



Anivac: An Equine Wash-n-Vac

Anivac makes horse bathing high-tech—and a lot less wet.

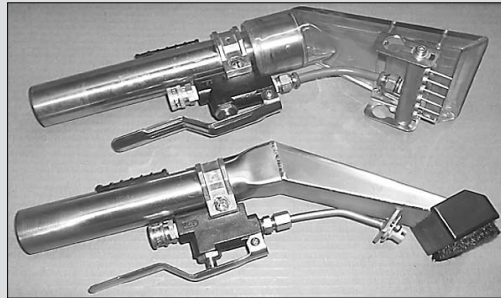
The Anivac Lynx Animal Cleaning System might remind you of a do-it-yourself rug-cleaning machine. It puts soapy water on the horse and sucks it and the dirt right back off and into the machine, all with one movement of the wand. Bathing becomes a one-step process. There's little water used on the horse and even less on the ground around you. The horse finishes the bath with a damp, clean coat (and the groom remains mostly dry).

The wands on the machine are designed to penetrate the hair and rest against the skin, so that when they spray they wash the skin first, as opposed to getting the hair wet first and going down through to the skin.

The machine is quiet, and if your horse is accustomed to a vacuum, he'll note little difference when you use the Anivac. It's easy to maneuver and simple to fill and empty. The wand fit nicely in our male and female testers' hands and was a snap to operate. The more quickly you're able to go, the less water that drips around the horse. With practice, you'll find the perfect cleaning speed.



The Anivac cleaner is both a vacuum and an equine wash machine.



The equine vac comes with a wide nozzle, top, for body areas and a smaller nozzle for the legs.

With so little water on the horse and on the ground, this machine is the answer to winter baths. It's also the perfect solution for spot clean-ups and show-grounds bathing. We used it with no difficulty over the body of the horse and found it also did a good job on the horse's mane and tail. The coat was clean, down to the skin, and the mane and tail dirt was gone, too.

The legs were a little trickier, but the machine did a good job with only a little more excess

water. We would not use the machine on our horse's face, although the manufacturer states that you may.

Cleaning the machine was simple, and we were amazed at the dirt in the discharge water. We used the single-wand kit with 2" nozzle, but Anivac has a double-wand kit that also includes a 3 1/2" nozzle so you can be quicker over large body areas. The shampooing system can also be used on

your dogs.

Although the machine comes with a special hypoallergenic rinse-free shampoo/cleaning solution, it accepts other no-rinse animal shampoos. The machine uses little shampoo: It's one part shampoo to 32 parts water. Anivac also has in development a shampoo that will target skin problems.

We're impressed enough to shove our old back-to-the-basics philosophy aside and use a bathing machine. Its technology definitely beats bucket, sponge and hose. We're impressed with its operation, efficiency and effectiveness, although the price makes it more of an option for multi-horse stables.

Suggested retail is \$1,199. Shampoo is \$24.95/gal. www.anivaccorp.com, 866-887-1994.

Training Your Horse

Most horses don't mind vacuuming, but you need to introduce it to them, like you did clipping. Start slowly, with someone holding the horse (not tied). Start with the vacuum off, near the horse. When he's quiet, gently roll the vacuum slowly toward him. Repeat until he calmly stands.

Next, pick up the hose, and move toward him, placing the nozzle his shoulder. Move it around a bit, as if you were grooming him. Once he accepts this, move back away from him and turn the vacuum on.

Note his reaction. If he's frightened, repeat the sequence above. If he's quiet, begin the vacuuming procedure at his shoulder and proceed slowly.