



TRIMMING

Advanced Achievement Badge

Learning Objectives

Be able to discuss how to trim a mane and tail. Know which types of horses/ponies should be shown untrimmed.

Syllabus

- 1 Know which horses and ponies should be trimmed for showing classes.
- 2 Show how to remove long 'cat hairs'.
- 3 Understand that lots of polo ponies are hogged, and some ponies/horses with difficult manes. Know how to hog a mane.
- 4 Discuss which ponies and horses should be trimmed, or not.
- 5 Explain how to pull a mane.
Demonstrate how to remove some hairs from a mane. (Advanced Achievement badge holders are not expected to pull a mane.)
- 6 Discuss using scissors on a mane.
- 7 Explain how to pull a tail.
- 8 Display a pony or horse that the member has trimmed either a part or the whole of.

Key Points

- ▶ Cat hairs are the long untidy hairs that can appear later in the winter. Cat hairs can be reduced by regular grooming and rugging. If they appear they can be removed with clippers used carefully. Little trimming clippers are useful for this job.
- ▶ Hogging is the removal of all the mane including the forelock. Polo ponies are hogged so the reins and polo stick don't get caught in the mane. Cobs are shown hogged. Other horses are hogged occasionally

for medical reasons to keep hair away from wounds or so that horse is easier and quicker to look after, perhaps in a hunting livery yard.

- ▶ Some breeds are shown in their 'native state,' therefore if you wish to show one of these types you cannot pull their manes or tails.
- ▶ Unshown ponies/horses of any type can be trimmed to their owners' preference.
- ▶ To pull a mane, start just after exercise so the hairs come out more easily. Pull mane over several days so the horse/pony does not get sore, pull out the longer hairs. With the comb select a few long hairs, never from the top of the mane, push the comb upwards to select the hairs you want from the others and then pull sharply downwards to remove the hairs.
- ▶ A mane could be trimmed with scissors if the horse/pony objects to having it pulled. Advantages are less stress for some horse/ponies. Disadvantages, it is difficult to make a tidy natural looking result. Demonstrate selecting only a few hairs at a time, angle scissors downwards with the natural fall of the mane. Move your feet a little with each cut to help reduce the straight-line effect.
- ▶ Clippers should never be used on a tail. Explain that tails are pulled from the sides, never in the middle. It is better to do this immediately after exercise and over a few days. Highlight the possibility of being kicked.

Teaching Ideas and Resources

- ▶ Class to make a list of the ponies and horses they think will be shown trimmed.
 - Ridden ponies, including leading rein, working hunter ponies and horses, hacks, hunters and show cobs.
- ▶ Using a quiet pony/horse and trimming clippers allow the members to remove cat hairs.
- ▶ Ideally demonstrate how to hog a mane, but if no pony or horse available watch a YouTube tutorial with the group.
- ▶ Explain that some breeds are shown in their 'native state,' therefore if you wish to show one of these types you cannot pull their manes or tails. Unshown ponies/horses of any type can be trimmed to their owners' preference. Make a word search of those not to be trimmed, include Arabs, polo ponies, Shetland, Highland, Fells, Dales, Welsh Cobs, Connemara, Friesians, Coloured horses, miniature horses and

heavy horses such as Shires. Native and traditional coloured cobs.

- ▶ Demonstrate how to pull a mane, showing how to select which hairs are removed. Allow members to remove a few hairs each.
- ▶ Allow members to practise cutting manes with a few cuts. Discuss why this may be a better option for some horse/ponies. Discuss the positives and negatives of trimming. Discuss the positives and negatives of mane pulling.
- ▶ Ideally pull a tail during camp or show how to start pulling a tail. Model the correct way to pull a tail. Members of the group should not pull a tail.
- ▶ If enough horses/ponies are available, all members to trim the legs and chin. If not, perhaps a leg per group member with discussions how the best trimmed legs were achieved.

Recommended Reading

- ▶ The Pony Club Manual of Horsemanship.

Questions

- 1 Which horses and ponies are shown trimmed.
- 2 What are 'cat hairs' and how can they be removed.
- 3 Which type of horses/ponies are usually hogged.
- 4 Describe how to pull a mane.
- 5 When would you use scissors on a mane. What are the disadvantages?
- 6 How do you pull a tail?
- 7 Discuss the trimming you have done, what is good about it, what might you want to practise more?

Answers

- 1 Ridden ponies, including leading rein, working hunter ponies and horses, hacks, hunters and show cobs.
- 2 Long untidy hairs that grow later in the winter. Remove carefully with scissors or trimming clippers.
- 3 Polo ponies, some heavy weight cobs or hunters, show cobs.
- 4 Start just after exercise so the hairs come out more easily. Pull mane over several days so the horse/pony does not get sore, pull out the longer hairs. With the comb select a few long hairs, never from the top of the mane, push the comb upwards to select the hairs you want

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from the others and then pull sharply downwards to remove the hairs.

- 5** When a horse/pony becomes distressed having its mane pulled. Manes trimmed by scissors often look unnatural and you see the cut edge.
- 6** Start immediately after exercise. Pull only a few hairs at a time over a few days to prevent horse/pony from becoming sore. Hairs should only be pulled from the sides of the tail, not from the middle.
- 7** Any reasonable answers from the trimming practical session.