



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

Please Note:

The assessor team reserves the right to withdraw any candidate at any stage if there are concerns about the welfare of the horse or pony they are riding, or the safety of others. All decisions will be made in line with The Pony Club's commitment to safeguarding and animal welfare.

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