

5 Tips For Showing An Equine Senior Horse

1. Make sure your senior horse is on a good mobility supplement that supports both their joints and soft tissue.
2. Keep your horse moving. At home this means as much turnout as possible. Long hauls to and from shows can be for your horse like a long airline flight is for us. Once you're at your destination make sure to walk your horse for at least ten minutes before putting them in their stall. Likewise, take your horse out every couple hours for light exercise – like walking and a little bit of trotting.
3. Bed your stalls both at home and at shows with a generous amount of bedding. Older horses tend to lie down more and sometimes get back up a little hard. Deep bedding will help to protect their joints from scraping the flooring when they get up.
4. Always provide the best ventilation as possible. If you have ever had an equine senior with respiratory problems you will know why this is important. Keep dust to a minimum,, This means wetting down dry bedding both in your stall and in your horse trailer, shaking out any hay you are feeding, and sweeping your barn aisle ways when your horses are outside.
5. Protect you equine senior's digestive tract. Chances are your senior horse probably has ulcers. To help keep him/her comfortable use an ulcer preventative and/or feed your horse to manage their sensitive system. This means smaller amounts of hay more frequently. Always feed hay first and then grain. If you are giving any oral anti-inflammatory medicine always give on a full stomach. The use of small hole hay bags will help keep hay in front of your seniot 24/7 without them overeating.