

# Mini Achievement Badges

## Basic Needs of Ponies, Summer and Winter

### Syllabus

#### Learning Objectives

To know what ponies need to live and be comfortable in summer and winter.

#### Syllabus

- 1 Understand when ponies need water?
- 2 Know how to give water in the field?
- 3 Understand when shelter is needed?  
How can ponies shelter?
- 4 Understand grass growth is not the same winter and summer.
- 5 Know how and when to give hay in the field?
- 6 Know what daily checks to make on a pony in the field.

#### Teaching Ideas and Resources

- 1 Ask each member when they like to drink. Most will want to drink at different times, so ask them how they feel if they are not allowed a drink when they want it. Explain that ponies cannot tell us when they want a drink, so they should always have water available.
- 2 Draw the different methods of administering water.
- 3 Down one side of a piece paper draw various types of shelter, down the other list rain, flies snow etc and ask members to draw a line to show where the pony could stand when raining etc.
- 4 Go to a field and talk about grass growth. Draw a picture of a family member mowing the lawn in summer. If winter discuss mud and lack of grass.

- 5** Establish most ponies do not need hay except in deepest winter. Put pieces of apple on plates around the room, space them out well, have one more plate than members, show how there is always a free plate even if someone keeps moving to another plate. This way a shy pony can always feed even if the bully pony keeps moving the shy pony onto another plate, i.e. a pile of hay in the field.
- 6** Make a list of what to check when visiting your pony.

## Recommended Reading

14th Edition The Pony Club Manual: watering p. 69, 70, shelter p. 68, grass p. 61, daily checks p. 59, giving hay p.62

## Questions

- 1** Give a picture including sun, rain, snow, frost etc. Ask members if they can tell if their pony wants a drink? Ask members how often ponies might like to drink in different weather.
- 2** Put in order which needs checking most often, bucket, trough or stream?
- 3** Name three types of shelter.
- 4** Look at a field and ask if members think the grass is long or short.
- 5** Ask if there are three ponies in a field how many piles of hay would be needed?
- 6** Ask members to make a list reporting what they have checked on their/a pony in the field that day.

## Answers

- 1** Answer should include that water should always be available and ponies probably drink more in hot weather.
- 2** Bucket, trough and stream.
- 3** Trees, hedges, walls, shelters, sometimes undulating pasture.
- 4** Answers will vary depending on the time of year and the amount grass has been grazed.
- 5** A minimum of four.
- 6** List must include water, that shelter is still available and grass sufficient or hay given.