



Horses
are Sensational

Touchy Subject

Of our five senses – sight, smell, touch, sound and taste – smell may be our weakest one. Although most kids making their first visit to a farm might disagree.

In horses, touch is thought to be their weakest sense. In one way this is true. In another way it is not true.

Horses are prey animals. A keen sense of touch is not going to save them from the neighbor's mountain lion. Hopefully their keen senses of sight, smell, and hearing sent them galloping away long before Mr. Lion ever got close.

But horses do rely on touch for something else. When it comes to communicating and being aware of their body, touch is very important to them. **THE HORSE'S SKIN TELLS IT A LOT ABOUT THE WORLD IT LIVES IN.**

Skin So Soft

Horses don't have a really tough hide like other farm animals. Their skin, also known as epidermis, is tougher than human epidermis but is still rich with nerve endings. A horse's skin is very sensitive to pressure, pain and temperature just like us.

THICK SKIN: The crest of the neck, where the mane grows, and the top of the tail are some of the thickest areas of the horse's skin, making them the least sensitive.

THIN SKINNED: The most sensitive areas are around the eyes, ears and nose.



Shoo Fly

Some areas are so sensitive to pressure that horses know when a fly lands on them.

