

Horse Holiday Carrot Wreath

Share holiday fun with your favorite horse by creating an easy and decorative carrot wreath.

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Have you ever seen greeting cards featuring an image of a horse relishing his holiday gift, an evergreen wreath chock full of carrots? We here at Horse Illustrated have. And since we're just like you, struggling each year to figure out what to give our barn buddies and their favorite equines, we decided to replicate the fabled carrot wreath. It took some experimenting but our test horse, Lexi, seemed to love it.

You'll need just a few ingredients if you'd like to play Santa. First, buy an imitation evergreen wreath from your local craft store. Fresh evergreens, although they smell great, are very risky. Yew is often used in seasonal wreaths and floral arrangements because it looks nearly identical to pine. It is highly toxic to horses. Mistletoe, cedar and some pines can also cause potentially toxic reactions. To be safe, stick with an artificial wreath with bendable branches. Make sure that it's constructed with a secure wire frame – so a carrot-crazed horse can't destroy it, and the giftee can reuse the wreath once the carrot crumbs are brushed away!

Next, buy four bunches of fresh carrots with the curly green tops attached. You'll also need some green yarn and a roll of wide, colorful holiday ribbon.

Separate the bunches of carrots into groups of two or three. Lay your wreath flat and then arrange your carrots on top of it. Alternate the way the carrots lay, creating a circle of orange atop the greenery. Use pieces of yarn to discreetly tie the groups of carrots to the wire frame underneath the foliage. Make a few loops around the stems of the carrot tops first, and then reach through the artificial evergreen and knot the yarn to the frame. If necessary, bend some of the branches to cradle the carrots. To finish your creation, tie a big, bright bow to the top of the wreath.

Always supervise your horse with the wreath, and remove the carrots to gift them to your horse if necessary. We allowed the ladylike Lexi to do her own carrot removal, however. You can see by our photos how Lexi enjoyed her wreath.

Although she made a mess of our creation, she seemed to have fun. And isn't that what the holidays are all about?



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