

Mini Achievement Badges

Rider Safety

Syllabus

What You Will Learn

What it is safe to wear around ponies, where it is safe to walk around ponies, how close it is safe to ride to the pony in front.

Syllabus

1 Know what is safe to wear around ponies.

- ▶ Hats
- ▶ Hair
- ▶ Footwear

Know what is unsafe to wear around ponies.

- ▶ Old substandard hats
- ▶ Loose hair
- ▶ Jewellery
- ▶ Wellies/shoes

2 Know where it is safe to walk around ponies.

3 Know what to wear when riding ponies.

4 Know to keep a safe distance from the pony in front. Know what to do if you get too close.

Teaching Ideas and Resources

1 Hats: have several hats and help the class choose which and why one hat is safe for them.

Ask girls with long hair to shake their hair over their eyes. Throw them a ball, some of them won't see the ball and will miss the ball, explain that when something

goes wrong with ponies it always happens fast, so like the ball they may not see the problem coming.

Ask class to wear boots and to bring trainers or wellies. Drop a bag of sugar on their feet, the boots will protect the feet, but they will feel the weight of the sugar much more with trainers and wellies. Point out that ponies weigh much more than sugar. Explain that earrings may catch in something. Squashed rings squash the finger inside and are then difficult to remove. Necklaces can cause a nasty line bruise or cut if they are pulled off.

- 2** Tie a quiet pony in a safe place in the yard. With flour make a line on the ground that would be unsafe to walk so close to the pony. With dry porridge make another line further out to show where it is safe to walk around the pony. Repeat in a different place, coach to place the first line, class members to decide where they should place the safe line.
- 3** Body Protectors: Have several of different sizes, allow class to try on and discuss which one is safe for each member, and why.
- 4** Teach that a safe distance is one pony's length from the pony in front. Play a game where the rider's turn across the school as soon as they see the top of the tail of the pony in front. The next rider closes up until they can see the top of the tail in front, then they too turn away. This can also be done on the leading rein.

Recommended Reading

14th Edition The Pony Club Manual p. 141

Questions

- 1** Have a pile of clothing, ask members to select what is suitable to wear around ponies. Ask everyone what they do with their hair around ponies.
- 2** Tie a pony up, ask member to demonstrate how far away from the pony should be safe to walk around it.
- 3** What clothing should you ride in to be safe.
- 4** When riding, what is a safe distance from the pony in front of you? What do you do if you get too close?

Answers

- 1** Selection should include hat, ask about fitting, stout boots.
Members with long hair should say their hair should be tied back or in a hair net.
- 2** Watch for the safe distance but about two metres.
- 3** Hat, boots and often body protectors.
- 4** Far enough away so you can see the top of the tail of the pony in front.
Turn away if riding in an arena, slow down if riding on a road or track.