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## Horse Characteristics

- **Characterized by a small dish faced head, large eyes and a thin muzzle**, the Arabian is considered the most beautiful and elegant horses.
- Horses **see, hear and smell** better than humans.
- Horses' **eyes** are set on either side of their head. This makes it possible for them to see in every direction at once, except directly in front of their nose and directly behind their tail.
- Horses are **very sensitive to touch**. They can sense a fly landing on any part of their body and use their tail to flick it off.
- Horses have **large ears** that can move around and point towards sounds. Each one can rotate around (180 degrees).
- A horse's **ears** can indicate how it is feeling.
- Horses are able to **recognize friends**, both human and animal, by smell alone.
- **Whiskers** that grow from a horse's muzzle and around its eyes are **like an antennae**. They are used to feel nearby objects.
- An **adult horse's brain weighs** about 650 grams (22 oz.) – about half the weight of an adult human brain.
- A horse **breathes** between 10 and 15 times a minute when resting.
- A horse's **heart beats** 46 to 42 beats per minute. If frightened this can rise quickly to over 250.
- Horses **communicate** with other members of the herd through both vocal and body signals.
- A horse cannot **'throw up'**.
- A relaxed horse may make **licking or chewing movements** with it's mouth.
- A **relaxed** horse may sigh or yawn and take deep breathes.
- Always **approach** a horse at it's shoulder. It is easy for the horse to see you.