



PONY CLUB



ACHIEVEMENT BADGES

GROOMING

Advanced Achievement Badge

Learning Objectives

Better understanding of why and how to groom and which items of grooming kit are suitable for some horses and ponies.

Syllabus

- 1 Explain the benefits of grooming.
- 2 Grooming v bathing
- 3 Describe what articles of grooming kit are desirable.
- 4 Recognise that different types/breeds of horses may require different brushes.
- 5 Describe the correct order of grooming – know why there is this order
- 6 Demonstrate the correct way to use a body brush and curry comb
- 7 Explain what you might be looking for when using the sponges for eyes, nose, and dock.
- 8 Understand that overuse of coat shiner/detangler is detrimental to the horse/pony.

Teaching Ideas and Resources

- 1 Each member to write down all the benefit points of grooming that they can think of. Swap with their neighbour, add any points they might have missed. Read out and discuss different points.
- 2 How many times do members bath / shower – why is this not suitable for grass kept ponies. Explain about the natural oils in a horse's coat. Have fun bathing a horse/pony with the class.
- 3 Reiterate basic grooming kit, then ask what extra items any member may require. Ask them to explain to class why they want this item.
- 4 Discuss what grooming items may be needed for individual horse/

ponies, ie. cobs dandy brushes, TBs only body brushes in summer etc. Ask members to talk about an individual horse/pony, which brushes does that horse/pony require.

- 5** Hoof pick, rubber/plastic curry comb, dandy brush, body brush, (head, mane, body, tail), sponges, stable rubber. This has evolved to remove the worst/heaviest dirt first, so a clean part of the horse is not covered in dirt from another part.
- 6** Demonstrate how to use a body brush correctly, curry comb to be used away from hand/wrist to prevent scratching wrist. Members to practise, ensure both hands are used.
- 7** Demonstrate how to clean eyes nose dock. Under supervision members to practise on different ponies/horses. Check ponies/horses' eyes not sore or running, no discharge from nose, salmon pink mucous membranes, dock appearing normal.
- 8** Overuse of spray/lotion on horses' coats will prevent sweating and is potentially dangerous in hot weather. Each member to suggest an appropriate time when use of a lotion/spray on coat, mane. Ask members to relate if they have ever used too much spray and what happened.

Recommended Reading

14th Edition The Pony Club Manual

Questions

- 1** What are the benefits of grooming?
- 2** Why should washing the grass kept pony only be used infrequently?
- 3** What items of grooming kit would you require for a pony/horse that you have groomed. Why have you chosen these items?
- 4** What brush would you use on a 11.2 hh pony living out, on a 14hh on a combined system, on a TB. Horse living mostly in the stable?
- 5** List the correct order of grooming.
- 6** What are you looking for when you sponge the eyes, nose and dock?
- 7** Why should a detangler/conditioning lotion be used sparingly.
- 8** Show how to groom a complete pony/horse effectively.

Answers

- 1** To promote circulation, to allow a full check on the ponies/horse's body, to prevent sores when ridden, to improve appearance.

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- 2** To allow natural oils to build up as a barrier to protect the skin & help retain body temperature.
- 3** Any reasonable answers.
- 4** Pony: Curry combs and dandy brush
14hh: Most of the grooming kit
TB: Probably not a plastic curry comb or dandy brush.
- 5** Hoof pick, rubber/plastic curry comb, dandy brush, body brush, (head, mane, body, tail), sponges, stable rubber.
- 6** Ponies/horses eyes not sore or running, no discharge from nose, salmon pink mucous membranes, dock appearing normal.
- 7** Overuse can inhibit sweating, can make the tack slippery and difficult to hold. Causes long hair to become brittle and break off.
- 8** Members to groom a horse or pony.