Horses can run faster than 30 mph! The fastest sprint Inside
is just under 30 mph. Horses can also see almost 360 degrees at one time. This
is due to their binocular vision. Their eyes are positioned side by side on the
side of their head, allowing them to have a wide field of vision. The eyelids
are also very unique to horses, with a single eyelid that
overlies the eye. Horses also have a fourth eyelid, called the
third eyelid, which protects the eye from dust and debris.

Horses have around 205 bones in their body! This is
considered to be the most bones of any land mammal. The
horse has a lot of bones because they need to support their
large body weight.

A horse’s teeth is the biggest of all land mammals. Each
horse has 32 teeth, which are constantly growing. They are
used to grind the food they eat, which is mostly grasses and
grains. Floating a horse’s teeth means that a veterinarian
will file down the teeth to prevent the horse from getting
bites in the mouth that can cause them to be in pain.

The Effects of Obesity

Just like the human body, a horse’s body needs specific
nutrients to live a healthy life. Each horse is different; some are
tall, some are short. Some are pasture horses, while
others do activities like barrel racing, or cow herding. The best thing
to do is to ask your local vet what weight bracket your horse should be in. And what they should look
like. If they are underweight/overweight the doctor can address ways to
adjust your feeding to add/lose weight. Most people do not know that their horse
is overweight. If your horse is overweight and you are feeding too much
this can be very bad. When you feed your horse too many carbohydrates, there is a large
number of undigested sugars. This can cause your horse to colic where the intestines
twist on themselves. A horse experiencing colic leads to death if not caught early
enough. When the horse is overweight for too long it can also cause laminitis aka
foundering. Inside the hoof there is a small bone called the laminae that attached to
another bone called the coffin inside the hoof wall. The laminae are broken down
crushing the hoof to slowly break down. If not treated a horse can be crippled for life
or susceptible to death. Laminitis is now a curable disease, it is a manageable
one and must be treated as soon as possible.

Floating a Horse’s Teeth

Before

After

Left image is teeth that very badly needed to be filed, right image is
after the teeth were filed down. Photo credit: Haley Cardis

What It Means to “Float” a Horse’s Teeth...

Floating your horse’s teeth is a must and should be done regularly
about every 4 years. When a horse chews their food they move their
lower jaw outward to grind the food up good enough to swallow.
Over time this creates points on their teeth and is bothersome to the
horse when eating and/or when a bit is in their mouth when you are
riding. If the points are bad enough they will cut your horse’s mouth. In
order to file the teeth down a doctor will first sedate the horse. They will
then put a headpiece that opens the mouth enough to see inside. The
doctor uses a type of diamond plated drill that is strong enough to do
the job. There is also a type of handheld metal file that can be used,
however this is an older way to do it and technology has given us tools
to make things easier.

Leg of a Foundered Horse

Image: A leg of a horse that had foundered and had to be put to sleep. Photo credit: Haley Cardis

The Beauty Behind the Beast

Horses are not just beauties from the eye. They have
beautiful minds and souls. Each horse has its own personality and
story. When a horse is treated badly, they will remember this
forever, and forever be timid to the person who treated them
poorly. Horses can feel your emotions. When you are angry a
horse will feed off of this and become anxious. Just as they will be
calm if you come with no fear and love. Riding horses is also a way
a horse when eating or grinding their food. The

Gaining Experience

Some of this information was obtained from:
Fun Facts about the Horse

Horses can run faster than 30 mph! The fastest sprint
recorded was 35 mph!

> You can tell a horse is hot or cold by feeling their head
right behind their ears.

> Horses have around 205 bones in their body!

> Horses can sleep standing up by locking their knees or
by laying down.

> A horse’s eyes is the biggest of all land mammals.

> Horses can see almost 360 degrees at one time.

> When a horse looks like it is laughing it is
actually enhancing their smell to determine if the smell is
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