

Mini Achievement Badges

Pony Health

Syllabus

What You Will Learn

To know if your pony has signs of good health.

Syllabus

- 1 Understand basic signs of good health in a pony
 - ▶ Eyes - open and not running
 - ▶ Ears - pricked
 - ▶ Nose - not running
 - ▶ Coat - shiny
 - ▶ Not too fat or too thin
- 2 Legs - Standing happily on all four legs, or resting a hind leg
- 3 Feet - not smelling
- 4 No cuts or big swellings
- 5 If turned out with others, standing happily in a group
- 6 Know that the basic needs to keep a pony healthy are, water, grass or hay and shelter

Teaching Ideas and Resources

- 1 Look at a pony in and talk about good health.
Talk about the eyes, ears, nose and coat and whether the pony is too fat or thin.
Repeat, if possible, with different ponies.
If no ponies available use photos or pictures from magazines to illustrate.
- 2 Kneel on hands and knees to illustrate standing on all four feet. Imagine you are a pony. Rest a hind leg to show a natural position, then point a front leg or hold up a back leg to show the pony is in pain.

- 3** Allow members to smell an old Camembert cheese to understand smelly feet. Tell members why ponies should not have smelly feet.
- 4** On a pale coloured pony, draw in lip stick or red food colouring, cuts on the legs and body. Draw out which may need attention. Find a pony with swellings, allow members to feel these swellings or show photos of swellings, talk about unimportant swellings, (windgalls), and important probably hot, big swellings.
- 5** Ponies need freedom, friends, and forage. Ask members how they would be feeling if they were standing alone in a corner with all their friends the other end of the room. Draw out feeling unwell.
- 6** Grass and hay are forage. Draw different types of shelters and ask what they shelter the pony from. Draw different types of water containers.

Recommended Reading

14th Edition The Pony Club Manual: p118

Questions

- 1** Name five signs of good health.
- 2** Which leg might a healthy pony rest?
- 3** Does it matter if your pony has smelly feet?
- 4** Where do you look to see if your pony has a cut or big swelling?
- 5** What might you suspect if a pony was standing away from his friends?
- 6** What does a pony need to stay healthy?

Answers

- 1** To include ears, eyes, nose, coat, standing on all four feet, feet not smelling, no cuts or big swellings, standing happily in a group.
- 2** Either hind leg.
- 3** Yes.
- 4** On the legs all the way up to the body.
- 5** That the pony is not feeling very well.
- 6** Water, grass and hay and shelter.