



THE PONY CLUB 'AH' TEST (5 Assessors)
Assessor's Comments Sheet

Date _____

ASSESSOR A

RIDE AND LEAD AND LEG UP

- A1. Take two horses out of the stables; mount, ride and lead unaided – using snaffle bridles. Lead horse may be tied up outside. Highway Code.
- A2. 'Put up' a person on a horse by giving a leg up.
- A3. Discuss compatibility of the two horses, and the advantages and disadvantages of riding and leading.

STABLE YARD

- A4. Consider the practical planning of a stable yard to enhance the welfare of the horses.
- A5. Explain how yards can be maintained, and how to create teamwork within family, friends, and colleagues so tasks can be completed effectively.
- A6. Discuss some of the types of bedding available, including storage, muck heap and disposal.
- A7. Precautions to be taken against fire and burglary, in and around the stables and yard. Legal requirements for fire extinguishers and electrics.
- A8. Know what current legislation it is advisable to consider when owning a horse.
- A9. Consider current Health and Safety legislation, and apply it to a way a yard is run.
- A10. Explain how to purchase, store and ensure the quality of feed, both economically and safely, using efficient practice for feeding regimes. Include rodent control.
- A11. State the advantages of Pony Club insurance and discuss other possible forms of insurance.
- A12. Explain the use of Accident Report forms/books. Know what COSHH and RIDDOR stand for.
- A13. Outline actions to be taken in the event of an accident to a person on a stable yard.
- A14. Explain the importance of communication with farrier, vet, and other

GROOMING

- A21. Contrast the advantages and disadvantages of classical and modern methods of grooming fit horses.
- A22. Demonstrate and discuss the reasons for strapping and modern alternatives.
- A23. Explain why it is important to wash a sheath, and how it is done.
- A24. Discuss current methods of cooling horses and ponies after hard work.
- A25. Explain the care of horses' teeth, and show how to examine for sharp or wolf teeth.
- A26. Show basic knowledge of the nervous system; discuss how the sensory systems affect our handling of horses.

CLIPPING, TRIMMING AND PLAITING

- A27. Describe the advantages and disadvantages of the different ways of pulling manes and tails.
- A28. Show how to trim the horse's legs and heels.
- A29. Show how to plait manes and tails.
- A30. Discuss clipping a nervous or difficult horse, consider the safety of the person clipping, preparation of horse, the environment and the care of clippers.
- A31. Types of clip and their uses. Marking the horse for clipping.

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ASSESSOR B

LUNGEING

- B1. Checking the horse's equipment.
- B2. Working the fit horse for exercise on the lunge in a safe, efficient, effective and practical way.
- B3. Recognise the quality of work shown.
- B4. All work must demonstrate care to maintain the safety and welfare of the horse and handler.

CARE AND HANDLING OF MARES, FOALS AND YOUNG STOCK

- B11. What factors may influence the choice of broodmare or stallion.
- B12. Discuss whether you would choose natural covering, AI or embryo transplant.
- B13. Explain the veterinary procedures required before a mare can go to stud.
- B14. Recognise when a mare is in season.
- B15. Choice of service date - basic outline of covering programme.

- B16. Discuss foaling environments, facilities and equipment; selection, preparations and procedures.
- B17. Describe care of the in-foal mare, including feeding, worming and testing routines.
- B18. Describe the inoculations required for the brood mare and foal.
- B19. Determine whether or not to foal at home.
- B20. Recognise the signs of a mare about to foal.
- B21. Compare a normal birth to a situation requiring veterinary attention.
- B22. Discuss problems and solutions that may arise with mares, foals and young stock.
- B23. Deciding factors on whether to return a mare to stud.
- B24. Explain how to travel mares and foals safely.
- B25. Discuss the timing and procedure of weaning foals.
- B26. Compare the advantages and disadvantages and timing of gelding colts.
- B27. Outline the care of young stock up to the age of three years

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ASSESSOR C

CONFORMATION

- C1. Describe a horse fully, including sex, colour, size, age, markings, type.
- C2. Consider the conformation of this horse and the effect that it might have on its way of going and the type of work it may be suited to.
- C3. Discuss horseman-like terms or phrases.
- C4. Evaluate the advantages or disadvantages of the different types of procedure for vetting horses before purchase.

HEALTH AND CONDITION

- C11. Assess some observations that might make you take action when checking horses first thing in the morning or last thing at night.
- C12. Getting a tired horse to urinate. Recognising and dealing with symptoms of exhaustion, stress or dehydration and how these can be prevented.
- C13. Consider the urinary system as related to practical problems.
- C14. Be able to demonstrate taking a temperature and summarise the findings.
- C15. Discuss aims of societies and associations connected with the care of horses and ponies.

FEEDING, EXERCISE AND FITNESS

- C16. Recognition of good and poor condition and reasons for them. Explain condition scoring.
- C17. Explain the nutrients in the horses diet.
- C18. Discuss how the digestive system affects the way horses are fed, and the problems arising from a poor/unbalanced diet.
- C19. Evaluate feeding hay or alternatives - horsehage, haylage, etc. Type, qualities, purchasing, storage, quantities to be fed.
- C20. Contrast the difference in feeding traditional feedstuffs with modern mixes, consider quality, quantity, and constituents.
- C21. Is there a place in a modern feeding system for boiled feeds?
- C22. Discuss the value of the many feed additives on the market, discuss the vitamins and mineral content of feedstuffs.
- C23. Compare fibre-based with fibre and concentrate diets, include grass.
- C24. Tempting a difficult feeder, relating to a young, old or sick horse.
- C25. Discuss the work and feed requirements for different levels of activity, or rest.
- C26. Discuss getting horses fit for various disciplines. Interval training – distance and speed.
- C27. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of horse-walkers.
- C28. Recognise how to relate feeding to work and condition.
- C29. Evaluate how to judge fitness following, during training or competition.
- C30. Discuss the considerations to be made in the care of a competition horse to ensure maximum performance.
- C31. Identify how the respiratory system relates to fitness.
- C32. Discuss problems of the respiratory system, such as whistling, roaring and allergies and how to deal with them.
- C33. Understand the lymphatic, and endocrine systems as they relate to practical problems, such as lymphangitis.

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ASSESSOR E

FOOT AND SHOEING

- A15. Discuss the structure of this horse's foot and lower leg.
- A16. Discuss the balance of this foot. Identify a well shod foot.
- A17. Notice and discuss remedial or corrective shoeing, pads, wear of shoes and relate to movement or possible unsoundness.
- A18. Discuss the advantages and disadvantage of the use of studs.
- A19. Show how to remove a loose shoe. Tools to use, either farrier's or substitutes if these are not available.
- A20. Evaluate the prognosis for diseases and ailments related to the foot, bearing in mind the future plans for the horse.

PADDOCK MANAGEMENT

- B5. Discuss how many horses you would keep on this field. Estimate acreage.
- B6. Know how to avoid worm infestation by regular picking up of droppings and topping rough patches, resting paddock or grazing with sheep or cattle.
- B7. Explain various pasture routines, including how grassland quality can be improved.
- B8. Discuss the identification and eradication of poisonous plants.
- B9. Precautions necessary during and after use of sprays, fertilisers, lime, etc.
- B10. Describe advantageous and disadvantageous grasses.

LAMENESS

- C5. Running a horse up for veterinary inspection and evaluate the action.
- C6. Explain the value of trotting up a horse for veterinary inspection and evaluation of its action.
- C7. Discuss how to identify lameness.
- C8. Show how to detect heat and swelling in the horse's leg and interpret the findings.
- C9. Be able to indicate sites of lameness, know what these conditions are, and be able to discuss the causes and treatments.
- C10. Recognition and treatment of diseases and ailments of the foot.

HANDLING

- D1. Define the importance of good stable manners for the horse.
- D2. Explain stereotypical behaviours and how to minimise them.
- D3. Demonstrate how to hold horses or lead horses that are being awkward, possibly during wound cleaning, or when very fresh.
- D4. Handling difficult horses in and out of stables. The advantages and disadvantages of twitching, how a twitch works, and different types of restraint.
- D5. How to prevent horses from becoming cast, dealing with a horse during and after being cast.

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