

PONY CLUB



Mucking Out Mini Achievement Badge Workbook



Key points

- To recognize and use manure scoops/skips/rubber gloves/yard brushes/wheelbarrows
- To be able to skip out a stable safely when a pony is tied up
- Assist with sweeping the stable yard and correct storage of tools
- Assist with picking up droppings from paddocks as part of a grassland management regime

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

Why do we muck out stables?

- To clean up droppings and wet areas
- To prevent the spread or possibility of worms
- To make it neat and clean and comfortable for the horse
- To make sure our horses have clean water and food

What tools do we need?



A shovel or a spade



Manure fork & skip



Yard brush / broom



Rubber gloves



Wheel barrow



Empty feed sack

How do we do it?

Mucking out stables is a big job, so it seems to go much better if you work together with your friends, and an adult or two who can help you with the heavy lifting. These are the steps you have to follow. Assist your instructor as much as you can. Don't forget to wear sturdy shoes or boots. I wouldn't want to step in horse droppings with slip-slops on, would you?

1. Most South African horses and ponies are let out into the paddock for a part of the day, and the stable is cleaned while they are out. But if they are in the stable when you clean, it would be best to first **tie the horse up**, using a halter and lead rope on a quick release knot. You should train your horse to 'move over' when you ask, so that you can clean around them. Be careful not to try and work behind them, in case you get kicked, but move your pony from side to side as you work. *Remember to wear a hard hat*



2. Remove the water bucket, feed bucket and teff net from the stable

3. Put on your gloves, and perhaps a face mask for the dust, and then pick up all the droppings using a manure scoop, fork and skip or spade. Put the droppings and damp bedding into a wheelbarrow or sack as you go along. Once the wheelbarrow is full, or you have removed all the droppings, take the wheelbarrow to the manure heap and empty it out there. The manure heap should not be too close to the stables, otherwise there will be lots of flies. You may need to ask an adult to push the wheelbarrow for you, as it can be heavy. With a spade, move all the sawdust into a corner. (This is a great way to get all the stray droppings as they will fall to the bottom of the pile)



4. Use the yard broom to sweep the bare floor and allow the floor to dry

5. Clean out the water bucket and the food bucket, and leave both out to dry

6. Fill up the teff net for your pony - you may have to empty it first of any 'not so nice' bits that have been left in the bag

7. When the floor is dry, put all the bedding back in place, making a nice thick layer of shavings big enough for your pony to lie on. You may need to add an extra bag of shavings or whichever bedding material you are using, if the layer starts to look a bit thin

8. Replace the clean water bucket in the stable, and fill it with clean, fresh water. Hang up the filled teff net

9. If you cleaned with your pony tied in the stable, you can now release the safety knot, and perhaps take off the halter, so that they can move freely in the stable again

10. Clean up the yard, clean your tools and put them away



Storing your tools

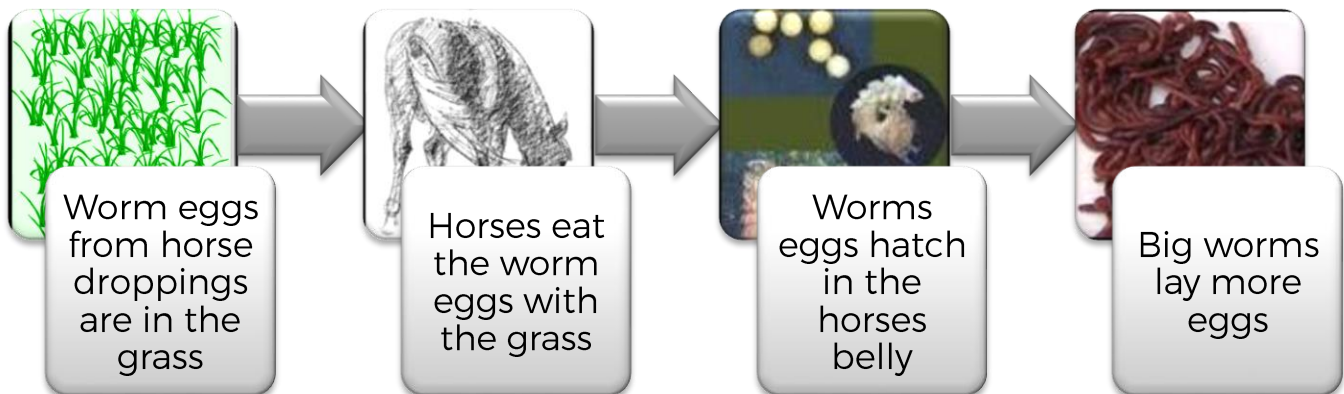
- Wash the tools you have used before packing them away
- Don't leave them out in front of your stable – your pony could step on them
- Make sure the “teeth” on your rake are put away in a safe way



Why do we need to pick up droppings in paddocks?

This is a task that you should do every day.

1. Droppings in the paddocks could become smelly
2. If it has been raining, the ground where they are lying could become slimy and slippery
3. The good grass does not grow where the ground is covered with piles of droppings. Weeds do grow! The result is that the grass in the paddock becomes more and more sparse, and the weeds take over, until your paddock is no longer good grazing for your horse. Picking up the droppings regularly keeps the paddock grass sweet for longer
4. Even if there is grass in the paddock, your pony will avoid those patches of grass that are too close to the smelly droppings, until they have no other option but to eat it (and in doing so, may also eat some of the droppings)
5. Most important of all, droppings lying around can cause your pony to have problems with worms, which are very bad for their health. Have a look at the diagram below, and ask your instructor to explain it carefully. By picking up droppings, you can stop the cycle!



Test yourself

1. Name the mucking out tools below



2. Name 3 things that this member has forgotten to do before mucking out the stable. Colour in the picture

