

35 WAYS TO MAKE MONEY FOR YOUR EQUESTRIAN HOBBY



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35 Ways to Save Money for Your Equestrian Hobby

Being a horse lover is deeply rewarding—but let's be honest, it's not a cheap hobby. From boarding to gear, feed, and vet care, costs can pile up faster than you can say "whoa." That's why we've rounded up 35 smart, practical ways to save money while still giving your horse the best care possible.

1. Buy Used Tack and Equipment

Quality used saddles, bridles, and boots can cost half the price of new. Check local consignment shops, online marketplaces, and Facebook groups like "Used Horse Tack."

2. Shop Local Tack Swaps or Facebook Groups

Attend community tack swaps or join local buy/sell groups. You'll often find gently-used gear at unbeatable prices—and maybe make some horsey friends!

3. Split Bulk Feed or Bedding

Coordinate with barn mates to split large orders. Buying in bulk lowers per-unit costs and saves on delivery fees.

4. Make Your Own Horse Treats

Use oats, molasses, apples, and carrots to bake nutritious snacks. Homemade treats are healthier and cheaper than store-bought.

5. Use DIY Grooming Supplies

Mix apple cider vinegar and water as a fly spray. Use baby shampoo for bathing and coconut oil as a conditioner.

6. Rotate Pastures to Reduce Hay Use

Resting pasture sections helps regrow grass, cutting down your hay bill during warmer months.

7. Borrow or Rent Expensive Items

Need clippers or a trailer once in a while? Borrow from a friend or rent through local services or barn connections.

8. Learn Basic Vet Care

Take a basic first aid course. Handling minor injuries yourself can save hundreds on emergency vet visits.

9. Use Barn Co-Ops or Work Exchanges

Offer to do barn chores or help with feeding in exchange for discounted board or riding lessons.

10. Use Seasonal Sales for Big Purchases

Shop smart by waiting for holiday sales and clearance events at major tack stores.

11. Stick to Essential Supplements

Talk to your vet about what your horse really needs. Many do fine on just salt and forage.

12. Track All Spending with a Simple Spreadsheet

Seeing your monthly horse-related expenses helps you cut back on non-essentials.

13. Buy Generic Versions of Equine Medications

Ask your vet for cost-effective alternatives to name-brand meds.

14. Schedule Regular Farrier Visits

Routine trims prevent issues that lead to expensive corrective work.

15. Clean and Maintain Gear to Make It Last Longer

Regular tack cleaning and proper storage extends the life of your equipment.

16. Skip Trendy Items You Don't Truly Need

Fancy matchy-matchy sets look great—but focus on essentials first.

17. Negotiate Board or Training Rates

If you're a long-term client, ask about loyalty pricing or work-for-board options.

18. Use Natural Fly Control Methods
Use essential oils, fly predators, and good manure management to reduce fly issues naturally.

19. Share Trailering Costs
Coordinate trips with barn mates to split the fuel and mileage costs.

20. Invest in a Good-Quality Blanket
A \$200 well-made blanket lasts years longer than cheap ones replaced annually.

21. Volunteer at Shows to Earn Discounts
Help out as a scribe or jump crew and earn discounted entries or free rides.

22. Lease a Horse Instead of Owning One
Leasing gives you access to riding without the full financial commitment of ownership.

23. Buy in Bulk When Possible

Stock up on essentials like fly spray, wraps, and de-wormers during sales.

24. Use Loyalty Programs at Feed/Tack Stores

Get rewards, cashback, or coupons by joining free customer programs.

25. Set a Monthly Horse Budget

Plan how much you'll spend and stick to it—helps avoid surprise overages.

26. Repurpose Barn Items for DIY Solutions

Old buckets become brush holders. Broken pitchfork handles? Great for DIY cavalletti!

27. Keep Horses Barefoot if Suitable

If your horse doesn't need shoes, trimming-only can save hundreds per year.

28. Trade Lessons for Barn Chores
Work off your lessons by helping with feeding, tacking up, or cleaning stalls.

29. Ride with a Friend Instead of Hiring
a Trainer Weekly
Set goals, practice together, and share feedback to improve while saving.

30. Limit Impulse Buys Online
Use a 24-hour rule before hitting "Buy Now." Often the urge will pass.

31. Shop at Farm Supply Stores
Instead of Big Tack Shops
Places like Tractor Supply often carry essentials at lower prices.

32. Buy Off-Brand, Quality Items
Tough-1, Weaver, and other budget brands offer solid gear without the markup.

33. Practice Preventative Healthcare
Vaccines, deworming, and dental care prevent bigger, costlier problems later.

34. Join Horse Forums for Deals and
Tips

Find free advice, used gear listings, and creative savings hacks from other riders.

35. Plan Ahead for Big Expenses

Set aside a small monthly amount for unexpected vet bills, tack repairs, or shows.

Saving money doesn't mean cutting corners—it means being smarter with your horsey dollars.

With these 35 tips, you'll be able to spend less and ride more. Happy trails, budget-savvy equestrian!