

PONY CLUB



Horse Clothing Mini Achievement Badge Workbook



Objectives To recognize the main types of rugs and boots/bandages. To know how to fasten a rug

- Key points**
- Recognise at least two types of rugs e.g. stable, turnout, and summer sheet
 - Recognise at least two types of exercise boot, e.g. tendon, overreach and travel
 - Recognise a tail bandage
 - Know how to fasten a rug
 - Have knowledge of how to measure a pony to fit a rug

This workbook is an introduction to the subject that it covers. As it is addressed primarily to young children, it is important that the instructor must be prepared to demonstrate the subject practically, and allow the member to practice the skills as frequently as required. It is highly recommended that the parent or the instructor read or explain the contents of the workbook to the child as it cannot be assumed that the child is able to read the information or instructions sufficiently well to achieve understanding.

Name

Branch

Horses wear clothing to keep them warm, to protect them from injuries or sometimes to keep them clean.

Rugs

A **Stable Rug** is used to keep the horse warm when it gets cold at night in winter, or even on cool evenings if the horse has been clipped. A stable rug will consist of an outer layer (which is sometimes waterproof), and an inner layer (made of some kind of blanket material), and will sometimes be padded for extra warmth.



Sometimes when it is not cold enough for a stable rug but the horse needs a little warmth, you can put a **fleece rug** on.



A **Day Sheet** is used to protect the groomed horse against dust and flies.



A thicker, **turnout rug** may be used in winter, especially if the horse is clipped. A rug that a horse will be wearing all day and while active must fit particularly well, to prevent rubbing. It often has additional fittings and leg straps to keep it in place.

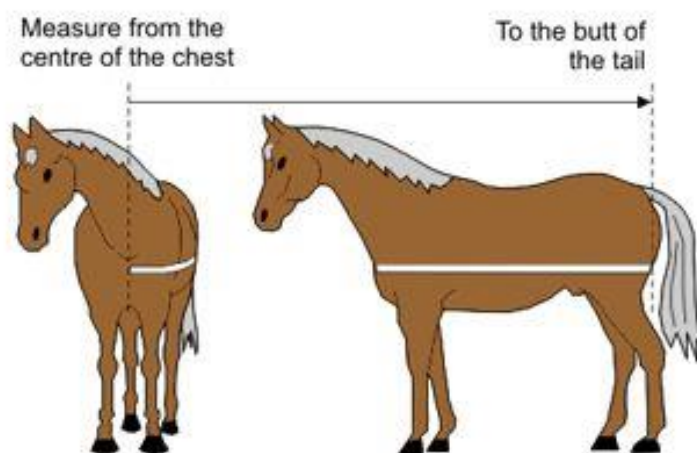


A **Sweat Sheet** is made of mesh fabric and is put on the horse to help it cool down slowly after exercise. The mesh allows the sweat to evaporate, so that the horse or rug do not become and remain wet with sweat.

Fitting a rug

- A rug should be long enough, from front to back, to cover the horse's hindquarters
- It should not be so big that the sides hang down towards the knees, as this could get caught up in their legs
- It should not be too loose. If a rug is too big it can slip and get caught in the horse's legs
- It should also not be too small or it will be tight around the chest and uncomfortable
- It must be full enough to protect the whole belly, not stop halfway up their sides.

You measure the size of rug your pony needs by measuring the length from the horse's chest to the back of its hindquarters.



Do you think the rug below is too big or too small? Why do you think that?



Know how to fasten a rug

Your pony is probably too tall for you to put on the rug yourself, but you should be able to tell your instructor how it should be done.

- The safely folded rug should be placed over the horses back, further towards the front than possibly needed, and then gently opened up and pulled backwards to the correct position
- A horse rug will have a buckle or fastening at the chest, under the tummy and usually at the back. Always start by fastening the buckles at the chest and work backwards
- Most rugs now have a cross-over surcingle (the straps that go under the horse's tummy). The front surcingle strap must attach to the rug at the back, while the back-surcingle strap must attach to the rug at the front, i.e. cross over each other. Check that the surcingle's are not twisted, before they are done up
- If your horse is going to be out all day in their rug, you will need to check on them at least twice during the day to make sure the rug is still on correctly (not tangled up or falling off)

Bandages and Boots

Bandages and boots can be used for protection when exercising and travelling.

BOOT/BANDAGE NAME	WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?	WHAT DOES IT DO?
Tendon Boots		Protect the tendons at the back of the legs, when exercising
Overreach boots		Protect the front feet from being "clipped" by the back hooves
Trucking boots		Protect the legs from any bangs or knocks, when travelling
Tail bandage		Protect the tail from rubbing, when travelling. Tail bandages should not be left on for too long, so not overnight and not on long journeys
Stable Bandage		Helps improve circulation, provide protection and can help warm up wet legs.

What is the difference between a tail bandage and a stable bandage?



- A tail bandage is made from an elastic material and is 7 – 9.5cm wide
- It has thin straps for tying
- They normally come as a single bandage



- A stable bandage is made with a woollen type material 10cm wide and is not very stretchy
- They can have thicker ties, or more often velcro strips for keeping them on
- They normally come as a set of 4 bandages

Test yourself

1. Do you usually put the rug on the horse from the left-hand side or the right-hand side of the pony?
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2. Name these two different types of rugs



3. What type of boot is this?



4. Give 2 reasons why we put "clothes" on horses?
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5. Ask your instructor to show you some stable rugs, sweat sheets, etc. They may have buckles, clips, or keyhole fastenings on them. See if you can do up the various fasteners. Practice until it is easy for you.