



# PONY CLUB



# ACHIEVEMENT BADGES

## LOADING

### Advanced Achievement Badge

#### Learning Objectives

Prepare a horse or pony for travel. Safely load and unload a horse or pony.

#### Syllabus

- 1 Be able to put on a tail bandage and tail guard and know when each might be used.
- 2 To be able to put on travel bandages.  
Understand the advantages and disadvantages of travelling in bandages.
- 3 Be able to put on and fit travel boots.  
Understand the advantages and disadvantages of travel boots.
- 4 Be able to choose and put on a suitable rug to travel a named horse or pony, appropriate for the weather.
- 5 Understand how to load a quiet horse or pony giving correct instructions to a helper. Know how to do up any back straps or partitions, tie up the horse/pony safely and put up the ramp.
- 6 Understand how to safely unload and give clear instructions to a helper.  
Understand how to release and let down the ramp safely.
- 7 Remember that a horse/pony may be excited when arriving in a new place so may not behave in their usual fashion.

#### Teaching Ideas and Resources

- 1 Revise putting on a tail bandage. In pairs as one member to offer top tips to improve the performance of their pair. Set up a tail bandage race with points lost for faulty bandaging.

Show and apply different tail guards, discuss the ad/disadvantages of different types.

- 2 Explain that travel bandages do not cover the bulbs of the heels, the padding does.

Practise putting on bandages. Walk the horse/pony around the yard, do the bandages remain in place, what might happen if they slip or are too tight?

Well applied bandages offer more support than boots. They are cheaper to buy. Bandages can slip and cause sore places or might come undone if not put on well.

- 3 Try to have a selection of travel boots. Teach how to put them on. Encourage the group to comment on the fit of the boots.

Boots are faster to put on than bandages. They can offer more protection in event of a sudden stop and the horse/pony striking into itself. Disadvantages, not all boots fit all horses, expense of several pairs, if not well fitted and applied they can slip.

- 4 Have a pile of rugs and two different types of horse/pony. Discuss which rugs would be suitable to travel the different horses in. Encourage members to consider the weather, type of lorry/trailer, clip and travel experience of the horses and ponies they are looking at.

- 5 Talk about the loading process and what a helper is required to do. Explain the procedure of when to secure partition or back straps and then tie up. Make sure the group know how to give clear instructions and practice in pairs with a quiet horse or pony. Explain they must stand to the side of the ramp and not underneath it.

- 6 Ensure the group know to reverse the order of untying and undoing the partitions or back straps. Practice unloading and discuss unloading safely by also looking at what can go wrong.

- 7 Ask members to decide where they might stand and what they might do if they think a pony/horse is going to be unsettled on arrival. What sensible precautions can they take. Horse/pony may be excited, frightened, spooky and may be bargy and strong to unload.

## Questions

- 1 Show how to put on a tail bandage and tail guard.
- 2 Put on a set of travel bandages.
- 3 Put on and fit travel boots.
- 4 Choose and put on a suitable travel rug for the horse/pony and weather.

- 5** Show how to load and unload correctly and safely. Be able to explain why they have loaded and unloaded in that way.
- 6** How may a pony behave once unloaded into a new place? What precautions can be taken to ensure everyone's safety.

## Answers

- 1** Tail bandage and tail guard correctly applied.
- 2** Bandages correctly applied.
- 3** Boots put on correctly and fit of too long/short or ideal commented upon.
- 4** Appropriate rug chosen and put on correctly.
- 5** Correct loading and unloading procedure. Explanations show that the dangers of undoing ramps etc in the wrong order are understood.
- 6** Horse/pony may be excited, frightened, spooky and may be bargy and strong to unload.

It might be sensible to put on a bridle and to be aware that excited ponies and horses are less careful of where they place their feet, so boots, gloves and a hat are a sensible precaution.