

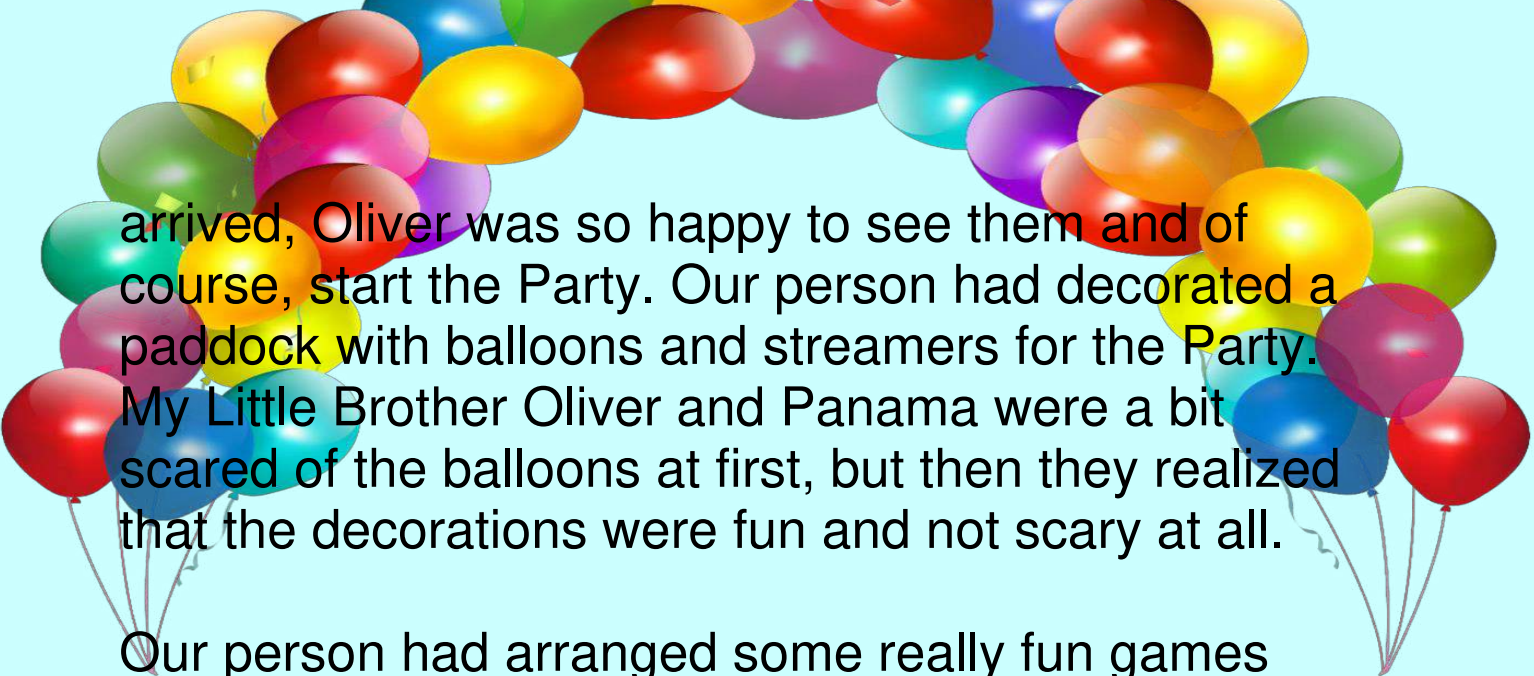


Hi! It's me, Alice the Pony,

Wow, it's April already, and that means lots of nice green grass to eat and warmer days. It is still a little chilly at night, so I am glad to have my nice cozy stall to sleep in.

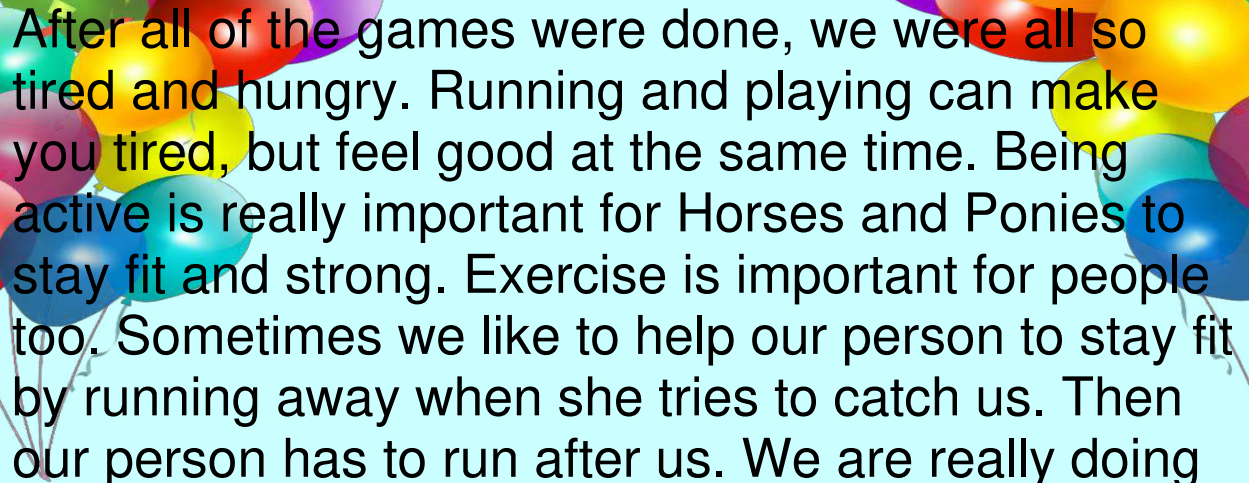
April 1 was a Special Day. It was my Little Brother Oliver's birthday. My Little Brother Oliver woke up early on his birthday ready to have all sorts of fun and for his special day. He was fussing for his breakfast right away. His person fed us early because he was making so much noise! My Little Brother Oliver got his grain and hay (so did I) but we both also got carrots and apples with our grain. Even though it was not my birthday, we both got special treats because it's always best to share treats on your special day. After breakfast we both went out in the grass paddock to stretch our legs and nibble on grass.

My Little Brother Oliver's birthday party was going to start at noon and even I was getting excited. Our friends Howdy and Panama were coming by for the party and when they arrived Oliver was so happy. He loves making new friends, but he also loves the friends he already has. When Howdy and Panama



arrived, Oliver was so happy to see them and of course, start the Party. Our person had decorated a paddock with balloons and streamers for the Party. My Little Brother Oliver and Panama were a bit scared of the balloons at first, but then they realized that the decorations were fun and not scary at all.

Our person had arranged some really fun games that horses and ponies like. First we played “bobbing for Apples”. A special bucket was filled with water and apples and we all took a turn trying to get the apples out. Panama was the best, and got the most apples which he really enjoyed eating. The next game was “open the gate latch” where we all had a turn at trying to open up the gate to the grass field. Howdy was the best at this and escaped very quickly. Sadly I was the slowest, but it’s a lot harder for me to reach the latch as I am a small Pony and everyone else is horse sized. After this, we played “tag” and we ran and ran and laughed so much. Oliver won this game because he has very long legs and can run really fast. The last game we play was “tip the wheelbarrow”, I was the fastest at this game as I have had a lot of experience tipping over the wheelbarrow while our person cleans up my stall. We did not play “pin the tail on the donkey” because none of us wanted someone pinning a tail on us!



After all of the games were done, we were all so tired and hungry. Running and playing can make you tired, but feel good at the same time. Being active is really important for Horses and Ponies to stay fit and strong. Exercise is important for people too. Sometimes we like to help our person to stay fit by running away when she tries to catch us. Then our person has to run after us. We are really doing her a favor by encouraging her to be fit and healthy. Of course, my Little Brother Oliver will stop as soon as he is offered a sugar cube!

When we all caught our breaths and rested a while, it was time for cake. A horse's birthday cake is not like a person's cake. This year Oliver's cake was made of carrots, apples, molasses with sugar and corn. We all sang Happy Birthday to my Little Brother Oliver and ate cake. It was very yummy. We all talked and made jokes until it was time for Howdy and Panama to go home.

Later that night, when we were tucked into our stalls with our hay, Oliver smiled and said he had a great day. Then he fell asleep and dreamed about the day and how excited he would be for the next Birthday party.

Q ALICE

