

# Mini Achievement Badges

## Tack Cleaning

### Syllabus

#### What You Will Learn

Know why you should clean tack, the tack cleaning equipment needed and how to wash a bit and brush a girth.

#### Syllabus

- 1 Understand the reasons why you must clean tack
- 2 Know the equipment needed to clean tack
- 3 Show how to clean bits
- 4 Know how to clean girths
- 5 Explain how to clean numnahs or saddle cloths

#### Teaching Ideas and Resources

- 1 Do a tack cleaning demo, explaining that clean tack breaks less often, and is much less likely to rub a pony's skin.  
Allow members to saddle soap a clean, supple piece of tack, ask if it feels different from the tack they are used to handling?
- 2 Look at all different equipment needed, a bucket of warm water, two sponges, one for washing, one for soaping, some form of saddle soap or leather conditioner, a small towel for drying bits and stirrups.
- 3 Bits to be washed in clean water after every use.  
Members to wash bits and dry just the rings.
- 4 Explain girths must be cleaned or brushed after every ride. All members to brush or scrub a girth.
- 5 Understand when a saddle cloth or numnah should be washed. Look at several numnahs, members to decide which ones need washing. Explain that washing machine bio detergents should not be used.

## Recommended Reading

14th Edition The Pony Club Manual p. 292 - 294

### Questions

- 1** Why should you clean tack?
- 2** What equipment do you need to clean tack?
- 3** Please wash this bit, which parts do you have to wash carefully?
- 4** Show which parts of the girth are likely to be dirty, how can it be cleaned?
- 5** Chose between two numnahs/saddle cloths whether on or both need washing.

### Answers

- 1** To keep it supple and to prevent dirt rubbing the pony.
- 2** A bucket of warm water, two sponges, saddle soap or leather conditioner, a small towel.
- 3** Bit washed clean in clean water, the bit around the rings cleaned carefully, the bit rings dried.
- 4** The edges of the girth can be dirty, the part under the sternum, and it may be muddy on the outside. If possible either wash or brush a girth clean.
- 5** Correct decision is made whether one or both numnahs need washing.