

# Information on Miniature Horses

Provided by: **On Target Miniatures**, Suffield, CT

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[www.ontargetminiatures.com](http://www.ontargetminiatures.com)

They're cute, but what can you do with them? LOTS!! Starting with nothing (just love them and keep them as pets), show them at open or breed shows in halter, showmanship, trail, hunter, jumper, driving, gymkhana (barrels, etc), other games, costume, or liberty classes, and/or do parades, train them to do tricks or in-hand dressage, visit nursing homes, take them for walks, and drive them in American Driving Society events (Combined Driving Events and/or dressage). Or just watch them put smiles on people's faces! They are really good at that.

Dressage (Sabine Ellinger: see over)



Jumping (our Cowboy at a Pinto show )



Care & feeding: Minis need much less space than regular sized horses and often a run-in shed with a turnout area will do. Check with your town to see what the rules are. Pasture is not absolutely necessary as some minis tend to overeat. Minis eat about  $\frac{1}{4}$  of what a "big" horse eats, (depending on size). A bale of hay might last a mini 2-3 weeks, and a 50 # bag of grain should last much longer than that. Grain is measured in household measuring cups. Grooming, veterinary and hoof care are similar to any horse but minis don't need shoes. Minis can be companions for big horses without being in the same enclosure (for safety sake).

Buying a mini: It is very easy to fall in love with a cute mini, so it is best to know what you want before you shop. Minis have come a long way in the last few years and the best ones are proportioned and move like big horses. Ask around, check with breeders on the websites provided and go to shows to watch them in halter and performance. You can see plenty of minis on the internet, but shopping "in person" really helps. It is very important to find a breeder that you can trust. Know what to look for, and assess the mini's conformation (should be like a scaled down big horse), size (2 inches makes a HUGE difference), movement, and temperament for what you have in mind. Cost can vary from free to several thousand dollars, with many selling for \$2,000 or less. Remember that it costs just as much to keep a cheap horse as an expensive one – and sometimes a lot more if the cheap one has health issues. Minis are herd animals and really prefer to have another equine as a companion. They are also like potato chips and it is hard to have just one!

More information: [www.lilbeginnings.com/links/info/](http://www.lilbeginnings.com/links/info/) Also on that same site, check out the Main Page, Forums, and the Sale Board

Registries: **AMHA**: (34" and under) [www.amha.org](http://www.amha.org) show rules, schedules & results, general info, regional map with links to breeders.

**AMHR** (up to 38"): <http://www.shetlandminiature.com/miniatures.asp> "Before you buy..."

**Pinto** (any size pinto colored equine) [www.pinto.org](http://www.pinto.org)

Clubs: Northeast Miniature Horse Club: (AMHA) [www.northeastminis.org](http://www.northeastminis.org) check for availability of rescued minis

New England Miniature Horse Society: (AMHA) <http://nemhs.org/>

Colonial (AMHR): <http://www.cmhcclub.com/>

New England Pinto: [www.nepinto.com](http://www.nepinto.com)

American Driving Society (general driving, [www.americandrivingsociety.org](http://www.americandrivingsociety.org))

Books: (try Amazon or Small Horse Press at [www.smallhorse.com](http://www.smallhorse.com))

Miniature Horses: Their Care, Breeding and Coat Colors by Barbara Naviaux

Miniature Horses: A Veterinary Guide for Owners and Breeders by Rebecca L. Frankeny VMD

Mini School (Train your mini ..including dressage in hand w/Lancelot) by Sabine Ellinger

Video of Lancelot doing dressage in hand: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jixunbPTCJk>

Any books on horse conformation, care, and veterinary care.

Some of On Target Miniatures' other minis:

(Cowboy photo by Photography to Remember, Ruby photo by Michelle Shea)

Max, yearling stallion:

Rusty (Max's 1/2 brother): **FOR SALE**



Princess on an ADS cones course



Ruby in a trail class (which she won)

