



Smidget was found after an extensive two-year search across the United States. Unusually intelligent, she's learned 18 tricks and has appeared on numerous TV shows.

ONLY 21 IN. HIGH

Meet "Smidget" — The World's Smallest Horse

Among the world's ponies and miniature horses, "Smidget" stands out as the smallest. Standing just 21 in. high and weighing only 75 lbs., she is a true midget even in the American Miniature breed.

Smidget is owned by Ron Boerger, of Durham, Cal., who found her after a two-year search across the United States for the smallest horse he could find. She was born April 13, 1979, in Mackson, Mich. Now at full maturity, she is much smaller than her sire who measured 28.5 in., and her dam who stood 32 in. hshg.

"She's a true midget," says Boerger, "not a dwarf or deformed in any way. And she's unusually intelligent."

Smidget is harness broken and has been trained to perform 18 tricks. She has appeared at 25 fairs, on about 35 television shows, and has a contract option to star in a full-length movie.

The world's smallest horse munches tender grass, but her main diet is alfalfa pellets supplemented with oats, vitamins, and minerals. She appears to be normal in every way, though it is hard to define "normal" for a horse of this size which may have a different heart rate and other metabolism than a full-size miniature horse or pony, Boerger points out.

She's registered with the American Miniature breed and has been studied by animal scientists at the University of California-Davis. "They think she can be bred," says Boerger. "She'll have to be artificially inseminated, and the embryo will have to be transferred to a bigger horse for a full-term pregnancy. But her foal would be genetically the same as in a natural pregnancy."

Boerger won't say what price he would have to get if he were to sell Smidget, who is insured for \$100,000. If she becomes a movie star, her insurance coverage will go up to \$1 million, notes Boerger.

Smidget is house-broken and has the run of Boerger's 30 ft. house trailer. "She's one of the family and as much of a pet as a dog or cat," says Boerger.

He adds that Smidget is slated for listing in the *Guinness Book of World Records* as the world's smallest mature horse. That record will probably stand for a while, as Boerger has offered a \$250 award to anyone with a smaller horse, and there have been no takers over a three-year period.

For more information, contact: FARM SOW Followup, Ron Boerger, Happy Day Ranch, 1664 Garden Road, Durham, Cal. 95938 (ph 916 894-2014).

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Ag World

Editor's Note: Most of what goes into Ag World stems from story ideas sent to us by readers. This special section of FARM SHOW touches on the lighter side of farming and ranching — everything from human interest stories, to unusual hobbies, to unique things farm families are doing for fun or profit.

If you've read or heard a good Ag World type story you'd like to share with others, send it to: FARM SHOW, Box 704, Lakeville, Minn. 55044.



This dirt pile dramatizes the importance of conservation to reduce erosion.

8-TON PILE REPRESENTS SOIL LOST ON ONE ACRE IN ONE YEAR

Downtown Dirt Pile Dramatizes Soil Loss

A huge truckload of black dirt was dumped in a parking lot in downtown Madison, County Seat of Lake County in Southeastern South Dakota, to dramatize the costly results of wind and water erosion.

The 8-ton pile represents the average topsoil loss on sloping land in Lake County. A 5-ton loss is considered tolerable.

"Our demonstration has attracted a lot of attention," says Lucille Miller, secretary of the Lake County Conservation District which put together the display. A brochure highlighting it invited area farmers and other resi-

dents to "drive by the 8-ton dirt pile to see just how much soil is lost per acre on sloping land which hasn't had conservation applied to it. Look at this pile of valuable black dirt, then ask yourself — Can we afford to lose it?"

Miller notes that Lake County has about 276,000 acres of cropland so the loss of soil annually from wind and water erosion is over 2.2 million tons. Multiplied by 2,000 lbs. per ton, the total become almost astronomical — over 4.4 billion lbs. of land blown and washed away every year, Miller points out.