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Good, Hot Advice

When the dog days of summer are in full swing, shoppers may come to you seeking advice regarding animal comfort. There are many no- to low-cost solutions for cooling a horse on hot days, and sharing this information can strengthen the customer-vendor bond.

Water is an obvious place to start. Horses are naturally drawn to water. If there's a pond or lake nearby on a hot day, they will find it. Owners should also take extra care to keep their buckets or troughs full of clean, cool water when temperatures rise. Ice can be added on particularly hot days as a special treat. Attaching a sprinkler to a garden hose and putting it in a paddock will not only supply relief from hot weather, but can be downright amusing.

Horses are also drawn to shade. If there are trees near on a hot day, they will find them. If there are no trees and they're being forced to stand out in the sun, providing a paddock shade or similar setup may be advisable. Shades not only cool an area but effectively block out the sun's harmful rays.

Fans can provide relief in enclosed areas such as stables. For large facilities, industrial-sized fans are available. Misters, which produce a fine mist that is dispersed with a fan, are also available. They have the ability to cool the air in a stable as much as 25 degrees. Keep a selection of these machines on hand during the summer months. ☐

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