



*Derby Pond, VT*

*Ed. Note: If the water's too cold, your donkeys will drink less—but they actually need more water in winter. Read on...*

## WARM THAT WATER!

If you've suspected your equine drinks less water in the winter, you're right: a new study shows that equines drink about 40 percent more warm water than water at near-freezing temperatures, according to Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine's September 1996 Animal Health Newsletter.

Drs. Michaela A. Kristula and Sue M. McDonnell of the University of Pennsylvania observed and videotaped ponies in their study. Interestingly, the ponies actually drank more warmed water than what published maintenance requirements indicate.

And no, you don't need to go and buy fancy bucket heaters: The ponies in the study drank just as much water if hot tap water was added to their buckets twice a day.

These findings are significant considering the increased incidence of impaction colics in the winter, which is thought to be linked to horses' reduced water intake. Horse owners may well do themselves and their equines a big favor by giving their horses warm water twice a day this winter.

## Pink Snow?

Miniature Donkey owners and breeders that raise their donkeys in the colder parts of the country may notice and become alarmed when they see - Pink Snow- where their donkeys urinate. They may worry that their donkeys have blood in their urine.

Actually the "pink snow" in old urination sites is caused by pigments in the urine called porphyrins which turn pink in the sun light. This is normal and nothing to worry about. However, if you actually see your donkey urinating and the urine has fresh blood in it, or looks especially dark - contact your veterinarian and supply a fresh urine sample.