



## Transporting Horses to Warmer Climates

There are many issues to consider when you're planning to transport your horse, especially if you're moving him to a hot and humid climate. Veterinarians often talk about acclimatization (how a horse must have enough time to adjust to a new weather pattern after moving to a different region) in these scenarios. But acclimatization is not just about letting the horse "get used to it." Rather, it's about how we can help prepare our horses.

As the world gets proverbially smaller, and we transport our horses to various countries, it's essential to adopt the following methods for making the transition comfortable and safe:

- Monitor your horse's hydration status and water intake daily, and provide electrolytes.
- If needed, help your horse cool down by repeatedly applying and scraping off cold or ice water and using fans.
- Ensure stables have good airflow and paddocks have shade and water available.
- If you will be using local feed and forage, have a feed analysis completed on them and formulate a feeding plan accordingly. If the analysis reveals the feed is lacking in certain minerals, supplement those in your horse's diet.
- Monitor your horse's fecal characteristics daily, along with any changes in feeding behavior. Seek veterinary advice even for subtle colic signs.
- Manage risk factors associated with vector-borne diseases: Vaccinate, eliminate standing water where mosquitoes breed, get rid of manure to decrease fly populations, check horses daily for ticks, don't allow your horse to graze in forests or woodlands, and spray him with topical insect repellents.

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*Editor's Note: For further information and a video, see [TheHorse.com/33625](http://TheHorse.com/33625).*

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