



## MUCKING OUT

### Advanced Achievement Badge

#### Learning Objectives

To be able to muck out, keep a stable area clean and tidy and talk about the effect of dust on condition.

#### Syllabus

- 1 Know why the stable and work area should be kept clean and tidy.
- 2 Be able to demonstrate mucking out a stable.
- 3 Know the difference between mucking out and deep litter.
- 4 Be able to talk about the ad/disadvantages of the bedding used by a horse/pony they have ridden.
- 5 Understand that it is rarely good for a horse/pony to be stabled 24/7.
- 6 Know that breathing difficulties from dust in stables can cause poor condition and steps to take to alleviate this problem.

#### Teaching Ideas and Resources

- 1 Ask members to make a list together of all the things that could be a trip hazard in the stable area. Add to the list items which make the area less clean, (broken buckets, mostly empty feed bags etc.) Ask if all these things make an area safe or clean or easier to work in?
- 2 Demonstrate mucking out a stable well, showing how the middle of the floor and the walls can be kept clean. Allow members to practise using the forks with the bedding used. Discuss why all areas are cleaned and how this might go into a daily or weekly plan.
- 3 Explain the difference then ask each member which method would suit them and why. This should highlight that neither is right or wrong but depends on circumstances.
- 4 Straw might look better and be cheaper, shavings have less dust

but are more expensive, variations of modern bedding are more absorbent or are less dusty but can be more expensive.

- 5 As a group make two spider charts. The first for a horse/pony that is stabled 24/7, what are the disadvantages, the next for a horse/pony that is turned out for day, what are the advantages, the results should highlight why turnout is good for most animals.
- 6 Dust in bedding often makes horses/ponies cough, this will affect their breathing, creating an asthma like effect, subsequently this will affect their working ability and condition. Discuss how to reduce dust, have any members encountered ponies/horses that have coughed? What steps were taken to reduce the problem. Ensure more turn out is highlighted.

## Recommended Reading

14th Edition The Pony Club Manual P53, 56, 57, 163

## Questions

- 1 Why should a stable area be kept clean and tidy?
- 2 Show how to muck out a stable.
- 3 What is the difference between daily mucking out and deep litter?
- 4 What are the advantages of one type of bedding they have seen used?
- 5 Why is it usually bad for a pony/horse to be stabled 24/7.
- 6 What problems can dust in stables cause?

## Answers

- 1 It is safer to work in an area that has no trip hazards. Clean stables and areas have less vermin and will contribute to a healthy pony/horse.
- 2 Ideally a whole stable should be mucked out well. If there are not sufficient stables members should be able to use a fork and brush effectively and know where to position a barrow.
- 3 With daily mucking out all the wet bedding and droppings are removed, with deep litter only the droppings are removed and dry bedding placed on top of the wet when required.
- 4 Any reasonable answer.
- 5 Unnatural lifestyle not being able to walk around. Possible behaviour problems due to insufficient exercise. Lack of fresh air.
- 6 Coughing, reduced work capacity and loss of condition.