

## It's A Horse, Of Course!

I can't think of any other animal, aside from the dog, that's had a closer association with man than the horse. Not as smart as a dolphin, not as fast as a cheetah, not as big as an elephant, still, historically, one could well argue that it's been the most important domesticated animal, certainly militarily and in transportation. I mean, come on! It wasn't the "Puppy Express! It was the "Pony Express!"

Over their long relationship with Man, several domesticated animals have come to represent cherished values. The dog may represent loyalty; the cat independence; but the horse represents nobility—in more ways than one: the horse as a noble animal, and the horse as the symbol of nobles. It has even been utilized as the symbol of royalty. Genghis Khan, for example, used nine horse tails as his 'crest'.

Although Man's reliance on the horse has come and gone, even though such lasted for thousands of years, horses are still with us, of course, and not just physically. They've been incorporated into our language ('horsepower'); our science ('horse latitudes'); our psychology ('horse sense'); our entertainment ('horse opera'), and even our cuisine ('horseradish').

By the way, did you know that horses have larger eyes than any other land-living mammal? It's also estimated that there are some 60 million horses in the world today.





