Caring for your Horse or Pony
**Food**

- **Good quality grass** is the best and most natural feed but when it dries up, give your horse hay and pellets.
- **Feed little and often** (2 or 3 times daily).
- **Feed plenty of bulk**, such as good quality hay.
- **For a special treat**, give your horse some apple and carrot.
Water

- Make sure your horse has cool, fresh water all the time.
- Just like people, all animals can get sick from drinking dirty water.
Shelter

- Horses need shelter from the sun, wind and rain.
- Natural shelter such as a line of trees or a hedge is a good place for your horse to take shelter.
- A shed or stable is a good shelter for a horse.
- Old horses need special care and in winter should have a warm waterproof rug.
Animals can feel bored.
All horses need regular exercise and freedom to move.
They should never be tied up for a long time.
You can even buy toys for horses to play with!
Animals can feel lonely too.

Be a great friend for your horse by giving him everything he needs and spending lots of time with him.

Your horse would love to have a friendly horse buddy too.
- A horse should be visited by a vet once or twice a year for a check-up.
- Call the vet if your horse is sick, hurt or stops eating.
- Your horse will need to see a special dentist too.
- A person who looks after a horse’s hooves is called a farrier. The farrier should visit your horse or pony every 6-8 weeks.
Identification (ID)

- ID means if your animal gets lost, it can be brought home again.
- Your horse should have a microchip put under his fur by the vet. This is a permanent ID.
Life Span

- Horses can live for around 30-35 years.
- Ponies can live for more than 40 years.
- You must be ready to love and care for your horse for its whole life.