



Credit: B. Bobsien

Sunny Cuba + Helping Horses in Need = One Feel-Great Vacation!

By Ruth-Anne Eisler

Are you flying off for a warm Cuban getaway? Know someone who is? It's the perfect opportunity to help Cuban equines in need.

Cuba, a country of nearly 12 million citizens, is also home to an estimated 900,000 equines. These horses, donkeys and mules are all working animals and the primary source of transportation in the country. Daily, their owners are dependent on them.

Unfortunately, outside of the main tourist locales these hard-working equines frequently suffer from any—or perhaps all—of a variety of ailments and health concerns: malnutrition, parasitism, inadequate farriery, and ill-fitting tack and harnesses. Any one of these issues would render a working horse's day-to-day life a misery.



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You can help! Clean out your tack room, then fill an old or second-hand suitcase. Did you know [some airlines](#) allow travelers to take along one extra (free) piece of luggage when the contents is for humanitarian aid? Your gently used tack qualifies. Check out [Cuba's Horses](#) for more information and to see their [wish list](#) of especially needed supplies. Once in Cuba you can drop off your gifts (this term is preferred over "donations") in Havana, or simply offer them to any Cubans you see with their horses—a common sight.

Drop-off can be arranged through Cuba's Horses: contact Susana at delfines@enet.cu.

If you have questions about other equine-related items or are willing to take veterinary medical supplies, please contact Dr. Bettina Bobsien at bettinadvn@gmail.com.

Know that you've contributed to a healthier life for Cuba's horses, and enjoy your tropical vacation.

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