

No-fuss mud knot

Try this easy method for keeping your horse's tail out of the dirt using nothing more than his own hair.

The term “mud knot” describes a variety of techniques designed to keep a horse's tail clear of sloppy footing, trail debris or even his own legs. Mud knots range from intricate braids secured with yarn to quick loops tied at the end of the tail. The method demonstrated here requires no rubber bands or bandages but, if done properly, will stay in place for most activities. Note, however, that the tail must be a little dirty for this technique to work—freshly cleaned hairs will be too slick to hold together as needed.



1

Divide the tail into three sections, but leave a small portion of loose hair that extends three or four inches below the tailbone—this will secure the knot later.



2

Braid the tail snugly, stopping about eight inches above the end.



3

With two of the loose sections in one hand, and the third in the other, fold the braided tail up under itself until it reaches about halfway up the tailbone. Bring the ends forward around each side of the bone and tightly wrap them around it two or three times.



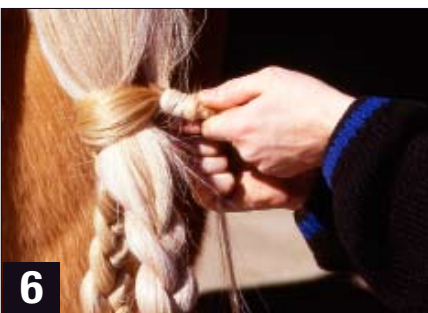
4

Twist the two end sections together to make a stiff “rope” of hair.



5

Bend the twisted rope in half and hold the loop in one hand.



6

With your free hand, grasp the extra unbraided strand of hair and wind it around the twisted loop, starting near the tail bone and moving out to cover the entire section.



7

Gently pull downward to secure the whole braid. 🐾