals.
6. Where do horses live?
7. What do horses eat?
8. What is a group of horses called?
9. How do horses move?
10. How do people help keep horses safe?



ANSWERS

1. True. Horses are mammals.
2. False. Horses eat plants.
3. True. Baby horses are called foals.
4. Fact. Horses eat grass and hay.
5. Opinion. "Fastest farm animals" is a personal idea.
6. They live on farms and in pastures.
7. They eat grass and hay.
8. A group of horses is called a herd.
9. They walk, trot, canter, and gallop.
10. By giving them food, water, shelter, and care.





GLOSSARY

Canter – a medium-fast way a horse moves

Foal – a baby horse

Gallop – the fastest way a horse runs

Herd – a group of horses living together

Herbivore – an animal that eats plants

Hooves – hard feet that help horses walk and run

Horse – a strong animal with four legs that can run fast

Mammal – an animal that drinks milk as a baby

Mane – long hair on a horse's neck

Pasture – a grassy field where horses can eat and walk around

Trot – a steady, bouncy way a horse moves faster than walking



FUN WITH HORSES

Q: Why don't horses like indie bands?

A: They only listen to mane-stream music!