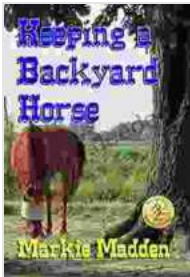


# Keeping Backyard Horses: A Comprehensive Guide to Caring for Your Equine Companions



## Keeping a Backyard Horse by Markie Madden

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 6002 KB  
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Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
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Horses are majestic creatures that can bring great joy and companionship to your life. If you're thinking about adding a horse to your backyard, it's important to do your research and make sure you're prepared to provide the proper care for these amazing animals.

## Housing and Fencing

Horses need a safe and comfortable place to live. The first step is to determine how much space you have available and what type of housing you can provide. Horses need at least an acre of pasture per horse, but more is always better. The pasture should be fenced with horse-safe fencing, such as woven wire or electric fencing. The fence should be at least 4 feet high and have no sharp edges or loose wires.

In addition to pasture, horses also need a shelter to protect them from the elements. The shelter should be large enough for all of your horses to fit

inside comfortably, and it should be well-ventilated and have a dry floor. You can choose from a variety of shelter options, such as a barn, a run-in shed, or a lean-to.

## **Feeding**

Horses are herbivores, which means they eat plants. The majority of their diet should consist of hay, which is a type of dried grass. Horses also need grain, which is a concentrated source of energy and nutrients. The amount of grain you feed your horse will depend on its age, activity level, and overall health. You should always consult with a veterinarian to determine the best feeding plan for your horse.

## **Grooming**

Horses need to be groomed regularly to keep them clean and healthy. Grooming helps to remove dirt and debris from their coat, stimulates circulation, and promotes bonding between you and your horse. The basic grooming tools you'll need include a curry comb, a brush, a hoof pick, and a mane and tail brush.

## **Health Care**

Horses are susceptible to a variety of health problems, so it's important to have a veterinarian on call. Regular veterinary care is essential for detecting and treating health problems early on. Vaccinations are also important for protecting your horse from diseases such as tetanus, influenza, and West Nile virus.

## **Bonding with Your Horse**

One of the most rewarding aspects of owning a horse is the bond you can develop with your animal. Horses are intelligent and social creatures, and they enjoy interacting with humans. There are many ways to bond with your horse, such as spending time with it in the pasture, grooming it, and riding it.

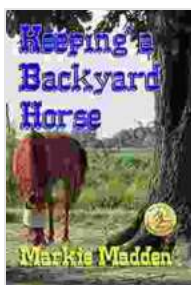
## Horse Training

Training your horse is essential for safety and enjoyment. Basic training commands such as "come," "go," and "stop" will help you control your horse and keep it safe. You can also train your horse for specific activities, such as riding, driving, or jumping.

## Horse Riding

Horseback riding is a great way to enjoy the outdoors and bond with your horse. However, it's important to be safe when riding. Always wear a helmet and appropriate riding gear, and never ride alone. You should also take lessons from a qualified instructor to learn the basics of riding.

Owning a horse is a wonderful experience. Horses are beautiful, intelligent, and social animals that can bring great joy to your life. However, it's important to be prepared for the responsibility of caring for



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