

Name _____



The Life Cycle of a Horse

Horses go through several stages in their life cycle, from birth to adulthood. Each stage is important for their growth and development. Horses are mammals, which means they give birth to live young and care for their babies after birth.

A horse begins its life as a foal, which is a baby horse. Foals are usually born after about 11 months of pregnancy. When they are born, foals can stand and walk within a few hours, which helps them stay safe from predators. Foals drink their mother's milk, which provides the nutrients they need to grow strong.

As foals grow, they enter the next stage called a yearling. A yearling is a young horse between one and two years old. During this stage, they begin to eat solid foods like grass and hay while still growing rapidly.

By the age of three to four years, a horse is considered a young adult. At this stage, horses are usually trained for riding or work. They are strong enough to carry riders and help with farm tasks. Horses continue to grow until they are about five years old.

A fully grown adult horse can live for 25 to 30 years, though some horses can live even longer with proper care. As they age, horses may need special diets and more rest.

The life cycle of a horse shows how these animals grow and change over time. From a wobbly foal to a strong adult horse, each stage plays a role in the horse's life.