

Smartphone Apps for Horse Owners

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Know Your Tools

- Do you know what type of Smartphone you have, its current operating system (os), and its memory/storage?
- Is it up-to-date with the latest os?
- Do you know where to go inside your phone to find out?
- Do you have an iTunes, Google Play or Microsoft Windows App store account?
- Do you know how to buy an app? Open & close an app? Update an app? Delete an app? Arrange apps on your screen?

If the answer is "no" to any one of the questions above, find someone younger than you and ask them!

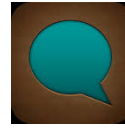
Utility Apps – Know How to Use These Important Apps!

- Communication – Phone, Email, Text
- Flashlight
- Watch – Timer
- Camera (Photos & Videos) – *Do you know how to send these?*
- Weather
- Maps/GPS
- Document/Data/Media Storage (Cloud) –there are lots of options here – I personally prefer Dropbox.



Horse-Related Apps by Category

- Breed Organizations
- Breed Guides
- Discipline Related (dressage tests, reining patterns, etc...)
- Equine Anatomy
- Games/Quizzes/Trivia
- GPS/Navigation/Trails
- FEI – Prohibited Substances
- Horse Health / Management
- Health Documentation
- Periodicals
- Poisons, Poisonous Plants
- Professional Organizations
- Record-Keeping
- Social Media, Networking, Dating
- Vendors – Products/Services
- Vet Practices
- Weight – Body Condition Scoring
- Wallpaper/Images



How to Evaluate the Value of a Smartphone App

- **App Store Ratings & Reviews**

How many ratings and reviews has an app received? What do they say? Can you parse through the extremely good and bad reviews to find the believable ones?

- **Update History (iTunes)**

Is the creator/developer committed to solving problems and updating the app for the long term? Or has it been abandoned long ago?

- **User Support & Contact Information**

How easy is it to get in touch with the developer? Do they make it easy or hard? Via their website or social media...

- **What Does the Related Website Look Like?**

Is the website dedicated to supporting & explaining app or is it an odd match?

- **Credibility of the Creator/Author**

How easy is it to identify the author/creator & do they have the credentials or experience that gives credibility to the app?

- **Free Apps – No risk, but do you know how to delete an app?**

If you dislike an app, remove it from your phone so you don't use up valuable space.

- **Paid Apps – Very little risk, but do you know how to get a refund?**

Currently, you have 2 hours to request a refund from Google Play and about 90 days to request a refund from iTunes.

Just like the Internet, apps are only as good as their creators. And there are lots of poorly conceived apps out there! Use good old-fashioned common sense in relying on any information contained in a smartphone app that offers any equine-related information or advice. – *Dr. Thal*