



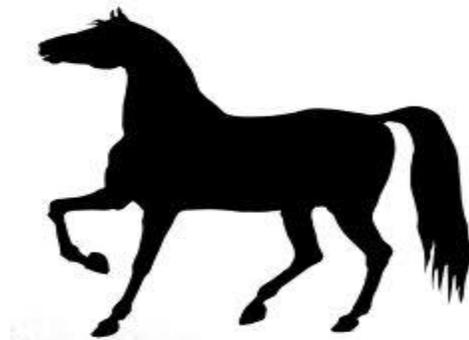
National Agricultural Youth Show

Horses Manual



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1. INTRODUCTION

In order to show a horse, you as a rider or competitor must be convinced that the horse you are going to show will be acceptable to the judge. The fact that the horse has excellent conformation and movement is of little importance if the horse is not worthy to be shown. In other words the following aspects should be correct:

- Condition of the horse
- Quality of the coat
- Hooves
- Manageability
- Preparation etc

2. AIM

The aim of this guideline is to provide general guidelines for the preparation of a horse for the Youth show, specific to In hand classes. It also provides the base of the Knowledge exam written at the Youth show.

3. SCOPE

The following aspects will be dealt with:

- Stable management
- Equipment
- Conformation
- Show preparation
- In the ring
- General

4. STABLE MANAGEMENT

4.1 INTRODUCTION

It should be the ambition of every rider to strive for the highest standard in the condition of their horse, the organized management of their stable, care or tack exercise and rest of the horse, as well as hygiene of the stable yard.

Good stable management is the ability to keep a horse fit and healthy ~ while maintaining hygienic environment.

4.2 STABLES

a) Requirements for stables

The following aspects are important:

- It must be big enough
- Dry foundations
- Good drainage
- Good ventilation
- Adequate light
- Good water access
- Security – the stable yard should be fenced with lockable gates.

b) Size of stable

Horses range from 14.3 hh to 16.2 hh and should have a stable big enough to turn around and lie down. The following measurements comply with the above requirements.

- Floor surface: 9 m²
- Height of walls: 3.6 m
- Double brick walls are ideal and moisture resistant

c) Stable floors

The floors should comply with the following:

- Cement floors are the most popular. They are quite affordable and last well.
- Cement floors must be roughened as to avoid becoming slippery.
- The stable floor should not retain water. In other words, it should have a drainage system. This can be done by sloping the floor slightly towards the door.

d) Stable Appliances

The following items should be found in a stable:

- **Door:** High enough so that the horse cannot jump over it, and equipped with a latch that the horse cannot open.
- **Metal ring:** All rings should be firmly attached. There should be two rings in the stable. One at ± 1.5 m above floor level to tie up the horse and one at ± 2 m above floor level; to tie the haynet which should be 1.8 m off the ground at its middle. (These measurements can be adapted depending on the height of the horse).
- **Feed Bin:** A built in feed bin should be in the front corner of the stable away from the door. It should be approximately the height of the chest of the horse. The manger should be shallow enough that the horse does not bang his jaw, but deep enough so that the horse can not throw the food out.
- **Hay rack:** A metal hay rack the same height as the haynet is a good idea as it is less labour intensive and easier to fill than the haynet.

4.3 CLEANING OF THE STABLES

Careful and thorough management is essential for stables which are cleaned every day. The following steps can be helpful:

- Place all necessary equipment outside the stable.
- Tie up the horse or remove him to a safer area before starting to clean.
- Remove the water container to prevent waste falling in and contaminating it.
- Remove all dung and wet bedding with a pitchfork or eight pronged fork. Remember to always work away from the horse.
- Separate the dirty and clean bedding and work the dirty bedding towards the door.
- The clean bedding should be stacked against the sides of the stable to give the floor an opportunity to dry.
- The heaped bedding is used to make the middle of the bed while new bedding is added to the sides to replace the bedding that was removed.

4.4 BEDDING

If the horse is to survive the stable environment, then a good quality bed is important for the following reasons:

- It will encourage the horse to lie down and therefore relieve pressure on his legs.
- A deep soft bed will prevent injuries to the heels when lying down and standing up.
- It will help by keeping the cold out.
- It will encourage the horse to urinate. It is important for the horse to urinate regularly.
- It serves as a drainage medium and absorbs moisture.
- It helps to keep the horse clean.

4.5 PADDOCKS

Fencing is an important subject. It is not only essential to keep a horse inside, but it must be done safely. The following aspects should be considered:

- The best type of fencing for horses is post and rail wooden fences that have been treated with creosote. It lasts a life time and therefore is economical in the long term.
- The paddock must be big enough to allow 0.5 hectares per horse. It is important to use gates sturdy and easy to open and close. Latches should be effective and functional.
- All gates and rails should be smooth with no nails and bolts sticking out which could injure the horse.

4.6 STORAGE OF FEED

The correct method of storing feed is very important:

- It must be kept clean and dry
- It must be protected from pests and insects (mice, mites etc)
- New feed must be kept separately from old feed
- Old feed should be used first. **First in - First out.**

4.7 ROUTINE GROOMING OF THE HORSE

- a) When horses are stabled usually 12 hours per day, they are taken out of their natural habitat and therefore it becomes the responsibility of the handler to take care of them and make sure they are kept clean.

Cleaning the horse comprises the daily attention that should be given to the skin, mane, tail and feet of a stabled horse. To clean and groom a stabled horse should take 30 - 45 minutes, depending on the condition of the horse, the time of the year and the work done on that specific day by that horse.

Horses are kept clean for the following reasons:

- To promote good health
- To maintain condition
- To prevent illness
- To promote hygiene
- To improve appearance

b) Order of cleaning:

- Mane
- Neck
- Body
- Legs
- Head
- Eyes
- Nose
- Dock
- Hooves

c) Cleaning of hooves:

- Remove all material from the hoof with the hoofpick.
- Work from the heel down towards the toe.
- Inspect the frog for any signs of foot rot.
- Hooves should be oiled at least once per week. This should be done more often in dry sandy areas.

d) Removal of mud and sweat

- Use the curry comb in a circular motion.
- Do not use the curry comb on bony areas of the body.
- Do not use excessive pressure on the spine or kidney areas.
- Clean the curry comb regularly by tapping it against your shoe.

e) Massaging of the muscles

- Work with the curry comb in the direction of the hair growth.
- Give special attention to the areas where the muscles are hard and flat.
- Avoid bony areas.
- Work softly over sensitive areas.

f) Removal of dust

- Stand next to the forequarters and look in the direction of the hindquarters.
- Hold the soft body brush in the hand nearest the horse and the curry comb in the other hand.
- Use reasonable pressure on the brush and remove the dust by brushing in the direction of the hair growth.
- Clean the brush with the curry comb after every few strokes.
- Clean the curry comb by tapping it against the heel of your shoe or boot.

g) Cleaning the head

- Place the halter around the horse's neck.
- Stand beside the head and look in the same direction as the horse.
- The arm nearest the horse is placed under the jaw with the hand over the nose.
- The soft brush is held in the other hand.
- Brush the head gently so as not to injure the sensitive and bony areas of the head.
- Repeat on the other side and replace the halter.

h) Brushing the tail

- Stand next to the hindquarters and hold the tail in the hand nearest the horse with a soft brush in the other hand.
- Work only with a few strands at a time.
- Brush the tail thoroughly using the fingers to loosen any knots.
- A hard brush is not used as it breaks the hair.

i) Use of a sponge or cloth

- Rinse out the cloth in a weak Savlon solution.
- Clean the eyes by working from the corner outwards.
- Rinse the cloth out after each eye.
- Clean the lips as well as the inside and outside of the nose.
- Lastly lift the tail and clean under the dock.

6. WATER

Horses must be fed and watered daily. Although horses can go without food for some time, but they must have water.

Why must we give water?

The largest portion of a horse's body consists of water. (A foal consists of 80% water and a full grown horse 50%). The horse uses water for the following reasons:

- The circulatory system and the digestive system cannot work correct without water.
- Lime in the water helps with the building and formation of bones and other tissues.
- Water is essential to quench thirst and helps with excretion.

Water intake and rules for giving water

- A horse drinks about 30 - 50litres a day.
- A horse produces about 30 litres of gastric juices per day to help with digestion.
- Water should be freely available.
- The horse should get water 3xdaily in winter and 6x daily in summer.
- Give water before feed.
- If water is not freely accessible then the horse should only be given water 1 hour after a feed.
- If the water bucket is in the stable, it should be cleaned and filled 2x daily.
- If a horse has been without water for a long period of time, then it should be given small amounts until its system can manage larger amounts.
- Remove the water 2-3 hours before hard work - a full stomach will press on the diaphragm and impact on breathing.
- During hard work, the horse should be allowed about 10 sips of water every 2 hours.

The following watering equipment can be found in a stable complex

Water trough in the yard:

The horse has full access if he is in that paddock. If the horse is stabled and the water trough is the only water point, then he should be taken regularly to drink.

Automatic Water feeder:

It is a good system if it is kept clean and in good working order. The amount of water consumed per day cannot be estimated with this system. Water intake should be monitored as a reduction in intake can indicate illness.

A bucket or drum in the stable:

This is an effective system. The drum or bucket must be in the corner of the stable away from the feed crib. The container should be able to be seen from the stable door. The containers should be cleaned and filled 2x a day.

7. NUTRITION

The amount of feed required for a horse in a day depends on the following factors:

- Whether the horse is stabled or grazed in a paddock.
- The size, age and temperament of the horse.
- The time of the year.

Ration scales

Every horse should be given feed according to a specific routine. The amount of work that the horse is doing will determine which routine to follow.

Rules for feeding

- **Feed small amounts regularly:** Horses eat small amounts regularly because their digestive systems do not have the ability to manage large amounts of food. If done correctly and well controlled, feeding can be restricted to 3x a day.
- **Give large amounts of fodder:** Without large amounts of fodder, the digestive system cannot function correctly. Fodder should be freely available. A horse should not be left in a stable for more than 2 hours without a haynet
- **Feed according to work, age, temperament, condition and size:** When a horse is doing heavy work he needs energy rich foods like Oats and concentrates. If he is doing light or no work, the concentrates should be restricted as the horse can become unmanageable or start bad habits. Remember to give more fodder if you reduce concentrates.
- **Give water before feed:** If water is given too soon after feed, the feed can be washed through the stomach too fast causing the nutritional value not to be absorbed and it can cause colic. Feeding should be done in the following order:
 - a. Water
 - b. Fodder
 - c. Concentrates
- **Give only clean good quality feed:** A horse can only make use of what is in the feed. Therefore feed should be given that is easily digestible and has a high nutritional value.
- **Avoid sudden changes in feeding times:** Regular feed times based on a routine are important to keep a horse in good condition. If a horse is used to a certain feeding time, his system begins to automatically secrete digestive juices and he becomes physiologically as well psychologically prepared to eat at this time. He is relaxed and ready to eat.
- **Don't make sudden changes in the type and amount of feed:** Changes in the quality and type of feed should be accompanied by a change in workload. Changes should be done over a period of weeks to avoid upsetting the horse's system. Concentrates can be reduced without problems, but should be increased gradually.

- **Don't work a horse immediately after a feed:** The blood supply to the digestive tract is increased and if exercise requires blood supply to the muscles this can result in cramps and incomplete digestion of the food in the stomach and bowel. For the same reason, a horse should not be fed directly after exercise. Allow the horse to cool down slowly before he gets his food.
 - Also feed something juicy every day.
 - Feed at the same time every day. A horse likes routine.
 - Know what the quantity of your scoop is (in kg's).
 - Never throw feed on the ground.
 - Watch out for mouldy food.
 - Mice carry disease and their droppings are dangerous for horses.
 - Supplements can be given in the form of Molasses (500g per day), saltlicks, vitamins and minerals. Apples and carrots are also very good.

8. HANDLING OF HORSES

Horses need to be handled and approached calmly at all times to prevent them getting a fright and injuring themselves or the rider.

Approach

a. In a paddock: The following procedure should be used if the horse is in a paddock.

- Sum up the horse to decide if he is tame or wild.
- Try to corner him.
- If possible, the horse should be approached from the front on the left.
- Use your voice to calm the horse.
- Watch his eyes, nostrils and ears for any signs of restlessness.
- Don't carry any strange things in your hands.
- Never move quickly towards the horse.
- When you are next to the horse stroke him on the neck and shoulder, while speaking softly to calm him.
- Stand next to the left front leg and place your arm around his neck.
- Never run.

b. In the stable: Just as above, make sure that the horse is aware of your presence before you touch him.

c. Putting on the halter: A halter is put on as follows:

- Place the lead rein over the neck with the right hand.
- Take it on the other side of the neck with the left hand under the neck and place the loose point with the rest in the right hand.
- Place the noseband of the halter over the nose with the left hand.
- With the right hand over the neck, take the halter strap and place it in position behind the ears and crown and buckle it.

How to catch a horse

- Catch him daily, even if just to feed him a tidbit. This will make him easier to catch tomorrow.
- Have a tidbit.
- Halter and lead rope over shoulder.
- Walk to within calling distance and "call".
- Walk up to his left shoulder.
- Give him a bite of tidbit.
- Slide lead rope over his neck.
- Put the halter on while standing next to the pony's neck.
- Do up strap behind the ears.
- Give the rest of the tidbit.
- Say "Walk on" and walk.

Turning a pony loose in the field

- Never with a bridle.
- Go into the paddock.
- Shut the gate.
- Walk away \pm 5 m and turn the pony around.
- Take the halter off.
- Let him walk away.
- Don't chase him, this will make him harder to catch the next time.

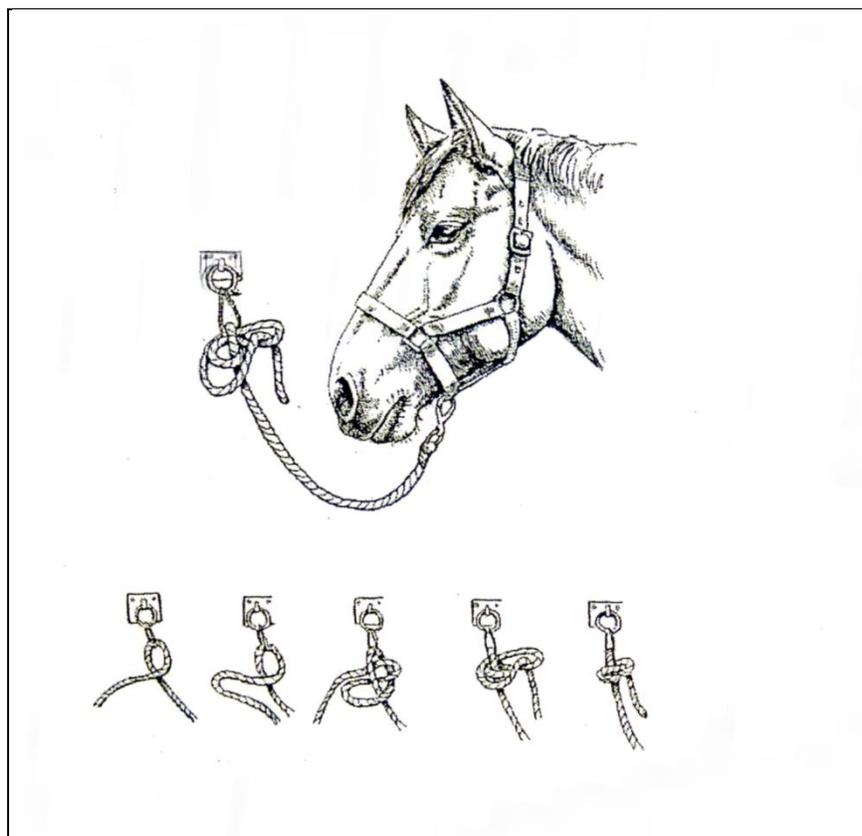
Leading the horse with a halter or bridle

The following is appropriate when leading a horse:

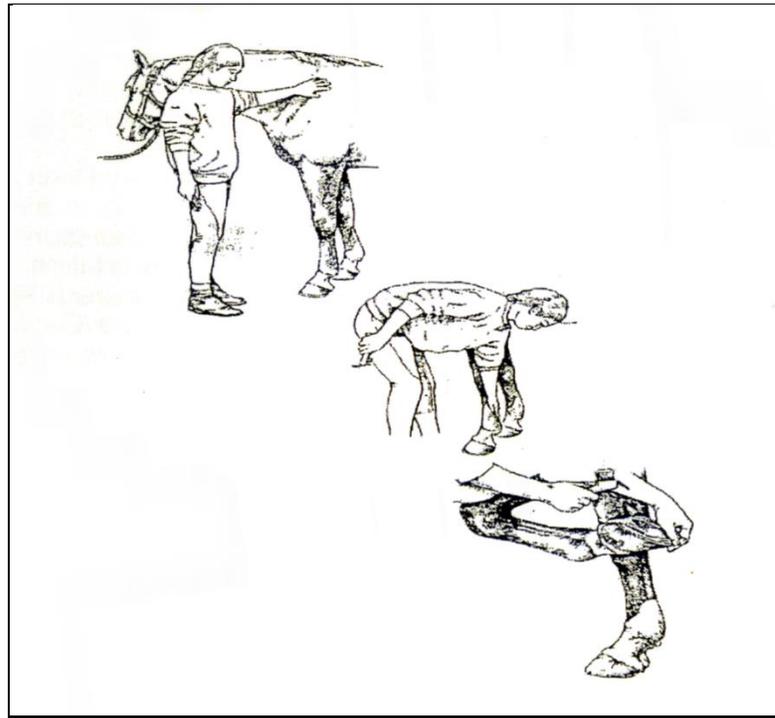
- Hold the leadrein in the right hand about 15 cm from the halter.
- The loose end of the rope rolled up and held in the left hand
- Command the horse to walk forward and lightly pull on the rope.
- Well trained horses will walk immediately when the handler does.
- Never jerk the lead rope or frighten the horse.
- If the horse resists or backs away, do not let go the rope.
- Ask an assistant to help by encouraging the horse from behind.
- When the horse is led with a bridle, the reins are split with the index finger between them.
- Take the reins about 15 cm from the bit so that your finger nails face downwards.
- Hold the point of the reins in your left hand.
- If the horse rears or backs away, don't hang on the reins. Move with the horse while you try to calm him.

Tying up the horse

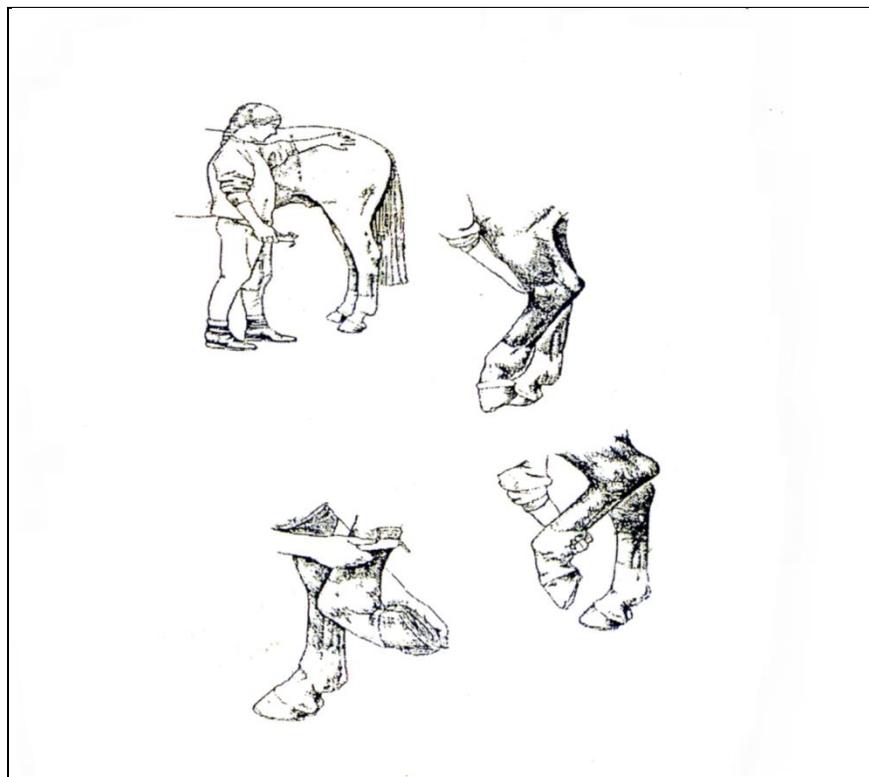
A horse may only be tied up if there is someone with him. To prepare him or for him to eat, etc. You may not leave him alone if he is tied up. It may only be done with a slip knot as follows:



Lifting up the front legs



Lifting up the back legs



9. HEALTH

Signs of good Health

- An alert, awake expression on the face.
- Clear eyes. The membranes pink.
- No secretion from the nose or eyes. In summer there may be a secretion from the eyes from fly irritation.
- Twitching ears.
- Shiny coat lying flat.
- A loose skin which moves easily over the underlying bones.
- The horse stands comfortable on all four legs or resting a back leg.
- No signs of sweating at rest except in hot humid conditions.
- Legs are cool with no unusual swellings.
- Fairly opaque and colourless or pale yellow urine several times a day.
- Dung that is free of unusually unpleasant odours and that is regularly excreted. Colour will vary depending on feed.
- Normal appetite and water consumption.
- Temperature of 38°C (can vary with 0,5° up or down in morning and evening).
- A Pulse of 36 to 42 beats per minute at rest (walk - 75 bpm, trot 127 bprn).
- A respiration of 8-12 respirations per minute.

10. DISEASES OF HORSES

10.1 AHS – AFRICAN HORSE SICKNESS

Cause:

It is a viral disease that only occurs in Africa. The disease is usually deadly. The disease is spread by Midges from horse to horse. The State exercises strong control over the disease and the dangerous time is January to March.

Symptoms:

- Swelling of the head
- Secretions from the nose
Horse still eats well
- Temperature
- Red foam out of mouth and nose just before death anorexia
- Difficulty in breathing
- Swollen legs

Action to be taken:

- Remove horse immediately from the herd
- Contact the vet

Prevention

Vaccination

10.2 EQUINE FLU

Cause:

It is caused by a virus that is inhaled and affects the respiratory system. It is highly contagious. It can affect the heart in the later stages.

Symptoms:

- Cold and flu symptoms
- Cough and nasal secretions (yellow and green)
- Eats little or not at all
- Temperature and raised pulse.

Action to be taken:

- Isolate the horse immediately
- Contact the vet

Prevention:

Vaccination

10.3 STRANGLES

Cause:

- Bacterial infection of the lymph

Symptoms:

- Temperature
- Nasal secretions - first clear and then slimy and thick
- Loses appetite
- Difficulty in swallowing
- Difficulty breathing
- Enlarged glands

Action to be taken:

- Isolate horse as quickly as possible
- Contact the vet

Prevention:

Vaccination

10.4 TETANUS

Cause:

Deep wounds that remain closed eg. on a rusty nail.

Symptoms:

- Sensitivity to light
- Locked jaw
- Doesn't eat at all
- Unsteady on legs (no co-ordination)
- Can't stand up
- Nervous and aggressive

Action to be taken:

- Contact vet
- Look for wounds

Prevention:

- Vaccination
- Where someone works a lot with horses, it is important to be vaccinated as well.

10.5 COLIC

Cause:

- Sudden and uncontrolled access to large amounts of rich feed.
- Change in routine (new stable, environment, etc).
- Change in feeding routine
- Working on a full stomach
- Exhaustion
- Mouldy food
- Teeth problems
- Internal parasites
- Greedy eaters
- Earthen floors in stables
- Feed and drink too soon after exercise.

Symptoms:

- Rolling around
- Biting and kicking at other horses
- Hard dung or no dung
- Sweating
- High temperature
- Discomfort
- Aggressive behaviour

Action to be taken:

Contact the vet

Prevention:

- Inspect teeth regularly
- Deworming
- Gradual change in feed or routine
- Cool horse down before food or water
- Fresh, clean water
- Enough fodder (roughage)
- Be careful of too much concentrate
- Watch out for mouldy food

10.6 BILLIARY

Cause:

- Several types of ticks play host to the *Babesia* parasite.
- Ticks carry the disease from one horses to another especially the Bont tick.

Symptoms:

- Temperature
- Anemia
- Depression
- Loss of appetite
- Pale mucous membranes (gums and eyelids)
- Urine red in colour
- Dung is small, hard balls with a clingy film on them
- Swelling of head, legs, lower abdomen and chest.

Action to be taken:

Contact the vet

Prevention:

Regular dipping to kill ticks.

10.7 DEHIDRATION

Cause:

Too little water especially with heavy exercise or together with other illnesses.

Test for dehydration

- Pinch the skin on the neck and it should retract immediately.
- Press your thumb into the gums for 2 seconds and release. The colour should return within $\frac{1}{2}$ second.

Action to be taken:

Ensure enough clean water always available.

10.8 THRUSH

Cause:

It is a degenerative condition of the frog of the foot forming a black smelly secretion which collects in the hollow of the hoof. If it continues and spreads to sensitive tissue it can cause lameness. This condition is caused by poor hoof hygiene - not cleaning out hooves and standing in damp conditions.

Treatment:

- Remove the cause
- Clean hooves regularly
- Have feet trimmed regularly
- Scrub hoof with antiseptic solution
- Use an antibiotic spray on infected areas.

Prevention:

- Good hygiene
- Daily cleaning of hooves
- Clean and dry bedding
- Toes must remain short.

10.9 LAMINITIS (Inflammation in the tissues of the feet)

Cause:

- Poor nutrition, eg. too much carbohydrates cause excess acid production and the formation of toxins.
- Mechanical, eg. poor maintenance and trimming of the hooves or working on hard surfaces.
- Stress caused by travelling far distances.
- Cortisone use.

Signs:

- Hoof pain and lameness
- Hooves are "hot"
- Shifting weight between legs and standing uncomfortably - prefers to lie down.

Action to be taken:

- Contact vet
- Remove the cause as soon as possible
- The farrier should work with the vet
- Balanced diet
- Exercise is important to keep circulation if laminitis not acute.

10.10 AZOTURIA

Cause:

It occurs in animals that, after being engaged in continuous work, are given a long rest with continuation of the high-protein diet and then return to work.

Symptoms:

- Slightly stiff back legs, to serious pain and inability to move. Excessive sweating and dark brown urine.

Action to be taken:

- Cease all exercise
- Keep horse warm
- Give water and hay - no concentrates.

Prevention:

- Give less concentrates on off day
- Warm up and cool down carefully
- Ensure enough calcium phosphates and salt in feed
- Cut down high protein concentrate.

11. PARASITES

11.1 INTERNAL PARASITES

Symptoms:

- Pale mucous membranes (anemia)
- Tail rubbing
- Cough
- Colic
- Dull coat
- Lose condition or don't pick up weight.

Types:

Pupae - Larvae of flies, mainly horseflies that lay their eggs on the hair of the horse (yellow nits). The horse licks and ingests the pupa into the stomach where the larvae live on the food in the bowel. They secrete a substance that is bad for the horse.

Tape worms - Live in the small or large bowel. Segments come out in the faeces and cause further infection. The host is a small mite which lives in the grass and is ingested by the horse. They absorb digested food and therefore rob the horse of its nutrition.

Roundworms (Ascarids) - large worm that lives in the small intestine. It can get as large and thick as a pencil. It is found often in young horses where it influences their growth and causes a dull coat, colic and diarrhea.

Control:

- Deworming
- In high risk horses (large numbers in one camp): should be done every 4 weeks.
- Medium risk (few together but contact with other horses): should be done every 3 months.
- Low risk - stabled or little contact with other horses: every six months.

11.2 EXTERNAL PARASITES

Types:

Ticks: Suck blood and can transmit diseases in horses.

Midges: Transmit horse sickness and irritate the horse.

Flies and horseflies: irritating and can transmit Anthrax.

Symptoms:

Anemia, wounds, damaged skin, illness

Control:

- Tick Grease / Vaseline
- Smear between legs, under tail, behind hooves and in ears
- Spray or dip

Vaccinations:

NB: read the label!

Use a vet to do the vaccinations

African Horse sickness: September to November every year. Under the skin injection in the neck.

Equine Flu: March - April annually

Tetanus: March - April annually

Strangles: September / November annually. Ensure with pregnant mares that they can in fact be inoculated.

Teeth, hooves and basic care:

- Inspect your horse's legs, back and feet daily for heat and swelling.
- Never ride a lame horse.
- Clean feet daily and check for cuts and stones.
- Apply new or used sunflower oil to hooves from hair to the end of the hoof.
- Check the sides of the mouth for swellings which could indicate a sharp tooth.
- Remain sensitive to the temperature of the horse so you can pick up a fever.
- Make sure your horse is eating well.
- Apply sunblock to the sensitive white and pink spots on the horse's face.

Teeth:

The teeth should be checked regularly. A horse's grinding teeth work laterally against each other and can develop sharp points which prevent the horse from grinding the food correctly. It can also happen that he will bite his cheeks and later on refuse to eat. If a horse chews with his mouth open and food falls out, it is an indication that the teeth should be attended to.

First Aid kit:

It is important to keep a first aid kit handy in the tack room or with you on a journey. It should be kept in a small watertight container. The contents are for the management of small injuries that can happen in the paddock or at a show. For serious injuries, first aid is temporary and a vet should be contacted.

Contents of the First Aid kit:

- Antiseptic solutions for cleaning wounds like Iodine and Dettol
- Wound powders and sprays
- Ointments like Betadine, Savlon or Dermisol
- Bandages and plasters
- Sterile non-adherent dressings
- Cotton wool
- Scissors (curved, blunt edged)
- Poultices - warm or cold
 - Warm** improves blood supply
 - Cold** reduces inflammation which is associated with swelling and bruising after a Kick
- Thermometer

12. EQUIPMENT

How to put on a bridle

In the showing, a bridle is used to show big horses and stallions, while a leather halter is used to show foals.

- Check that the cheek pieces are equal on both sides and the correct size for the horse
- Take off halter and fasten it around the horse's neck.
- Place the reins over the horse's head on the neck.
- Hold the head piece in the right hand.
- Hold the bit in the left hand, press the thumb of your left hand into the mouth on the side so that the horse opens his mouth.
- Push the bit gently into the mouth ensuring that you don't bang the teeth.
- Pull the bridle over the horse's face and push gently over right and then left ear.
- Fasten the throat lash. Ensure you can fit your hand horizontally between the cheek and the throat lash.
- Fasten the nose band (different types are fastened differently).
- Do not just leave the horse when you are finished. Hold onto him, or tie him up with the halter over the bridle. Never tie a horse up with reins.

Basic knowledge of correctly fitting bridle

Bridle (with a snaffle bit and cavesson noseband)

- **Noseband:** two fingers must fit between the nose band and the point of the cheekbone.
- **Bit:** must be high enough in the mouth to make one wrinkle in the corner of the mouth.
- **The bit** must be wide enough not to pinch the lips.
- **The bit** must also not be too big as this is uncomfortable for the horse.
- All loose pieces must be neatly fastened in the runners and keepers.
- Make sure everything is straight and neat.

Basic care of equipment

a) Bridle

- Always wash the bit
- Hang up the bridle neatly
- Place the reins through the throat lash

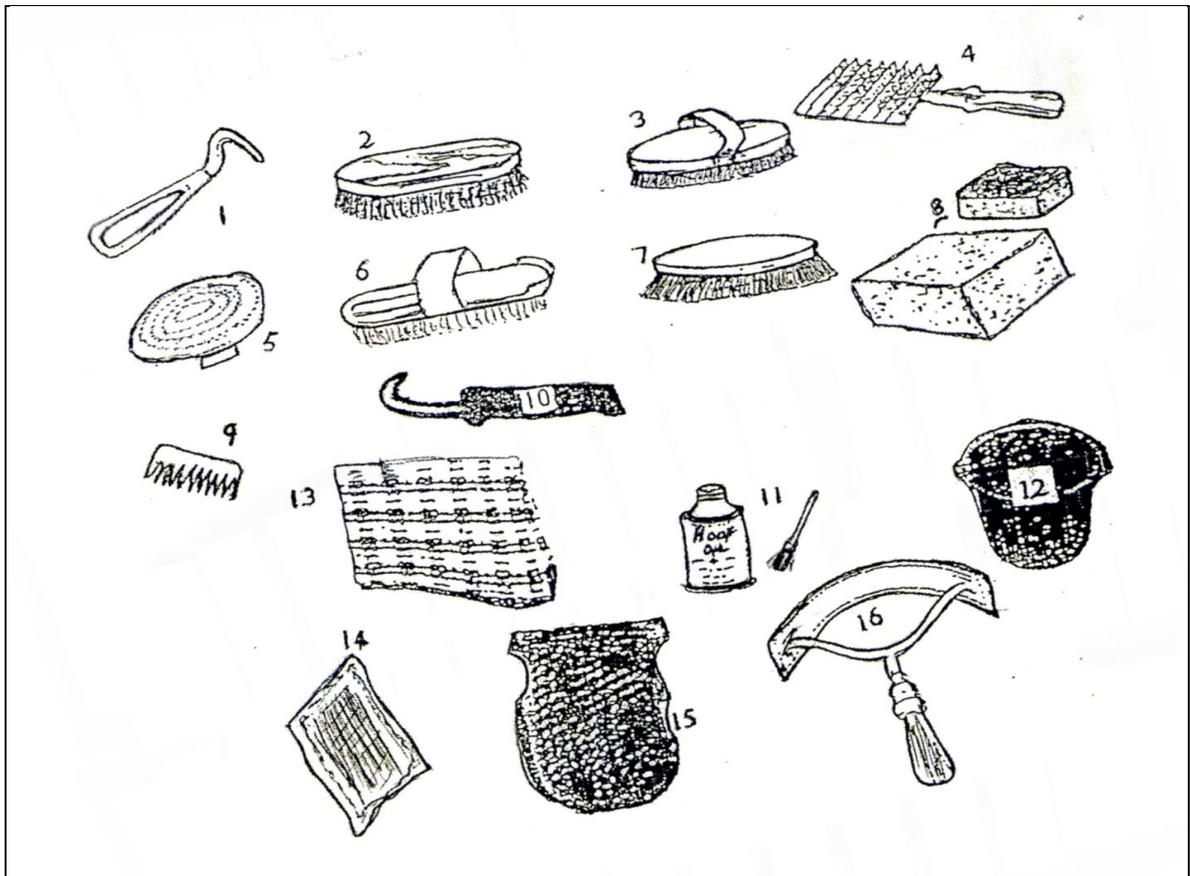
b) Cleaning

Leather - use saddle soap and leather oil to clean leather and keep it soft.

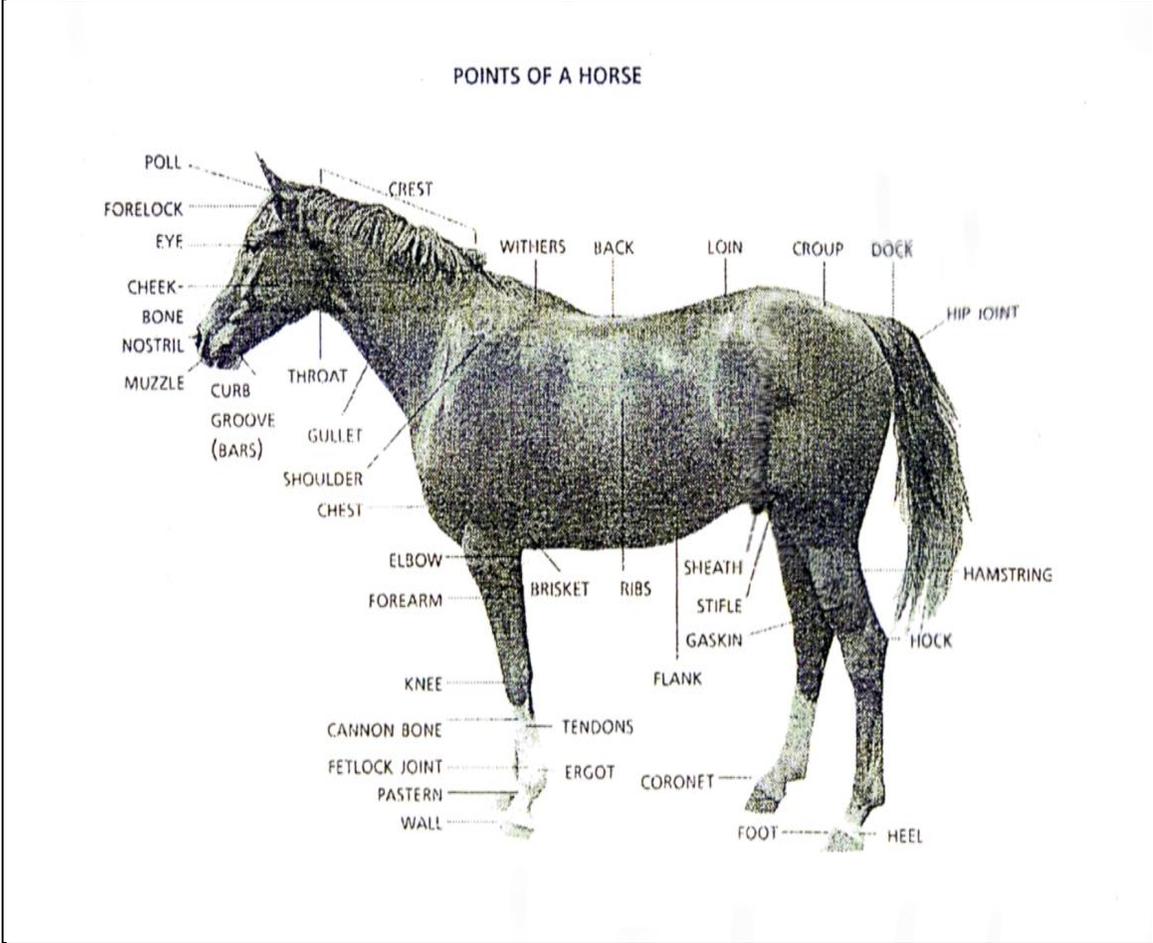
Material - wash regularly to keep soft and clean.

Names and uses of essential grooming kit:

1. **Hoof pick** - for cleaning out feet
2. **Dandy brush** – for removing dried mud or sweat
3. **Body brush** – for removing dust, scurf or grease from the coat, and for brushing the head, mane and tail.
4. **Metal curry comb** – primarily intended for cleaning the body brush (Never to be used on a pony's body)
5. **Rubber curry comb** – for removing caked mud and sweat
6. **Plastic curry comb (sarva brush)** – for removing caked mud and sweat and also to get the winter coat out in spring
7. **Water brush** - for washing the feet and for "laying" the mane and tail (An old dandy brush or scrubbing brush will work)
8. **Two sponges** one for cleaning the eyes and muzzle and one for cleaning the dock
9. **Mane comb** - for pulling the mane and tail and plaiting
10. **Bot knife or bot block** – for removing bot eggs
11. **Hoof oil and brush** - for special occasions and brittle feet
12. **Small plastic bucket** - for water to dampen mane and tail
13. **Towels** for drying off a damp pony
14. **Stale rubber (piece of sheepskin or cloth)** for finishing touches
15. **Washing mitt** - for curry combing while pony is being bathed
16. **Sweat scraper** - for removing water from the coat



13. POINTS OF THE HORSE



14. FINAL PREPARATION FOR THE SHOW

Physical preparation of the horse

To get a horse ready for a show, he needs to be groomed thoroughly every day as described in the stable management section. The tail and mane needs to be cared for carefully so that it looks its best.

Two weeks before the show: Clip fully or according to the breed standards.

Two days before the show: Bath the horse from head to toe. Use anti-dandruff shampoo.

The day before the show:

Ears

Clip all hair from inside the ears to emphasize the shape of the ear.

Head

- a. Clip all long hair around the nose and mouth. A razor works well around the mouth area
- b. Long hair under the jaw should be singed with a candle flame. This should be done about 3 days before the show as the singed hair looks discoloured if it is done the day before the show.

Legs

- a. All long hair around the fetlock must be trimmed to make the leg look delicate.
- b. Hair must be trimmed from the coronet as well.

Hooves

- a. The hooves must be clean and smooth. Sandpaper may be used to smooth the hooves.
- b. The length of the hooves should not be more than 10 cm.

Body

- a. The body, mane and tail should be washed at least two days before the show to allow return of oils washed out by the shampoo.
- b. Prevent the horse getting dirty again by putting a light blanket on.

Tail

- a. The tail must be brushed out thoroughly. Any knots or bedding in the tail in the showring is inexcusable.

Mane

(in good condition like the tail).

- a. If the mane is shown unplaited, then it should be free of dirt and knots.
- b. Never cut uneven points straight with scissors. Unevenness is corrected by pulling out the longer hairs. Ask somebody with experience to help you.
- c. Long manes can be protected by plaiting it with a crepe bandage between shows. This will prevent the hair breaking.

An hour before the show or during preparation:

- Smear the ears with Vaseline or baby oil to remove the "dullness".
- Smear Vaseline or baby oil around the mouth nostrils and around the eyes
- Blacken the hooves with liquid shoe polish or stove polish. White hooves remain white.
- Just prior to entering the ring, one can wipe the body down with a cloth and methylated spirits. This will prevent dust sticking to the coat.
- Bandage the tail with a damp tail bandage for about 2 hours before the class. This will prevent the top tail hairs becoming bushy.
- Clean carefully under the dock and smear with baby oil.

15. SHOWMANSHIP CLASSES

Knowledge: A written test is performed which counts for 20 marks of the total of 100 marks.

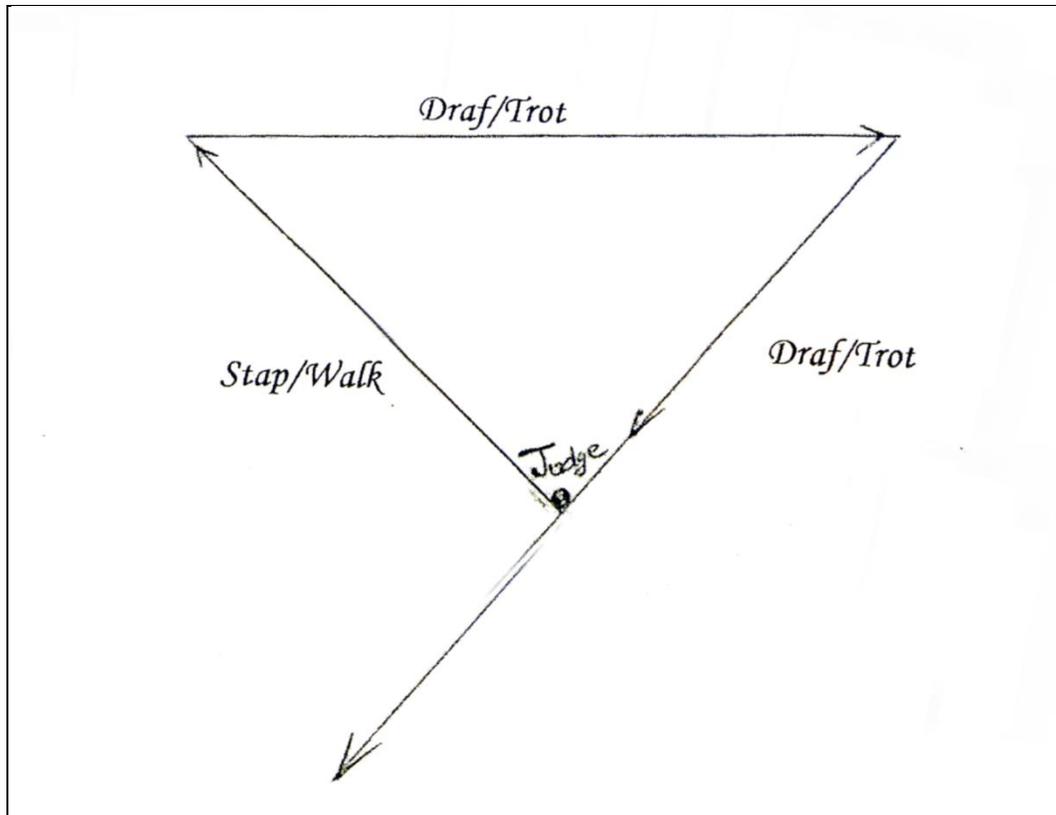
Washing: Here you, Jnr Jnr and Jnr get 35 minutes and the Snr 25 minutes to wash (15 marks).

Preparation: Here you get 20 minutes to prepare or groom your horse. You must have all your equipment with you when you do preparation. The judge may also ask you questions, eg what you do with different brushes or any other equipment. They may ask the order of cleaning the horse or ask you to pick up the feet to see if they are clean and if you can do it. Preparation counts 15 marks out of the 100 marks.

Showmanship: Here you will go up against all the other entrants. Ensure that you are on time and that your animal is ready in time. Here you will use a leather halter or bridle that is clean without any loose pieces. Your horse must be clean and well prepared and you need to have a hat, jeans, shirt, takkies and smile on. Remember that you never move between your horse and the judge and that you should maintain good eye contact with the judge. This section counts for 50 marks of the total of 100 marks.

16. PROCEDURE IN THE SHOWRING

1. Competitors walk the horses in a clockwise circle - the showman always on the outside. The judge may ask that the line halts and that each competitor trots a half circle and joins the end of the line again.
2. The judge calls the competitors into line and they line up from left to right in the order chosen by the judge.
3. The judge calls each competitor individually and the competitor must halt in front of the judge and introduce themselves politely. The judge may ask them some questions and move around the horse.
4. Now you will be asked to move in a triangle. Walk away from the judge, turn and trot to the next point, turn again and trot back past the judge to your place in the line (see sketch). (Here, the judge will expect from you to use own initiative, as long as your horse is under control and the safety of the other competitors and horses are placed first).
5. All competitors walk in a circle again. The judge calls the competitors in to form a line from left to right in the winning order to award the prizes.



General:

(Remember to practice in hand shoeing with the hors. Just because the horse is being led, doesn't mean you don't have to practice). Pay attention to the following:

- a) The horse must walk / trot next to the handler with his head at the right shoulder of the handler.
- b) If the handler - stops, the horse must immediately stop next to him without resisting.
- c) The horse must halt squarely and not fight with the horses on either side of him.
- d) Ensure that you show the horse off maximally in the time you have in the showing, eg don't walk the horse around you. The handler must walk on the outside around the horse.

Lead a horse by hand when walking and trotting and turn him in the correct manner:

- 1) Use a leather halter and lead rein or a bridle with the reins over the head.
- 2) Usually from the left but practice on both sides.
- 3) Right hand on the lead rein about 30 cm from the head with knuckles facing upwards.
- 4) Left hand hold the rest of the lead rein. Never wrap the lead rein around your hand or put your hand through the loop.
- 5) Stand next to the left shoulder and say "walk on".
- 6) Don't turn around and look for your horse.

- 7) If you want to turn your horse, push him away and walk around him.
- 8) Don't pull the horse around you as he could stand on your toes.
- 9) To trot, say "trot on" and begin jogging slowly next to him (stay next to the horse).

17. GENERAL

How do you measure a horse

The unit is "HANDS". One hand is 10.6 cm. The horse is measured from the highest point of the wither. A pony is smaller than 15 hands. A horse is 15 hands or bigger.

What are the basic necessities for a happy and satisfied horse?

a) Care

- Good grazing
- Clean, cool and fresh water
- Shade
- Safe fencing
- Shelter from the wind
- No poisonous plants
- No sharp objects that can injure a horse
- No deep holes in the ground

b) Exercise

- Ensure that the horse is dry after riding before going back into the paddock
- Don't use the curry comb too much, as this strips oil from the coat
- The oil makes the coat waterproof so that he doesn't get wet when it rains

**The show is a learning process.
Enjoy it and make the best of it.
It is more about learning and participation than winning**

