

Name \_\_\_\_\_



## Horses' Predators and Threats

Horses are strong and fast animals, but they still face dangers in the wild. Predators, environmental changes, and human interference can all threaten their survival.

In the wild, horses have a few natural predators. Large carnivores like wolves and mountain lions sometimes prey on horses, especially young foals or weaker adults. These predators use speed and teamwork to hunt. However, horses have powerful legs and can run quickly to escape danger. Their herds also help protect them by staying together and keeping watch for threats.

Apart from predators, horses face other dangers like environmental changes. Droughts can reduce the amount of grass and water available, making it hard for horses to find enough food and stay healthy. Harsh winters can also create challenges, as snow can cover the ground, making it difficult to graze.

Human activities can pose threats too. Deforestation and land development can destroy the grassy habitats horses need to survive. Some horses are also captured or harmed by people who hunt them or use them for labor in ways that are harmful.

Horses can get sick from diseases and parasites. Parasites like worms can affect their health, while diseases like equine influenza can spread quickly in herds. Wild horses often rely on natural behaviors to stay healthy, like grazing on a variety of plants for nutrients and keeping their coats clean by rolling in dust or water.

Despite these threats, horses have ways to stay healthy and safe. Their speed, herd behavior, and ability to sense danger help them survive. Staying in groups allows them to warn each other of predators, and their strong legs make it easier to escape danger. Horses have adapted well to live in the wild, making them remarkable animals.