

Gypsy Horse Hair Care Products and Uses

I highly recommend Equifuse Products as they just can't be beat for quality PH balanced products that improve the quality of the hair. There are additional products that work very well as listed below

Equifuse products can be purchased at: www.thehairaffaire.com or equifuse.com

- ✓ Equifuse CFS Shampoo (for all around shampoo)
- ✓ OR lower cost gallon size: Cocoderm Conditioning Shampoo (for all around shampoo) Gallon (Allivet.com)
- ✓ Equifuse "Citracreme" conditioner for feathers, mane and tail. (also hydrates scratches nicely)
- ✓ OR lower cost Suave Coconut Conditioner also does a great job (Walmart)
- ✓ Equifuse "Rehydrinse" leave-in spray coat and hair moisturizer
- ✓ Equifuse "Gleam" leave in moisturizer, shine, and deoderizer for feathers, mane and tail
- ✓ Equifuse "Shine" spray to use for and at shows for that extra shine before the show ring

- ✓ Quicksilver blueing shampoo (gallon size) for whitening and brightening

Feather Care and Medical Treatments:

- ✓ Microtek shampoo is great for spot medication shampoo and can also be used as all around feather shampoo. (Can be Purchased at: Eqyss.com)

- ✓ Head and Shoulders conditioner is a great leave on treatment for scratches (NOT the shampoo/conditioner combo)

Extra Supplies:

- ✓ Blow dryer for winter: We use the K91 dog dryer (K9dryer.com)
- ✓ Corn starch purchased in bulk bags for feather in summer and at shows (stored in a 5 gallon bucket and lid purchased from Home Depot)
- ✓ 2-5 gallon wash bucket
- ✓ A good hand sprayer
- ✓ Car washing mit and/or car washing sponge (found at auto stores and departments for body washing and they are more durable than equine sponges)
- ✓ Oster mane and tail brush (cleaned)
- ✓ Human round bristle brush for feather (cleaned)
- ✓ Scunci No-Slip Grip The Evolution Ponytail bands for braiding
- ✓ A clean fleece cooler for winter
- ✓ A very light clean nylon sheet and sleazy hood for summer shows
- ✓ A clean set of body brushes

Notes:

- Please take note that using warm water always does a better job when cleaning your horse
- Be sure all your brushes, combs, and cleaning supplies are clean before use
- Pre-clean out the washrack floor if needed
- The order in which I describe the bathing and treatment process is designed to be as quick and efficient as possible

Gypsy Horses Bathing and Feather, Mane and Tail Care Treatment

Step 1: Body washing: In a bucket with warm water, mix: ½ cup of cocoderm shampoo, ¼ cup Quicksilver shampoo, ¼ cup citracreme or suave conditioner, and a small amount of vetrolin liniment (for cooling and calming the muscles as well as cut coat grease) Pre-rinse the horse well and liberally apply the soap solution all over the horses body using a car wash mit or sponge, avoiding face, and then rinse. Spray the face with warm water avoiding the ears. *It is helpful to spray the horses face from above downward towards their nose and immediately wipe the eyes in between spraying. This helps them better relax and eventually trust the process more each time.* Apply a small amount of the Quicksilver shampoo on front of face and on pink muzzles carefully avoiding the eyes. Let set for 5 minutes while you keep working, and then rinse.

***For shows** I use the Quicksilver directly after the shampoo solution for extra brightening and to work on the stained spots. Rinse, then apply a conditioner/water rinse solution with a rinsed clean sponge and rinse off.

Step 2: When body is rinsed and sweat scraped, apply the pre-mixed Equifuse “Rehydrinse” with a spray bottle all over body. This really keeps the hair moisturized and helps prevent deep staining.

***For shows** apply the Equifuse “Shine” spray onto the body and brush with a clean body brush as the horse dries. This flattens the hair and creates an extra sleek and shiny coat.

A fleece cooler in winter should be now put to keep the horse warm as soon as the body is done. If it is warm let air dry while you continue to work.

Step 3: Mane and tail and feathers: With warm water apply the Equifuse CFS Shampoo OR lower cost Cocoderm Conditioning Shampoo and REALLY work it into the roots of feathers, mane, and tail to be sure it gets clean. Rinse VERY thoroughly as if it sits close to the roots, the horses will itch and rub later.

Step 4: For medically cleaning feathers: Spot shampoo treat the scratches areas with the Microtek shampoo and leave on while you work on conditioning the mane and tail. Rinse.

Apply the Equifuse “Citracreme” conditioner OR lower cost Suave Coconut Conditioner directly. Mane and tail can be carefully combed with the Oster brush and the conditioner applied. Do not comb the feather. Rinse the base of the roots, but don't worry if there is some left in the hair as it does not get itchy and conditions better if some residue is left.

Step 5: After mane, tail, and feathers are rinsed, apply the pre-mixed Equifuse “Rehydrinse” with a spray bottle making sure to spray into the roots and ends. Then follow up with a liberal amount of Gleam into your palms, rub together and apply to the mane, forelock, tail, and apply a smaller amount directly to the middle to tips of the feathers taking care not to get it on the skin of the legs. Comb out the mane, forelock and tail, let dry or braid wet. *This is a good time to band the tail if needed before braiding and bagging.*

Extra Feather Care: When not attending a horse show, the Head and Shoulders conditioner may be applied directly to the scratches areas as a leave in cream. If the scratches are really bad, trimming the hair at the scratches sites can really help get more air to the affected areas. Do not pick or excessively scrub the affected areas as this will often cause more irritation, bleeding, or cause mis-trust from your horse because it hurts! It is best to wait until they are completely clean and dry then use the round human hair brush to gently brush out the flakey skin. The more you treat the scratches with weekly maintenance and applying the cream in between as needed, the better they will get over time.

When not show bathing, this is also a good time to scrub the hooves with a stiff brush and condition the hooves with ointment when you don't have to worry about soiling the feather.

Step 6: After sweeping and rinsing away all debris and hair from the wash area floor, the feathers can be blown dry with the dryer especially in the winter months when it takes much longer to dry. In summer months or at horse shows, corn starch can be applied liberally and directly to the wet feather. Once the feather and corn starch is dry, they can be brushed out.

A clean fleece cooler should be used in winter to keep the horse warm as soon as the body is done. For shows: If it is warm let air dry until you put the horse into the stall for the night. Use a very light nylon sheet and sleazy hood to keep the horse clean overnight.