

GRADE 4 RIDING & HORSE CARE

TRAINING AID



Mucking Out Equipment

When your horse/pony lives in a stable he /she will need mucking out each day. For Grade 4, you will need to be able to show you know what these tools are called.



Wheelbarrow



Shovel



Fork



Shavings Fork



Broom

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Feeding

A horse/pony may eat these things:



Coarse Mix



Hay



Pony Nuts



Chaff

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Catching and Leading a Horse

When catching a horse you should:

- Call the horse's name before walking calmly and quietly towards them. Remember you should never approach a horse from behind.
- You will then need to slip the noseband of the head collar over the nose and pop the head piece over their head behind their ears and fasten the buckle.

To lead the horse you should:

- Stand on the left hand side and hold the end of the rope in your left hand and your right hand should be holding the rope a short distance from the head collar.
- Stand level with the horse's shoulder and speak to the horse asking him to walk on.
- You must then walk forward and the horse will follow.



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Bedding

A stable - kept horse or pony needs bedding to sleep on. For Grade 4 you will need to know these different types of bedding.



Straw

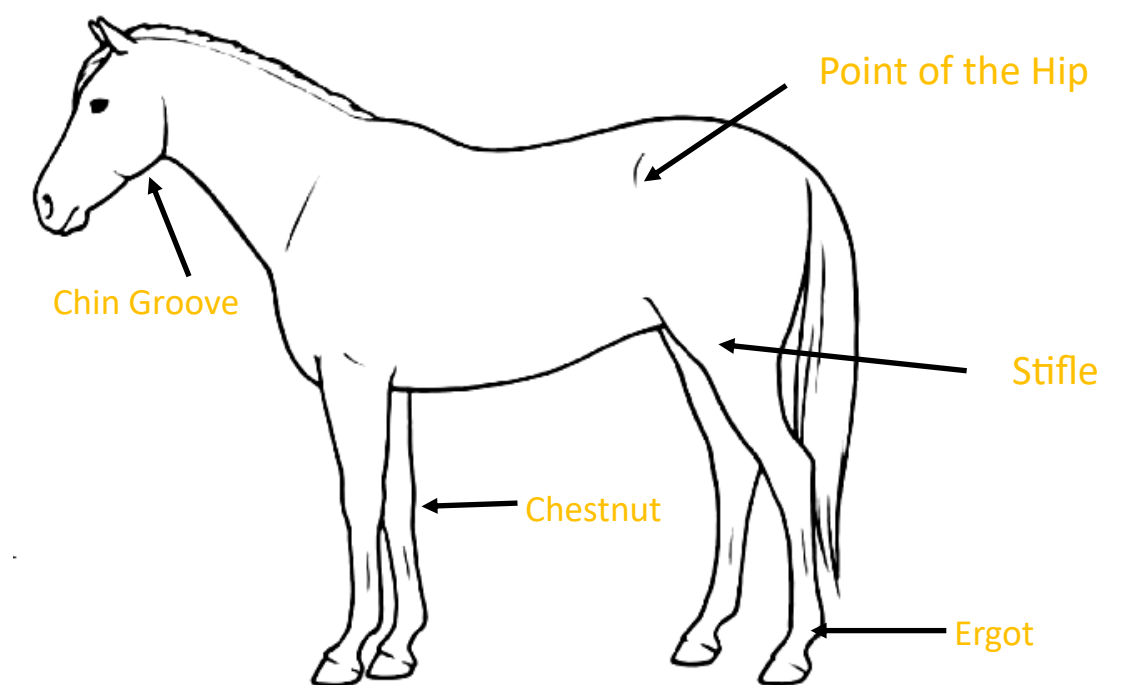


Shavings



Paper

Points of the horse (don't forget those in Grades 1, 2 and 3 too)



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Grooming Tools

Here are some tools you might find in a grooming kit:

For Grade 4, you will need to be able to show that you know what these tools are called, you will also need to know how to groom a stable-kept horse or pony.



Water brush



Stable rubber



Tail bandage

Some key points about about horse and pony behaviour:

- In the wild horses live in family groups of up to 20 horses, this is called a herd.
- Adult horses often rest between 7 and 8 hours a day depending on how busy they have been. Horses are able to sleep standing up or lying down.
- Horses can use facial expressions to show how they are feeling.....
 - ⇒ Holding their head high with their ears pricked shows they are alert and interested.
 - ⇒ Laying their ears back and flared nostrils is a warning to stay away.

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Visiting the Farrier

A farrier is a specialist in equine hoof care, including trimming and fitting shoes on their hooves. Keeping your horse's feet trimmed by the farrier, stops them from becoming overgrown.

Tying up a Horse

Horses must be tied up with a quick release knot.



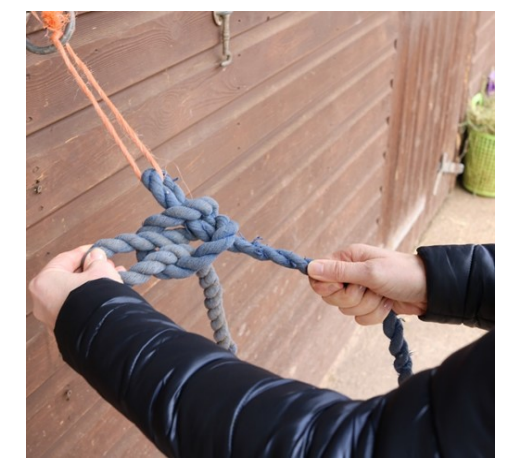
Feed the tail end of the rope through the safety string loop.



Pass the tail end over the rope and around to form a loop.



Fold the tail end and insert the doubled-up end through the loop.



Tighten the knot so that it is snug. To release, simply pull on the rope end.

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Riding skills

You will need to be able to ride on your own in an enclosed space and show control in walk and in trot, trying to use the correct aids.

Ride a figure of eight in trot, trot over poles placed on the ground in the arena in rising trot or using your jumping position.



Caring for your tack and tacking up

It is very important to take care of your horse's tack. Your tack should be cleaned regularly to prevent it from rubbing your horse and also so you can check the stitching for any splits or tears. For this you will need a tack cleaning kit. A basic tack cleaning kit will

include soap,
conditioner and
some sponges.



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Saddle

- A numnah should be used underneath the saddle, this should be placed on the horses back first.
- Next, place the saddle on the horses back, over the withers and then slide it backwards into its natural resting place.
- Next, you must fasten the girth. This is a vital piece of tack that attaches the saddle to the horse and helps to keep it in position.
- Double check girths your girth is tight enough before mounting.

Bridle

- Stand beside the horse's neck and gently put the bit into their mouth while holding the bridle over the horse's nose.
- The bit should sit level in the mouth and have a couple of wrinkles either side.
- Take the top of the bridle and gently push the horse's ears through so the bridle sits behind their ears.
- The next stage is to fasten the throatlash. To check it is at the correct length you should allow for a fist between the horse's throat and the throatlash.