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Informative Paper

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Clydesdale Horses

Clomp, clomp, clomp! Who’s feet are coming down the road? It’s a Clydesdale Horse. In this paper I will be talking about Clydesdale characteristics, diet, and history. The scientific name for the Clydesdale Horse is Equus Caballus. That is a weird name. Did you know this breed exists? I am going to give you the information I learned from researching this type of horse.

Clydesdale can run up to 20 mph. Did you know Clydesdales were rare in 1970? They do not weigh as much as a Percherons which are a type of draft horse. Clydesdales have “feathers” that are six feet long. Feathers are hairs on their ankles that cover their hooves. The Clydesdale has a thick coat for the cold climate. Did you know Clydesdales can have black feathers sometimes? There is actually a breed of Clydesdales with black and white hooves that are striped. Queen Elizabeth II loved how Clydesdales looked.

Now, I will talk about the weight and height of the male and female horse. Male weigh 1,700-2,000 pounds. For the female it is 1,500-2,000 pounds. According to okstate.edu, the Clydesdale height for the male is five to six feet. The height of the female is five feet. Clydesdale are as big as big as 16.2 hands high. One hand equals four inches. That is 64.8 inches or 5.4 feet. A horse is measured at the withers, the highest point of the shoulders.

Next, we will talk about the diet. Like all horses, Clydesdales are herbivores which mean they eat plants, not other animals. They eat mostly grass but also enjoy barley, soybeans, alfalfa, oats, timothy hay, corn, flax, wheat, and clover. Also according to Seaworld.org, they eat feed that is made out of mixture of beet pulp, oats, bran, minerals, salt, molasses, and water. They eat five gallons of feed, forty to fifty pounds of hay. They drink 30 gallons of water.

Let’s talk about the Clydesdale history. How do you think the Clydesdale breed was created? The Flemish horse and shires were used to create the Clydesdale breed. Do you want to learn how long the Clydesdale has been here? They have been here for three hundred years. Clydesdale population was as low as eighty horses in 1975. There are 5,000 Clydesdale horses and growing with an estimated 600 foals each year. Clydesdale were traditionally used for heavy labor but most have been replaced by tractors. Clydesdale were brought from Scottish Settlers. They were first bred in Scotland in 1715. They were inspired by River Clyde and bought in 1842. In 1879 Clydesdale Breeders were made. This is really interesting. They were actually used in World War I for guns and ammunitions. In 1884 and 1945, there were more than 20,000 Clydesdale horses. They were nicknamed the breed that built Australia because they were used in just about all aspects of life there. They were nicknamed Horse Ballet. Another interesting fact I want to tell you about Clydesdales is that one horse once pulled a 50 ton load all by himself.

Finally, we talked about Clydesdale characteristics, diet, and history. Even though we learned a lot of interesting facts about Clydesdales, my favorite thing was they were used in World War I for carrying guns and ammunition. Clydesdales Horses are really majestic animals and I hope you enjoyed reading this essay as much as I liked writing this paper.