



C STANDARD

Part 2: Horse and Pony Care

Recommended study:

- Yard Safety Achievement Badge
- Countryside Access Achievement Badge
- The Manual of Horsemanship – Book 1: Fundamentals

OBJECTIVES

- To understand that equine welfare is important
- To have some knowledge of the Five Domains and why they are essential for a pony's welfare
- To have an awareness of ponies' instincts and how they affect their behaviour
- To understand how a pony learns
- To have a knowledge of the care and working of a pony off grass

SAFETY

1. List what you should be wearing when riding in the countryside or leading a pony on the road; explain why each item on your list is important
2. Show how to work safely with a pony when dismounted
3. **Show, and understand the importance of, the correct way of lifting objects in general use around the stableyard (e.g., feed and water buckets) safely**
4. **Explain how you would ride in the countryside and on bridle paths, showing an awareness of farmers' stock and crops**

UNDERSTANDING WHAT YOUR PONY NEEDS

5. List and explain the importance of the Five Domains of pony welfare
6. Give two examples of the physical/mental effects on ponies of:
 - a) Poor feeding and watering
 - b) Good paddocks and stables
 - c) Poor health (including the effects of injuries and pain)
 - d) Being unable to behave in a natural way
 - e) Being scared (e.g., of people or other animals)

TRAINING PONIES

7. Explain how positive reinforcement works when training a pony
8. Talk about how pressure and release works when training a pony
9. **Describe how you could get a pony used to something scary (desensitisation)**
10. Understand that ponies are herd animals; give an example of when this might be a problem and how you might avoid it
11. **Describe some of the things that a pony might do if it is in pain, frightened, or insufficiently trained**

PONY CARE

12. Explain how to care for and work a pony that lives out at grass
13. **Know the main signs of health in the pony; recognise when a pony is too fat or too thin**
14. **Discuss how to check whether a paddock is safe**
15. Explain elementary rules of feeding and watering
16. Show when to use positive rewards (food, scratching) when training a pony's stable manners
17. Groom a grass kept pony
18. Put on a tail bandage
19. **Know when a pony needs shoeing**
20. Put on and take off turn out rugs
21. Put on a saddle, saddle cloth, bridle, and martingale
22. **Have some knowledge of correctly fitting tack (saddle clearing the withers; height of the bit; noseband tightness)**
23. Talk about elementary care and cleaning of saddlery (tack care after daily exercise)
24. Know how to clean a minor wound
25. Know which wounds require veterinary attention
26. Understand the reasons for routine healthcare:
 - a) Equine influenza and tetanus vaccinations
 - b) Dental care
27. Recognise when a pony is clearly lame
28. Recognise signs that a pony might be unhappy (stressed, worried or anxious)
29. Understand the means of protecting a pony's legs while travelling
30. Explain how to load and unload a pony safely, considering yourself, the pony, and any helpers

ENVIRONMENT

31. Explain how you can reduce waste related to looking after ponies.
32. List the items that can be recycled in your yard
33. Give two examples of how water may be wasted on yards

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 D and D+ Tests must be achieved before taking the C Test

Recommended Minimum age: 11 years

Felt Colour for Full Test: Green

Riding Only: Silver Grey

Care Only: Meadow Green

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