

THE BLUE CROSS
HORSE AND PONY CARE
COMPETITION



INFORMATION PACK

Area Horse and Pony Care Competitions

This is a team event and each team consists of three Members.

Junior:

- Junior team members to be 13 years and under on 1st January.
- With at least one member to be 11 years and under on 1st January.
- The Junior Competition is on The Pony Club Tests 'D' to 'C' Horsemastership.

Senior:

- Senior team members to be between 14 and 21 years on 1st January.
- With at least one member to be 16 years and under on 1st January.
- The Senior Competition is on The Pony Club Tests 'C+' to 'AH' Horsemastership.

This competition is not a quiz – but a theoretical and practical test as per our Pony Club Tests.

Enclosed for info:

- A selection of sample questions that might be asked.

Dress:

Competitors should dress in an appropriate manner suitable for the work environment. i.e. a PC sweatshirt rather than a jacket.

Scoring:

- There will be a points allocation per section.
- Points will also be given for turnout and approach. (For approach also read attitude though this word is felt not to be appropriate.)

For equality of points:

- Addition of three selected sections to be the tiebreaker
- Your choice.

However do make sure that this is displayed on the scoreboard.

Depending on entries the time for each section is determined. However the competition should not last longer than 2hrs and include a break in the middle.

As not all Branches have 'A' Test Members, questions at that level should be used sparingly.

STABLE MANAGEMENT QUESTIONS

RUGS & RUGGING

1. Give at least 4 reasons why we rug our ponies?
2. What is special about a New Zealand Rug? When and where would you use one?
3. How do you fasten a New Zealand Rug?
4. How do you undo a New Zealand Rug?
5. What type of fastening is not recommended on a New Zealand Rug?
6. What must be available for a pony living out all the time? And why?
7. What materials can Stable Rugs be made from?
8. What can you use under a Stable Rug for extra warmth?
9. Describe two methods you could use when putting a blanket on under a rug?
10. What is an anti-sweat rug?
11. When would you use an anti-sweat rug?
12. How does an anti-sweat rug work and how do you achieve this?
13. What is a wicking rug? And when would you use one?
14. When would you use a woollen rug? And why?
15. When might you use a neck cover? What materials might they be made of?
16. How does the way you fasten rugs on the way to a show differ on you return?
17. Why would you put on an Exercise Sheet? And how?
18. What is the difference between a surcingles and a roller?
19. What should always be used under a surcingles and why?
20. What is an anti-cast roller and when might you use one?

SADDLERY

1. What is a snaffle bridle? When and what can it be used for? Name parts.
2. What is a double bridle? When and what can it be used for? Name parts.
3. Describe how you would fit a bridle.
4. There are at least 7 types of noseband. List and draw at least 4.
5. What can they be used for? How do they fit? Why would you choose which?
6. What are the three most common types of martingale?
7. Draw them. Describe their fitting and use.
8. The following are gadgets: find out what you can (description / fitting / use) and any others.
 - Grass reins / Side Reins
 - Draw / Running reins
 - Vienna rein
 - Market Harborough
 - De Gogue
 - Abbot Davis Balancing rein
 - Harbridge
 - SchoolMasta™
9. Name (draw/describe) at least 5 types of saddle? List the parts of the saddle.
10. Describe how and why they differ.
11. What is the 'tree'? Why is it important? How would you check the safety of the tree?
12. What is the procedure for fitting a saddle?
13. How would you know if a saddle fits correctly / badly?
14. What is the difference between a saddlecloth and a numnah? What materials are they made of?
15. What is a breastplate and why would you use one?
16. There are at least 4 types of breastplate. Name the 2 most common? Draw / Describe.
17. There are several types of materials girths can be made from. List and describe some.

18. What are the three types of leather girth? Draw and describe.
19. Why is the country of origin of leather important? What else does this affect?
20. How should you look after your tack, when new, every day, when wet and when in storage? Why is this important?

FEEDS & FEEDING

1. What is the natural way for your pony to eat?
2. Your pony needs 7 essential nutrients. What are they?
3. What does he use them for?
4. How much of your pony's body weight is water? How much does he drink a day?
5. What are the principles/ requirements of feeding? (5 out of 8). Explain each one and its importance.
6. What are the rules of feeding? (10 out of 15). Explain each one and its importance.
7. How can you find the weight of your pony?
8. How much does your pony weigh? And how did you find this out?
9. Why is it important to know this?
10. Name and try and find some fibre feeds (5 at least).
11. Your pony needs at least 1% of his weight in fibre per day, how much is this? How much does he get?
12. If your pony lives out all the time does he need extra feed? If so, what how much and when?
13. What is a compound feed? Why would you feed a compound feed? Give examples.
14. What is a straight feed? Why would you feed a straight feed? Give examples.
15. What are the advantages / disadvantages of straight versus compound feeds?
16. What are additives? When might you use them?

17. What are supplements? When might you use them?
18. What are probiotics? When and why might you use them?
19. What are electrolytes? When and why might you use them?
20. The following can all be caused by incorrect feeding, find out what you can about each?
 - Colic
 - Choke
 - Diarrhoea
 - Azoturia
 - Laminitis

FITTENING

1. What is condition?
2. How is it measured?
3. Describe a pony in poor condition.
4. Describe a pony in fat condition.
5. Describe a pony in fit condition.
6. When might a horse / pony get a rest period?
7. When might a horse / pony need a rest period?
8. Why do you need a fit pony?
9. What might happen if you rode an unfit pony?
10. What are the basics of any fittening programme?
11. If a pony has had a long time off work what might you need to do before you ride him?
12. Describe the first few weeks of a fittening programme.
13. Why is this necessary?
14. Describe the middle few weeks of a fittening programme – what work is the horse doing and for how long?

15. The final stage of fittening is dependant on the job that a pony is expected to do. How does this differ for:
- A hunter
 - An event pony
 - A long distance riding pony
 - A dressage pony
 - A show jumping pony
 - A Prince Philip Cup pony
 - A polo pony
16. What might happen if a pony is too fit?
17. What else is important to remember when getting ponies fit?
18. How might a fit pony be different to ride than an unfit pony?
19. How can you tell if your pony is fit?
20. What happens to your ponies feeding as they get fitter?
- 21.

'B' Test Care Questions

Feeding

1. Tell me some of the rules of feeding/watering and why there is that rule? – Could you select (a type of food i.e. oats) and tell me why and when you might feed it and what quantities? – What do you use to put weight on a horse? – Is this horse in good condition? – What do you check in spite of good condition?
2. What are the difficulties of working a pony off grass? – What are the advantages? – How would you catch a naughty pony? – How would you put two strange ponies in a field together and what safety precautions would you take?
3. You would like to get your horse/pony fit to go to a hunter trial. How do you decide how long it will take? – Tell me the programme you have decided for your horse.

Grooming

4. Please identify a rubber currycomb and body brush. – Why do you use these articles of the grooming kit? – Could you show me how to use them? – How do you clean a field kept muddy pony? – How do you clean a clipped stabled pony after hunting?

Fitting

5. How do you fit a saddle? – Does this saddle fit this horse? – What points are you looking for? – What point of comfort do you check when using a double bridle? – Discuss the action of a snaffle, a pelham and a double bit. – How do you care for your tack you use daily? – What about tack you use occasionally?

Stable Design

6. Describe a perfect stable. – Describe the good points of the stable we are in. – Why is ventilation important? – What kinds of lights and switches should be used? – Why do we need drainage in a stable?

Conformation/Condition

7. Pretend you have bought this horse at a sale. I haven't seen him. Could you describe him to me as though talking on a telephone? – Has he or she got any particularly good or bad points of conformation?
8. Is this horse in good condition? – What are the symptoms of poor condition? – How do you recognise that a horse is lame? – In front and behind.

Lameness/Ailments

9. What should a horse's temperature be? – What would tell you something is wrong with your horse in the morning? – What would you do?
10. How would you clean a small cut? – What would you do then? – What you do if you caught your horse from the field and found it had a large jagged cut?
11. How do you tub a foot / put on a poultice? – What are the rules of sick nursing? – You are home from hunting and your horse is lame with a heat filled leg, how do you know which leg he is lame in? – What do you do to the leg?
12. Please describe the external structure of the horse's foot. – What bones are in the foot? – Is this foot a good shape, does it matter if it is boxy or upright?

Shoes

13. Please describe a hunter shoe? – What is a broad webbed shoe? – Could you recognise a heat bar or an egg bar or a shoe with a raised heel?
14. Describe how the farrier takes off a shoe and then how he nails a shoe on. – Describe the process, perhaps by pretending to be the farrier. – What are the names of the tools and what are their uses?

Travel

15. Please prepare this horse for travel. – The weather is like today. – Please put on two travel bandages and two boots. – Please put on one knee boot, a tail bandage and a tail guard. – Why would you use the things you have put on?