

World's Smallest Horse

At only 57 lbs. and 17 1/2 in. tall, Thumbelina is the "World's Smallest Living Horse," according to Guinness World Records which bestowed the title last summer. This tiny and mild mannered 6-year-old miniature horse loves children so her owners, Kay and Paul Goessling of St. Louis, Mo., are using her fame to raise money for children's charities. Their goal for 2007 is \$1 million.

While Thumbelina is a registered miniature horse, she's also a dwarf, so that makes her a "mini mini," according to the family who lovingly raised the little chestnut mare.

The Goesslings operate Goose Creek Farms, where their business for the past 18 years has been breeding and showing miniature horses. They currently have 50 other minis.

"Ordinary miniature horses can weigh between 175 and 225 pounds while a regular sized horse can weigh 1,000 pounds or more, so Thumbelina is really tiny," says Kay Goessling. "She's smaller than many dogs, and actually sleeps in a dog house. She eats a cup of grain and a handful of hay twice a day, and gets along well with our dogs and other horses, though she prefers the company of the dogs."

Goessling's son Michael is managing the fundraising tour (taking care of bookings, publicity, logistics, etc.) and Tago DePietro from Argentina is Thumbelina's caretaker and handler.

They have a busy schedule, chauffeuring her around to visit sick and needy kids as well as military base children in all 48 contiguous states. The little mare has also done the television talk show circuit.

"We've been doing up to three appearances a day, and although Goose Creek Farm is currently paying our expenses, we're pursuing corporate sponsors for this charitable goodwill venture," DePietro says. "The money raised for children's charities comes from appearances at commercial venues such as malls and racetracks. So far, Thumbelina has raised between \$15,000 and \$20,000."

To make traveling as comfortable as possible for the tiny celebrity, the Goesslings converted a 30-ft. Coachman (on a Ford V10 chassis) so that the rear section would accommodate her stable and all of her gear (such as feed, grooming supplies, bedding, blankets, her little portable corral, and her doghouse from back home that she sleeps in.) This mobile home away from home is referred to as the "Thumby Mobile."

According to Kay, a Guinness official from London, England has photographed Thumbelina together with the world's largest living horse. A Belgian draft horse from Texas named Radar stands 6 ft. 7 in., and is about 40 times larger than her. The photo will appear in the 2008 World Record Book to be released this fall.

Along with plenty of other information and photos, Thumbelina's website provides a detailed schedule of her tour so you can find out if she's coming to a town near you.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Kay and Paul Goessling, Goose Creek Farms, Box 31416, St. Louis, Mo 63131 (ph 314 606-5747; mgoessling@charter.net; www.worldsmallesthorse.com).



Billed as the "World's Smallest Living Horse," Thumbelina weighs only 57 lbs. and stands just 17 1/2 in. tall (above). While Thumbelina is a registered miniature horse, she's also a dwarf, so that makes her a "mini mini." She's smaller than many dogs, and actually sleeps in a dog house.



Veggie Washer Cleans Big Batches At Once

Washing turnip greens was a real chore before Emory Skelton built his simple vegetable washer.

"I got tired of trying to wash them a few at a time in the house," says the Alabama farmer. "I figured there had to be a better way to do it. With the system I came up with, I can now wash a big bunch in a New York minute."

Skelton used 1/2-in. wire mesh with round plywood ends to build a cylinder that mounts on a wood stand made from 1 by 4's.

A section of 3/4-in. pvc pipe with many 1/16-in. holes drilled at different angles, runs through the center of the mesh cylinder. The pipe has a plug at one end and a hose connector at the other end.

There's a 6 by 12-in. door cut out of the side, which has thin aluminum folded over edges and pop riveted on, to prevent scratching of the arms when loading veggies into the washer.

Skelton hinged the door to the body by using twisted wire, and wing nuts are used to close it securely.

Water from a garden hose sprays out of the tiny holes in the pipe and Skelton turns the cylinder by hand to whatever's inside.

Since the round bin spins on the pipe, the hose doesn't get twisted up, and the water immediately drains off the greens, taking dirt with it.

He's had the unit for 5 or 6 years now and just loves it, pointing out that several neighbors have also used it with rave reviews.

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Homemade vegetable washer hooks up to a garden hose.

Lid Keeps Air Conditioner Clean

After removing half a wheelbarrow full of leaves, needles and other debris from his air conditioning unit one spring, Jack Smith decided there had to be a way to keep the trash out in the fall and winter.

He designed a simple cover out of metal flashing (used for roofing) and bent it down over the backside of the top of the air conditioner. Metal screws hold it in place. He turned the conditioner on to see how far it blew the top open and secured the front of the flashing to the front of the conditioner with a strong cord.

"That stops the cover from going backwards in a strong wind," Smith explains. The flashing covers the air conditioner when it's not running and is light enough to lift up when the fan kicks on.

"It's worked great for two years," Smith says. "It keeps the inside of the air condi-



Metal cover is bent down over back side of air conditioner. Screws hold it in place. Conditioner completely clean. I haven't had to clean it out at all."

Smith, a retired pastor, plans to patent his idea and is willing to talk to anyone interested in manufacturing it.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Jack Smith, 2254 FM 2026, Center, Texas 75935 (drjs@fhtn.us).

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