



THE PONY CLUB

TEST SHEET

2023

B Standard

PART 1: HORSE AND PONY CARE

OBJECTIVES

- To understand the role of safeguarding horses' welfare in keeping equestrians' social licence to operate
- To understand your responsibility with regard to the Five Domains of horse welfare
- To derive satisfaction from providing suitable care for stabled horses
- To understand how horses learn and use this knowledge in the field, yard, and stable
- To demonstrate practical experience and/or understanding and knowledge of the care and work of a stabled or grass-kept horse
- To be capable of looking after a horse before, during, and after a strenuous day's activity or competition

SAFETY (Dismounted discussion)

1. **Discuss best practice for maintaining the safety of yourself, your horse, and others when handling horses year round**
2. Explain how you would provide a safe environment for a horse fully or partially stabled or in the field

WELFARE RESPONSIBILITIES (Dismounted discussion)

3. **Talk about the mental and/or physical effects on horses of:**
 - a. **Being underfed or overfed**
 - b. **Being unable to roll or exercise freely**
 - c. **Being unable to socialise with other horses**
 - d. **Being in pain or unwell**
 - e. **Being ridden in poorly fitting tack**
 - f. **Not understanding what they are being asked to do**
4. **Explain how the way that a horse is kept may affect their behaviour when ridden**
 - a. **Stabled vs turned out**
 - b. **With other horses vs alone**
5. List three different behaviours that horses might show when they are uncomfortable or in pain
6. List three behaviours that a horse might show if they are anxious or confused about what they are being asked to do; discuss how this could affect equestrianism's social licence to operate

TRAINING HORSES (Dismounted discussion)

7. Discuss the use of positive reinforcement (rewards – scratching, food, voice) and negative reinforcement (pressure and release) in training horses from the ground, with a focus on timing and consistency
 - a. In the stable
 - b. On the yard

- c. In the field
- 8. Discuss the importance of progressive training and read the horse's reactions to know when to ask for more (shaping)
- 9. Discuss some of the disadvantages of striking a horse with your hand (positive punishment) when training horses on the ground
- 10. Describe how you would train a horse to calmly accept a procedure such as clipping or administering a syringe of paste or an injection**

MANAGEMENT OF HORSES

- 11. Discuss, showing practical knowledge, the care and work of a horse kept at grass, including basic grassland management
- 12. Discuss, showing practical knowledge, the care and work of a horse, who spends some time in the stable and how to improve their environment**
- 13. Discuss when trimming might be required and which parts of the horse you trim and which parts you would not trim.**
- 14. Describe how to prepare a quiet horse for clipping, and how you would start to clip
- 15. Describe some of the subtle behaviours that a horse might display if they are stressed; consider facial expression, body stance, and movement
- 16. Describe some of the subtle behaviours that a horse might display if they are in pain; consider facial expression, body stance, and movement

FEEDING

- 17. Know the reasons for the rules of watering and feeding
- 18. Discuss the suitability of different forages for horses' individual needs
- 19. Explain what is meant by a balanced diet and how you can achieve it
- 20. Discuss the total recommended weight of feed/day for a selection of horses and how that weight might be split between bulk (forage) and hard feed (concentrates)**
- 21. Discuss what effect the feeds chosen will have on condition and behaviour**
- 22. Explain what issues may affect a horse's diet

FITNESS

- 23. Have a clear knowledge of exercise programmes that are suitable for horses who are grass kept, stabled kept or a combination of both
- 24. Describe a fitness programme and a daily/weekly plan for competitive horses aiming at Pony Club Area competitions**
- 25. Discuss issues which might affect a horse's fitness programme

CONFORMATION

- 26. Recognise good and poor conformation using the horse shown**
- 27. Discuss how the horse's conformation may affect the horse's way of going

BANDAGING AND TRAVEL

- 28. Put on a stable bandage and discuss when it might be used**
- 29. Know the safety and roadworthiness requirements for horse boxes and trailers
- 30. Discuss the equipment to be taken to a competition**
- 31. Know the legal requirements for equine passports
- 32. Discuss loading difficult horses, giving particular consideration to safety and

welfare of both horses and people, and to equestrianism's social licence to operate

FOOT AND SHOEING

- 33. Discuss foot balance
- 34. Describe how to remove a shoe
- 35. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of working horses when they are shod versus unshod
- 36. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of using studs

TACK

- 37. Name the families of bits that are acceptable within Pony Club rules and explain their characteristics and actions
- 38. Understand the impact different bits can have on a horse's way of going**
- 39. Recognise various types of saddles, martingales, and boots and discuss their uses
- 40. Comment on the fitting and safety of the saddle, bridle, martingale/breast plate, and boots on the horse provided**

HEALTH AND FIRST AID

- 41. Identify the signs of good health and relate these to the horse shown to you; state the normal resting pulse rate, respiration rate, and temperature**
- 42. Describe how to take the temperature
- 43. Describe the contents of a well-stocked equine first aid kit
- 44. Describe how to manage minor wounds**
- 45. Know when to call the vet and what information to give**
- 46. Understand the methods of worm control, and state the importance of regular testing for worms
- 47. Describe different methods of treating a horse to reduce worms
- 48. Discuss why horses might be overweight or underweight**
- 49. Describe how to identify which leg a horse is lame on
- 50. Know how to manage the most common causes of lameness in the foot
- 51. Describe and understand the significance of symptoms of colic, strangles, laminitis, azoturia (exertional rhabdomyolysis), atypical myopathy
- 52. Describe how to tub feet, apply poultices to the feet, and cold hose legs; know when and why these are done
- 53. Discuss how to administer medicine in food
- 54. Know the need for and timing of vaccinations and how these should be recorded**

ENVIRONMENT

- 55. Discuss horse owners' responsibility towards the environment
- 56. Discuss how to discourage and control vermin around stables

Test notes:

- All content covered in lower tests may be reassessed in this test
- The items shown in bold are particularly important; competence in these items will be given emphasis by the assessor when considering the result
- The C+ Test Care must be held before a candidate can take the B Test Care. If a

candidate is over 18 years, following assessment, they may enter directly into the B Test.

**Recommended Minimum age: 14
years**

Felt Colours:

Riding + Horse and Pony Care sections: Red

Riding section only: Beige

Horse and Pony Care section only: Brown

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