



C+ STANDARD
PART 2: HORSE AND PONY CARE

Recommended study:

- Learning Theory Advanced Achievement Badge
- Equine First Aid Advanced Achievement Badge

OBJECTIVES

- To understand the importance of putting equine welfare first at all times
- To understand how the Five Domains affect the care of ponies and horses
- To know how the behaviour of a pony or horse is affected by its environment
- To understand how horses and ponies learn from previous experience
- To show practical experience, or understanding and knowledge, of the care and work of a stabled horse/pony
- To show practical experience and/or understanding and knowledge of the care and work of a pony or horse at grass

SAFETY (Dismounted discussion)

1. Explain how you would keep yourself safe when working alone with ponies/horses
2. **Outline your responsibilities towards others to keep them safe when you are working on the same yard**
3. Explain how you should behave to keep ponies/horses safe in stables and on the yard
4. List features of safe and unsafe yard environments

WELFARE RESPONSIBILITIES (Dismounted discussion)

5. **Talk about the mental and physical effects on ponies and horses of:**
 - a. **Not having anything to eat for more than 4 hours**
 - b. **Being unable to touch other ponies and horses**
 - c. **Being kept in a stable most of the time**
6. Explain how you could minimise the amount of time that a stabled pony or horse is without food overnight (whilst ensuring that it did not become overweight)
7. Talk about things you can do to make time in the stable more enjoyable for ponies and horses

TRAINING PONIES AND HORSES (Dismounted discussion)

8. Give one example of how you would use positive reinforcement (rewards – food, scratching) when handling ponies/horses on the ground
9. Give one example of how you would use negative reinforcement (pressure and release) when handling ponies/horses on the ground
10. **Discuss the equine flight response; give an example of an event that might induce the flight response and suggest how this could be avoided in a yard environment**
11. Give an example of how you could get a pony or horse used to a procedure (desensitisation)
12. Discuss the equine herd instinct; give an example of when this might be a problem in the yard environment and how you might avoid it
13. **Describe some of the ways that a pony/horse might stand that could indicate that it is in pain**
14. **Describe some obvious behaviours that might indicate a pony is stressed**
15. Explain the importance of timing and consistency when correcting a pony's/horse's mistake
16. Explain the importance of monitoring stress when correcting a pony's mistakes/training

MANAGEMENT OF HORSES AND PONIES

17. **Talk about the care and different methods of keeping a pony/horse permanently at grass**
18. Discuss the care and exercise of a horse or pony that's fully or partially stabled
19. Talk about keeping the stable environment clean and tidy

FEEDING

20. **Discuss ponies'/horses' need for fresh water**
21. **Discuss the importance of forage in the diet**
22. Know the differences between hay, haylage, and other forages
23. Discuss different methods of providing hay to horses/ponies
24. Explain how you would select a feed for a pony/horse
25. Explain how you would prepare different feeds (e.g. sugar beet)
26. Discuss how feeding would differ between a stabled pony/horse and one kept at grass

GROOMING, BANDAGING, AND TRAVEL

27. **Know which items are important to be in a grooming kit and use them effectively**
28. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of washing horses and ponies, and know how to do this correctly
29. Discuss when trimming might be required, which parts of the pony/horse you would trim and which parts you would not trim.
30. Put on a stable bandage
31. Show how you would check the fit of a rug, adjusting straps if necessary.
32. **Prepare a horse or pony for travel, including rugs, travel boots or bandages, tail bandage, and tail guard**
33. Load and unload a horse or pony into a trailer or horse box

FOOT AND SHOEING

34. **Explain the reasons for trimming and shoeing ponies'/horse's feet**
35. Describe a general purpose shoe
36. Describe a well cared for foot (shod or unshod)
37. **Discuss whether the horse/pony presented needs reshoeing**
38. Know the names and uses of the farrier's tools
39. Name the external and internal parts of the foot

TACK

40. **Fit (and adjust if necessary) a saddle, bridle, and running martingale; inspect for safety**
41. Recognise a variety of bits that are allowed in Pony Club activities
42. Explain the action(s) of the bit you normally ride in

HEALTH AND FIRST AID

43. Recognise when a horse or pony is lame
44. Know horses and ponies' normal resting respiration rate and show how to take it
45. **Recognise symptoms of illness**
46. Know what might cause colic
47. Estimate the body condition (fat) score of a named horse, using the 0–5 scale for fat scoring
48. State whether the body condition (fat) score is healthy or unhealthy
49. **Know when to call the vet and what information to give**
50. **Know how to care for a wound until the vet arrives**
51. Know how to cool the legs of a horse or pony after hard work

ENVIRONMENT

52. Explain four ways in which horse owners and carers can reduce their carbon hoofprints and footprints
53. Consider how you can reduce your horse-related waste by reducing, reusing, and recycling
54. Understand how to manage horse-related waste responsibly

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
- D, D+ and full C Test must be achieved before taking the C+. If a member is over 16 years, following assessment they may enter directly at C+ level.

Recommended Minimum age: 13 years

Felt Colours:

Riding + Horse and Pony Care sections: Pink

Riding section only: Burgundy

Horse and Pony Care section only: Turquoise

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.

©Updated 2025 – The Pony Club

All rights reserved. No parts of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without the prior permission of The Pony Club.