



YARD SAFETY

Advanced Achievement Badge

Learning Objectives

To become more aware of external influences that upset horse/ponies.
How to be safer on the yard.

Syllabus

- 1 Describe moments when a horse/pony on the yard may become upset and more difficult to handle.
- 2 Recognize how horse/ponies behave in hot, wet, cold, windy weather that makes them more unreliable to handle.
- 3 What precautions should be taken to make the yard safer in frosty conditions.
- 4 Know the safety measures to take when leading out a fresh horse or pony.
- 5 Understanding the role and positioning when assisting the vet, farrier or friend washing a wound.
- 6 Understand that taking short cuts when handling horses/ponies increases the chance of an accident.
- 7 What could be reorganised in the yard to make the yard safer?
- 8 Understand that you are responsible for your own safety.

Teaching Ideas and Resources

- 1 On a big sheet of paper collect ideas of what might upset a pony on the yard. (Lorries, sudden noises, new horse arriving etc.) Ask the members to write down on the list what the pony's reactions are to the lorries etc.
- 2 Ask the members to pretend that they are ponies being led across the yard, and then in their stables. The members are to act out how the ponies might behave in the different weathers.

- 3** Establish the members know that frost makes the yard slippery. Which surfaces are most slippery? Each member to write a precaution on a piece of paper, put all suggestions in a hat, draw the suggestions out a random to be discussed by the group.
- 4** Leader to wear hat, gloves, hair tied back, and coat zipped up. Horse/pony to wear a bridle for extra control, friend to operate the doors. Check yard is quiet at the chosen time and the gates are closed.

Exchange stories where problems have arisen, would they have been avoided by above suggestions?

Explain the benefits of maintaining calm & quiet energy levels of the handler.
- 5** Position of assistant must always be on the same side as the professional.

Discuss why this is important and what options does it give the pony/horse. Using a quiet hose or pony show what happens if the assistant pulls on the headcollar from the opposite side to the vet, farrier or friend.
- 6** Exchange stories of when taking a short cut has led to a problem on the yard. Ask members for one short cut each, (ie not tying up horse/pony to groom), and then to describe the problems that can arise from this. (members being bitten, knocked over, rope burns, trodden on, knocked against wall etc).
- 7** Walk around the yard, each member to make a list of what could make the yard safer. (Doors latched, reposition barrows, new tying up string, stable doors that open and shut easily, yard to be gated, veterinary cupboard locked etc.) Discuss findings.
- 8** No one starts a day saying they will have an accident. It is so often the result of poor practise and not being aware. Ask each member what they will do differently having studied this badge to improve their own safety.

Be aware of Health & Safety rules for individual yards.

Recommended Reading

14th Edition The Pony Club Manual P140 clothing

Questions

- 1** What might upset a horse/pony on the yard.
- 2** What do horses/ponies do hot weather to make them unreliable to handle, what do they do in cold weather?

- 3** What precautions can be used to make a yard safer in frosty conditions?
- 4** What safety measures should be taken when leading out a fresh horse or pony?
How should the handler react?
- 5** What are safety measures to be followed when assisting a person dealing with a horse/pony.
- 6** What short cut have they seen others doing that could lead to an accident?
- 7** What would they like to see changed to make the yard they work on safer?
- 8** What changes will this member make in the way they work in the yard to improve their own safety.

Answers

- 1** A new horse on the yard, being left alone in the yard, a lorry/tractor, dogs, children, loud noises, being last to be fed etc.
- 2** In hot weather kick out at flies, swing their heads about. In cold weather move quickly, perhaps erratically and are more likely to jump.
- 3** Not emptying buckets onto the yard, all taps turned off. Salt or sand or dirty bedding to be put down on paths for people and animals. No horses/ponies to be tied up outside.
- 4** Leader to wear hat, gloves, hair tied back, and coat zipped up. Horse/pony to wear a bridle for extra control, friend to operate the doors. Check yard is quiet at the chosen time and the gates are closed.
By staying calm and quiet with low energy
- 5** Position yourself on the same side of the horse/pony, ideally close to the door. Wear the necessary PPE.
- 6** Any short cut suggested
- 7** Any reasonable suggestion.
- 8** Any reasonable suggestion.