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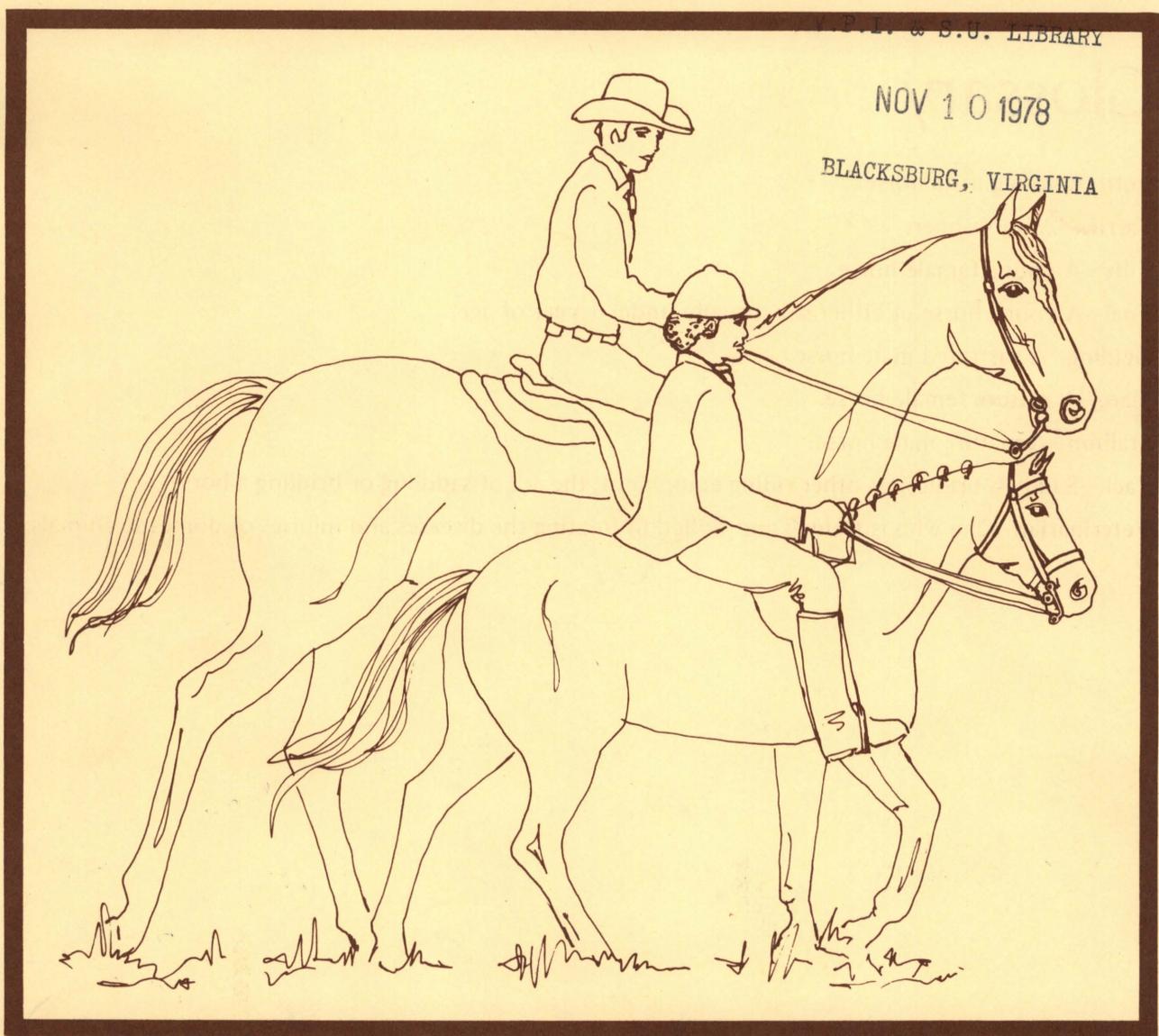
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Virginia 4-H Horse Project Horses Are Fun

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Extension Division · Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

Reprinted August 1976

Name _____ Age _____ Club Year _____

Address _____ County _____

Name of Club _____ Years in 4-H _____

Name of Leader _____ Record Book 105

This project is for all 4-H Club members. Owning or having access to a horse is not a requirement and members may enroll for, and complete work on, this project as many times as they wish.

Glossary

Colt—A young male horse.

Farrier—A horseshoer.

Filly—A young female horse.

Foal—A young horse of either sex, usually under 1 year of age.

Gelding—A castrated male horse.

Mare—A mature female horse.

Stallion—A mature male horse.

Tack—Saddles, bridles, or other riding equipment; the act of saddling or bridling a horse.

Veterinarian—One who is trained and skilled in treating the diseases and injuries of domestic animals.

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Horses Are Fun

Prepared by

Arden N. Huff, Extension Specialist, Animal Science

Project Requirements

To complete this project, you must:

- participate in the 4-H Club program
- complete the topics covered in this project book
- complete nine of the following activities:

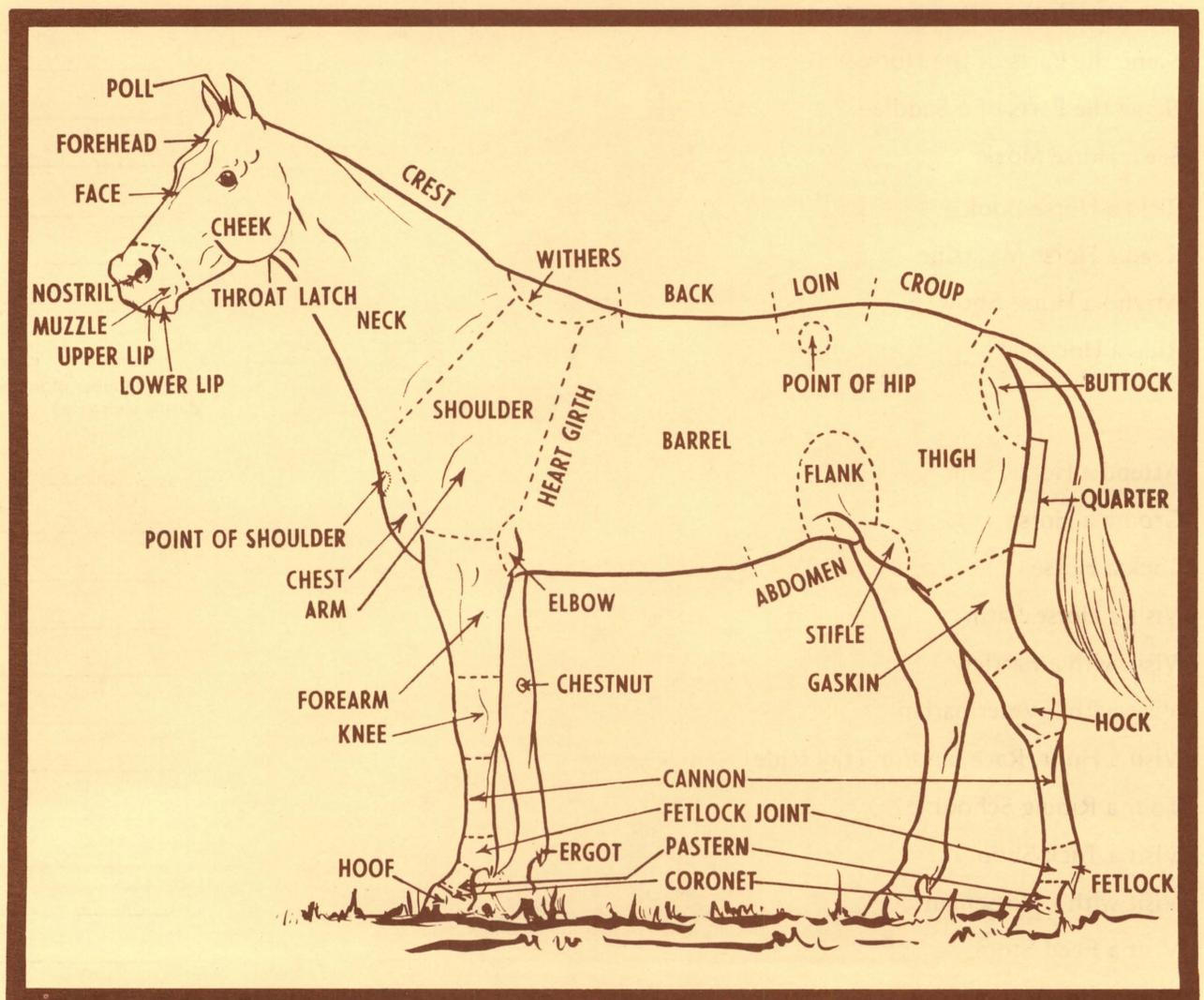
Activity	Date Completed
Give One Talk or Demonstration	_____
Name the Parts of the Horse	_____
Name the Parts of a Saddle	_____
See a Horse Movie	_____
Read a Horse Book	_____
Read a Horse Magazine	_____
Attend a Horse Show	_____
Ride a Horse	_____
	(Total number of hours during club year)
Attend a Horse Sale	_____
Groom a Horse	_____
Tack a Horse	_____
Visit a Horse Farm	_____
Visit with a Farrier	_____
Visit with a Veterinarian	_____
Visit a Hunt, Race, and/or Trail Ride	_____
Tour a Riding School	_____
Visit a Tack Shop	_____
Visit with a Horseman	_____
Visit a Feed Store	_____
Others (List)	_____

Meet the Horse

The horse is a large, athletic animal. Today, man keeps the horse primarily for sport and pleasure. The horse is not a pet, but is a useful animal with a combination of speed and endurance that makes him one of the best and noblest of animals. The horse has a long history of partnership with man. It has been used for:

- Food—Milk, Meat (Our society today does not generally accept this use.)
- Work—Plowing, Hauling, Cattle Handling
- Transportation—Riding, Pulling
- War—Carrying Soldiers, Arms
- Sport—Racing, Hunting
- Pleasure—Riding, Showing
- Business—Major Agricultural Industry

Parts of the Horse



Coat Colors of the Horse

(Use a horse book for reference to describe the following coat colors.) (You may clip color pictures from magazines and attach them to this page.)

Bay _____

Chestnut _____

Grey _____

Brown _____

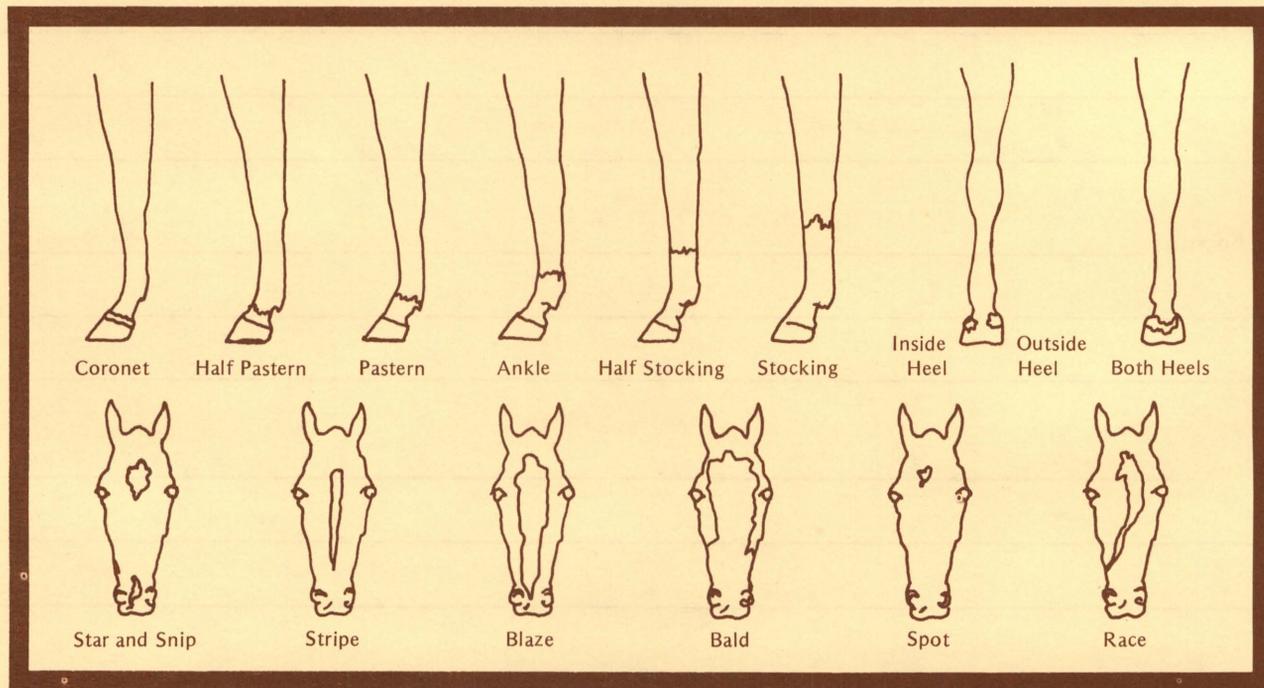
Black _____

Palomino _____

Appaloosa _____

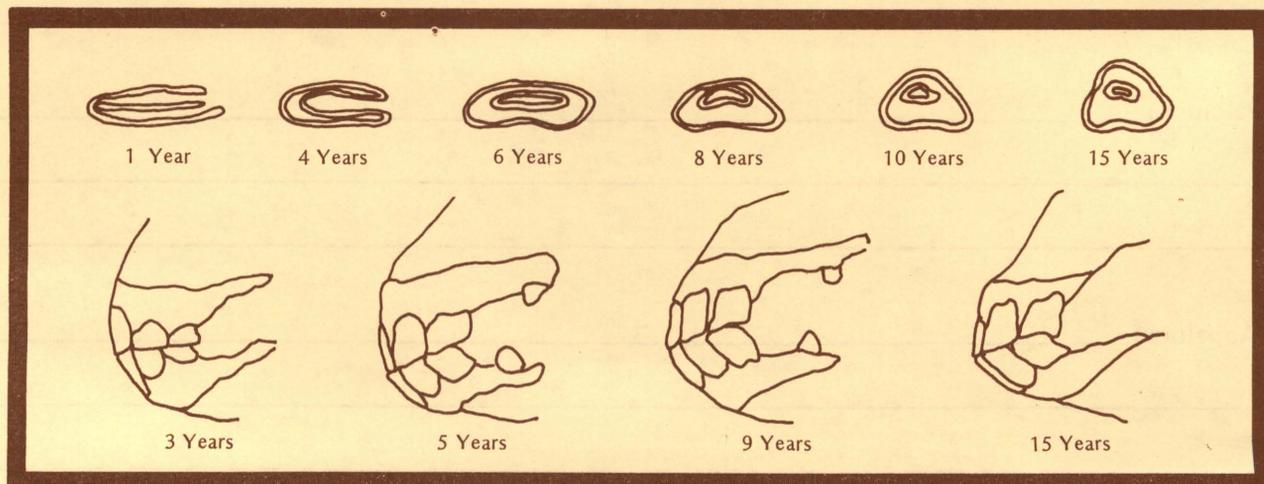
Markings of the Horse

When discussing a specific horse, it may be necessary to distinguish it from others by something less general than its overall coat color. Usually, any distinctive coloration appears on the face and/or the legs. Instead of saying simply "the bay," it may be necessary to say "the bay with the star," or "the bay with the stocking forefoot."



Age Determination of the Horse

By the time a young horse is 16 to 18 months old, it has developed a full set of temporary or milk teeth which are smallish and white, with distinct necks. Generally, by the time the horse is 2½ years old, it begins to lose these teeth and grow permanent ones which are much larger, stronger, and darker in color. This process is slow, usually spanning the period during which the horse grows from 2½ to 5 years old. It is during this period that age determination of a horse can be most accurate.

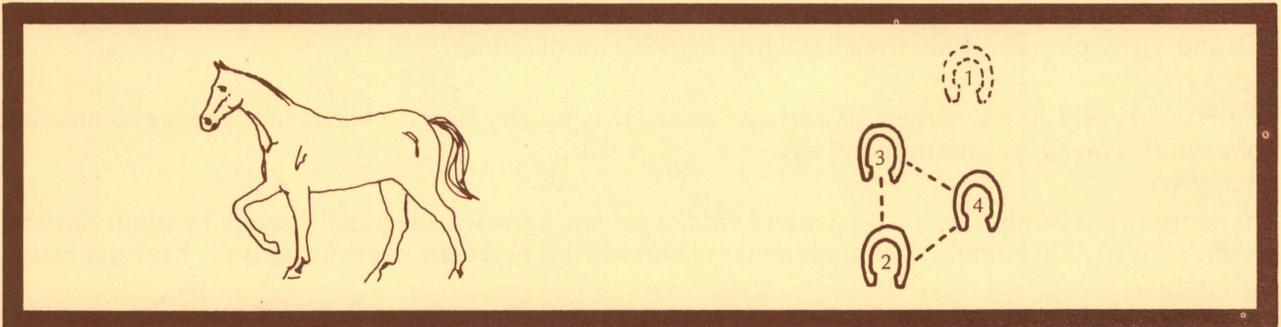


Gaits of the Horse

A gait is a manner of walking, running, or moving. The three natural gaits of any horse except the Tennessee walking horse are the walk, trot, and canter. The natural gaits of the Tennessee walker are the walk, the running walk, and the canter. Two other gaits—the slow gait and the rack—are artificial and must be learned by the horse.

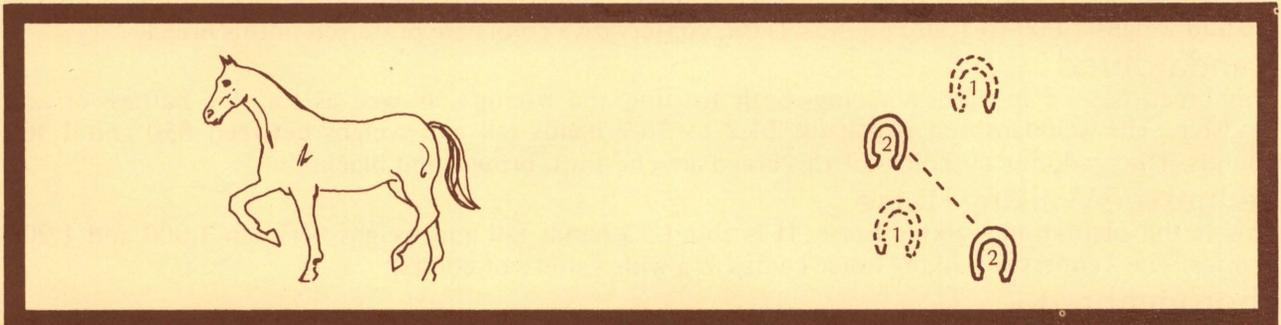
Walk

The walk is four-beat gait with the feet striking the ground in the following order: right front, left rear, left front, right rear. The feet should be lifted from the ground and placed down flatfooted.



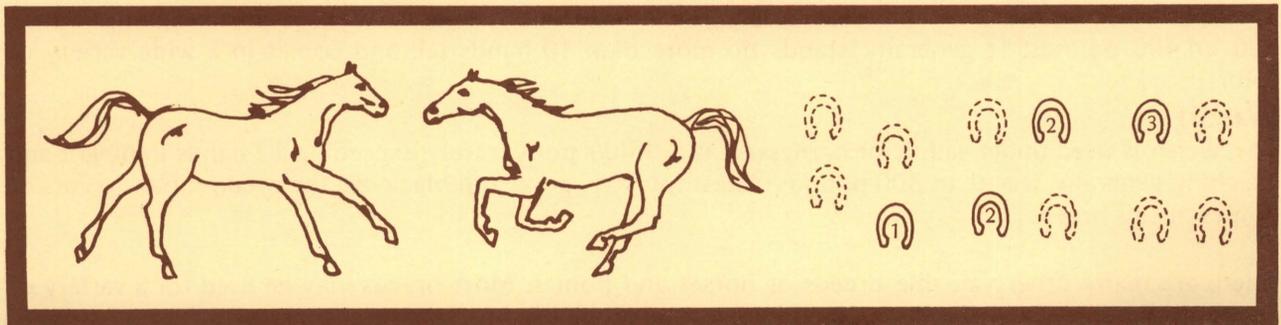
Trot

The trot is a two-beat gait in which the left front and right rear feet and the right front and left rear feet strike the ground together. The horse's body remains in perfect balance. The trot should be balanced and springy.



Canter

The canter is a three-beat gait that should be slow. The canter is actually a restrained gallop in which the horse may lead with either of his front feet. The lead foot will be the first to leave and the last to strike the ground. When a horse leads with his left foot, the feet will strike the ground in the following order: Right rear, left rear and right front, left front.



Breeds of Horses and Their Characteristics

American Saddle Horse

This breed produces either three- or five-gaited saddlers for either show or the bridle path. The breed originated in Kentucky. The American saddle horse weighs about 1,000 pounds. The preferred colors of this breed of horse are chestnut or sorrel with white points.

Arabian

This breed of horse is used as a parade, stock, or saddle horse. The Arabian is 14 to 15 hands tall and weighs 900 to 1,000 pounds.

Appaloosa

The Appaloosa is used as a parade and stock horse. It is usually about 15 hands tall and weigh between 950 and 1,100 pounds. It has irregular white marking on the rump.

Hackney

The Hackney is a heavy harness or carriage horse. It is usually over 15 hands tall. The predominating colors in this breed are chestnut and bay.

Morgan

The Morgan is a combination roadster and saddler, or stock horse. It is usually about 15 hands tall and weighs about 1,000 pounds. The predominant colors in this breed are chestnut, brown, bay, and black.

Palomino

The palomino is a parade and stock horse. The chief asset of this breed has been the characteristic golden coat color, although this may occur in other breeds.

Pinto

The pinto is a parade and stock horse.

Quarter Horse

The Quarter horse is used in quarter racing and as a stock horse. The breed originated in the United States. The Quarter horse is heavily muscled and has a quite temperament. It is usually about 15 hands tall and weighs 1,000 to 1,300 pounds. Dark, conservative colors are preferred in this breed.

Standardbred

This breed is used in harness racing—both trotting and pacing— as well as for fine harness or as a roadster. The standardbred is usually 14-2 to 16-2 hands tall and weighs between 850 and 1,300 pounds. The predominant colors of this breed are chestnut, brown, and black.

Tennessee Walking Horse

This is the plantation walking horse. It is about 15 hands tall and weighs between 1,000 and 1,200 pounds. The Tennessee walking horse comes in a wide variety of colors.

Thoroughbred

The Thoroughbred is used under saddle—for both flat and steeplechase racing—as well as for hunting, polo, and pleasure purposes. It is 15 to 16 hands tall and weighs 1,000 to 1,200 pounds. It is usually bay or chestnut with white markings.

Breeds of Ponies and Their Characteristics

Shetland

The Shetland is used under saddle or harness. It is a child's pony and usually does not weigh more than 300 or 400 pounds. It generally stands no more than 10 hands tall and comes in a wide variety of colors.

Welsh

The Welsh is used under saddle or harness. It is a child's pony, rarely exceeding 12 hands in height and weighing generally less than 500 pounds. Chestnut, bay, grey, and black are the predominant colors of ponies of this breed.

There are many other valuable breeds of horses and ponies. Most breeds may be used for a variety of purposes. Purebred, crossbred, and grade horses can all be used for pleasure, sport, and fun.

Needs of the Horse

Food

The horse needs food. The proper kind and balance of food is important. Basic foods include grass and hay, plus some grains such as oats, corn, and protein supplements.

Water

The horse needs gallons of fresh water each day. After work, hot horses should be cool and dry before they are fed or watered.

Housing

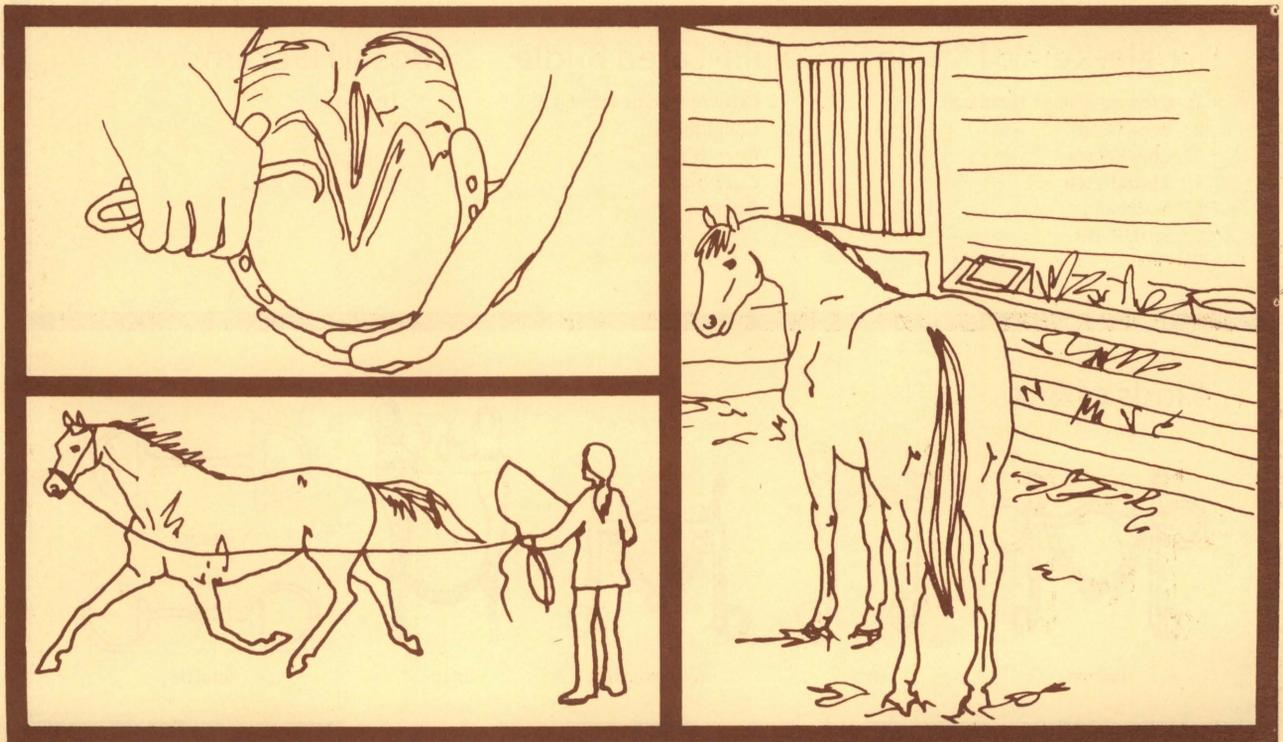
The horse is an outdoor animal, but he may need shelter from rain and bad weather. Horse stalls if used daily should be cleaned daily to prevent the animal from becoming diseased.

Exercise

Horses in paddocks or fields can run and play for exercise. Stabled horses need exercise daily to keep them in shape and to keep them from developing bad habits out of boredom. Horses can be too thin, or they can be too fat as a result of overfeeding and lack of exercise.

Management

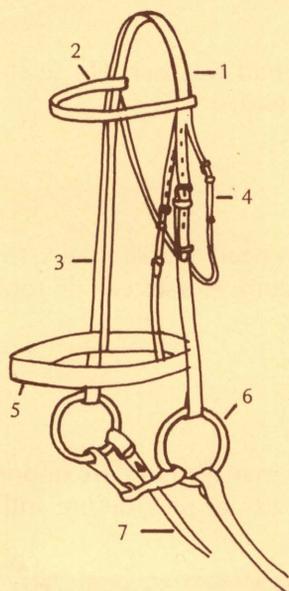
Horses should be inspected each day. Proper feeding, care, grooming, and management are important. Hoof care is especially important. A horse's feet should be cleaned with a hoof pick before and after each ride.



Equipment

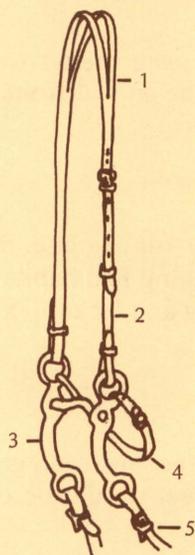
Bridles and Bits

Bridles come in many styles. Each style calls for a special complement of bits. The reins, bits, and headstall compose the bridle, and different types of riding require the use of different ones. The snaffle-bit, single-reined bridle is commonly used for hunting, jumping, or trail riding. The curb-bit, split-eared bridle is generally used for Western riding. The hackamore has a set of reins and lacks a bit. It is used to control and train a young horse without injuring its mouth.



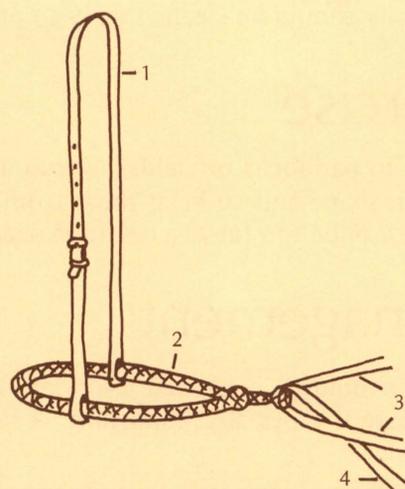
Single-Reined Bridle

1. Crownpiece, or Headstall
2. Browband
3. Cheekpiece
4. Throatlatch
5. Noseband
6. Snaffle Bit
7. Reins



Split-Eared Bridle

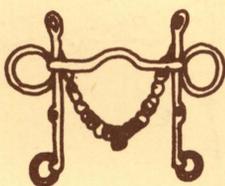
1. Crownpiece or Headstall
2. Cheekpiece
3. Curb Bit
4. Curb Strap
5. Reins



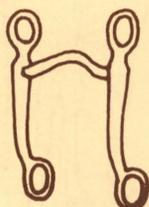
Bosal Hackamore

1. Headstall
2. Bosal
3. Reins
4. Tie or Lead Rope

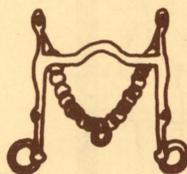
Kinds of Bits



Pelham



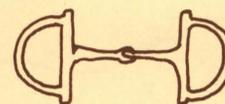
Curb



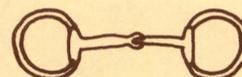
Weymouth



Spade



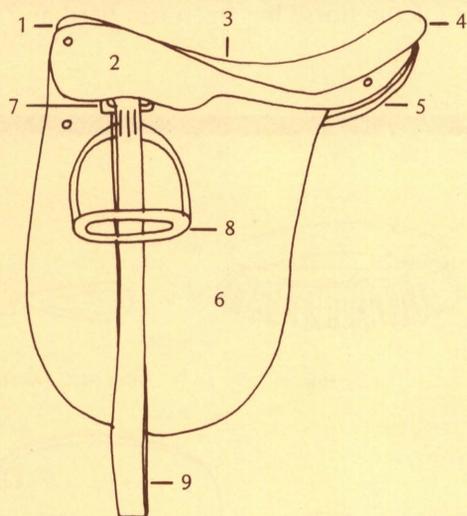
Racing



Snaffle

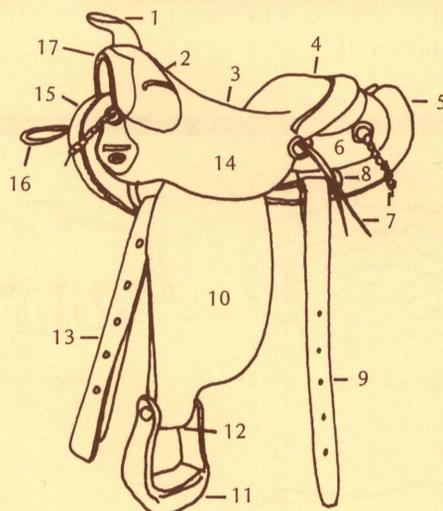
Saddles

Saddles also come in many styles. The saddle is more an indication of the type of riding an individual does than it is the type of animal he is riding. It is true, however, that certain horses look better tacked one way than they do another. The two main types of saddles are the English and the Western. It is equally as necessary that the saddle fit the horse properly as it is that the rider fit the saddle.



English Saddle

1. Pommel
2. Skirt
3. Seat
4. Cantle
5. Panel
6. Flap
7. Stirrup Bar
8. Tread of Stirrup Iron
9. Stirrup Leather



Western Stock Saddle

1. Horn
2. Fork
3. Seat
4. Cantle
5. Skirt
6. Back Housing or Back Jockey
7. Lace Strings
8. Dee Rings
9. Leather Flank Girth
10. Fender
11. Stirrup
12. Stirrup Leather
13. Front Tie Strip or Cinch Strap
14. Front Jockey and Seat Jockey, One Piece
15. Wool Lining
16. Rope Strap
17. Pommel

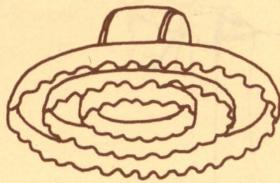
Equipment Care

A rider should always:

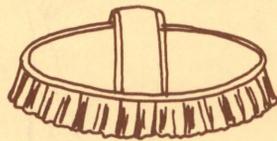
- Put gear away carefully. Inspect it for worn or broken places.
- Hang the blanket to dry and store the saddle so that the leather is not folded or pressed out of shape.
- Hang the bridle so it does not tangle after washing the bit so that it will be clean and palatable next time.
- Clean the leather regularly and keep all gear out of rain. It will look better and last longer.
- Store grooming aids and stable gear together in a convenient place.

Grooming Equipment

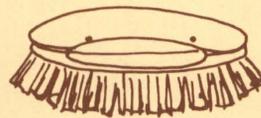
A horse should be groomed before and after he is ridden. The first requirement is to use the hoof pick to remove stones or other small objects and dirt that may have been embedded in the feet. Following that, the body of the horse should be groomed, first with a curry comb—except for bony areas such as the knees or hocks—and then with a stiff-bristled brush. Then, the mane and tail should be combed thoroughly. Tangles should be combed from the ends first, and the comb should be worked gradually to the roots of the hair. The dandy brush and grooming cloth are used to put a finishing touch on the haircoat of the horse. The sweat scraper need only be used if the horse has been run hard and is fairly sweaty or lathered.



Curry Comb



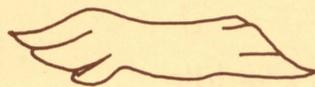
Body Brush



Dandy Brush



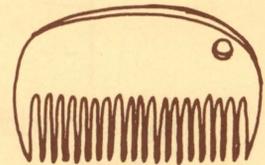
Hoof Pick (or Hook)



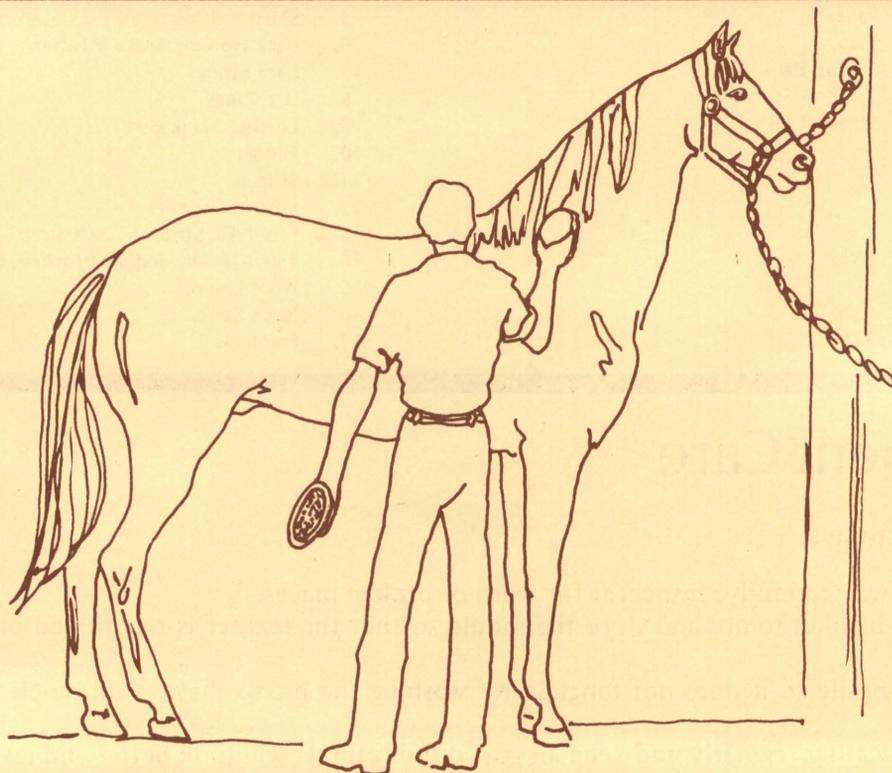
Grooming Cloth



Sweat Scraper



Mane and Tail Comb

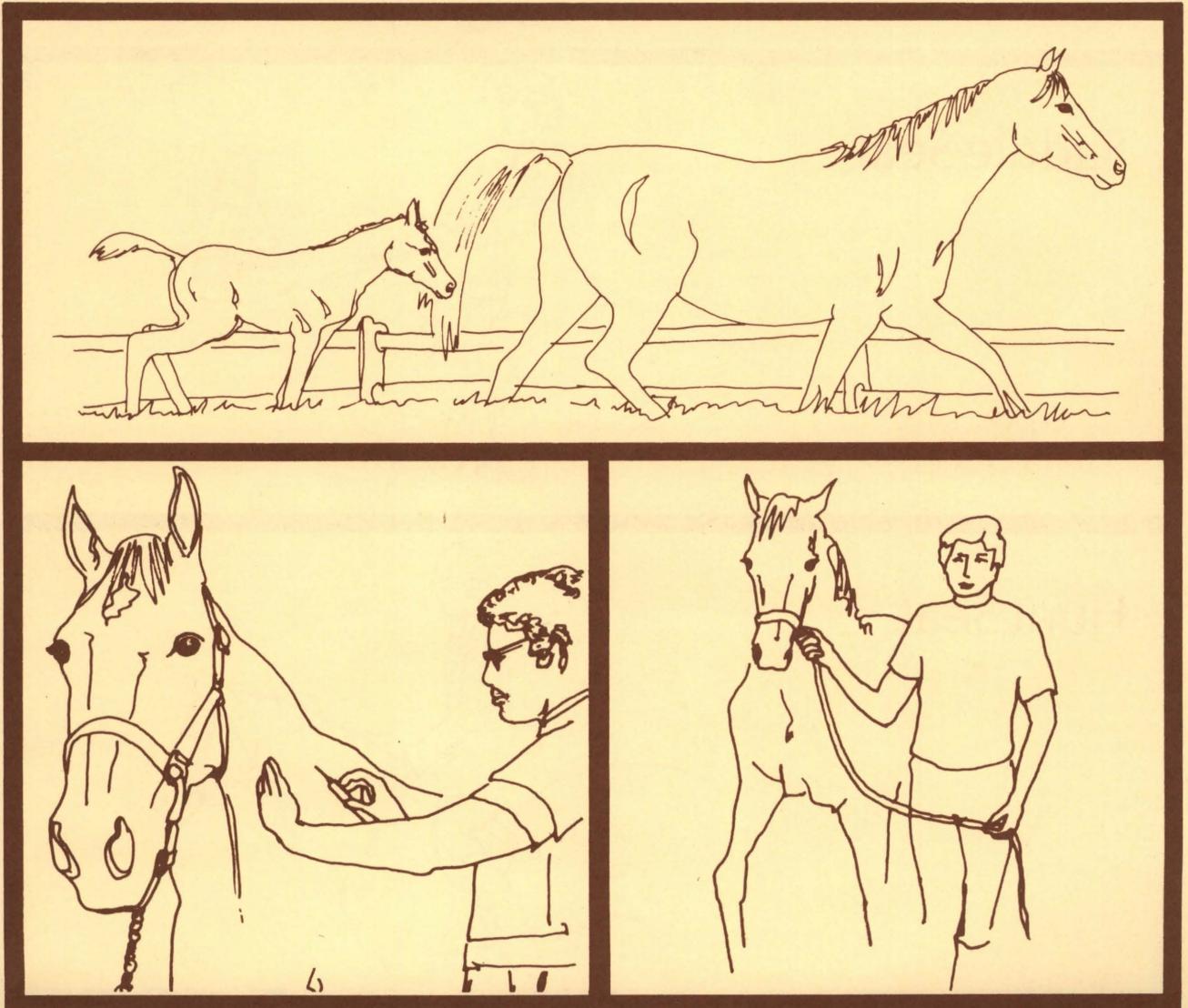


Health and Safety

To keep a horse in good health, it should be provided with well-balanced meals at regular intervals; plenty of exercise; and clean, well-ventilated surroundings. The horse also should be vaccinated against a number of infectious diseases and managed carefully so as to avoid its infestation with external or internal parasites. If health problems arise, a veterinarian should be contacted for advice.

Following are the Ten Commandments of horse safety:

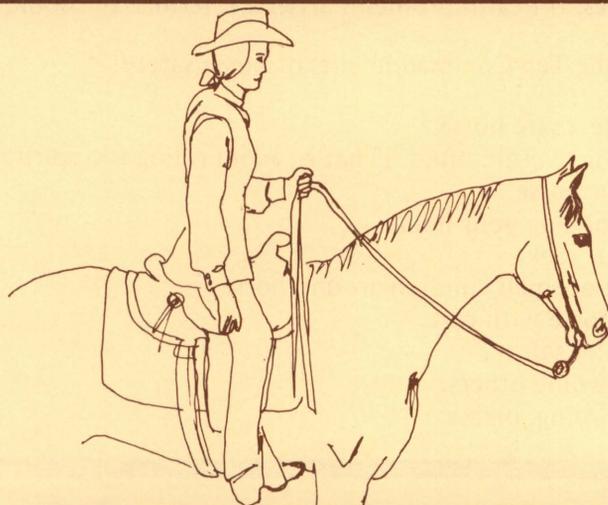
1. Buy or ride a safe horse.
2. Avoid being overmounted. (That is, avoid riding too spirited or too large a horse.)
3. Know your horse.
4. Avoid surprising your horse.
5. Check your tack.
6. Be careful of small children around horses.
7. Tie your horse with care.
8. Know trailer safety.
9. Avoid crowding others.
10. Avoid clowning, please.



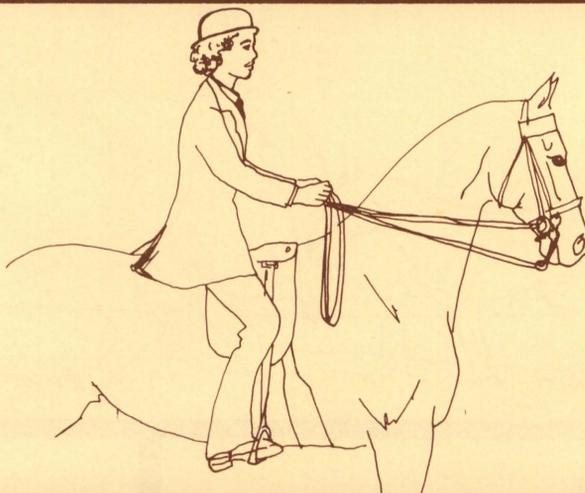
Riding

There are three styles of riding. Each requires that the horse be controlled by the use of the rider's seat, legs, hands, and voice. Describe the differences and similarities of the three styles listed below.

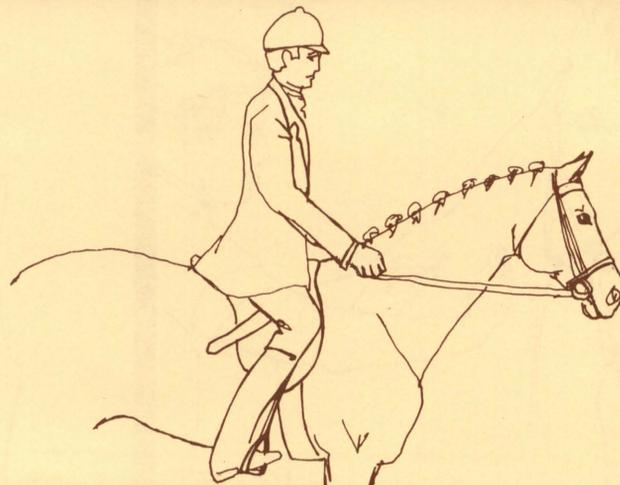
Stock Seat



Saddle Seat

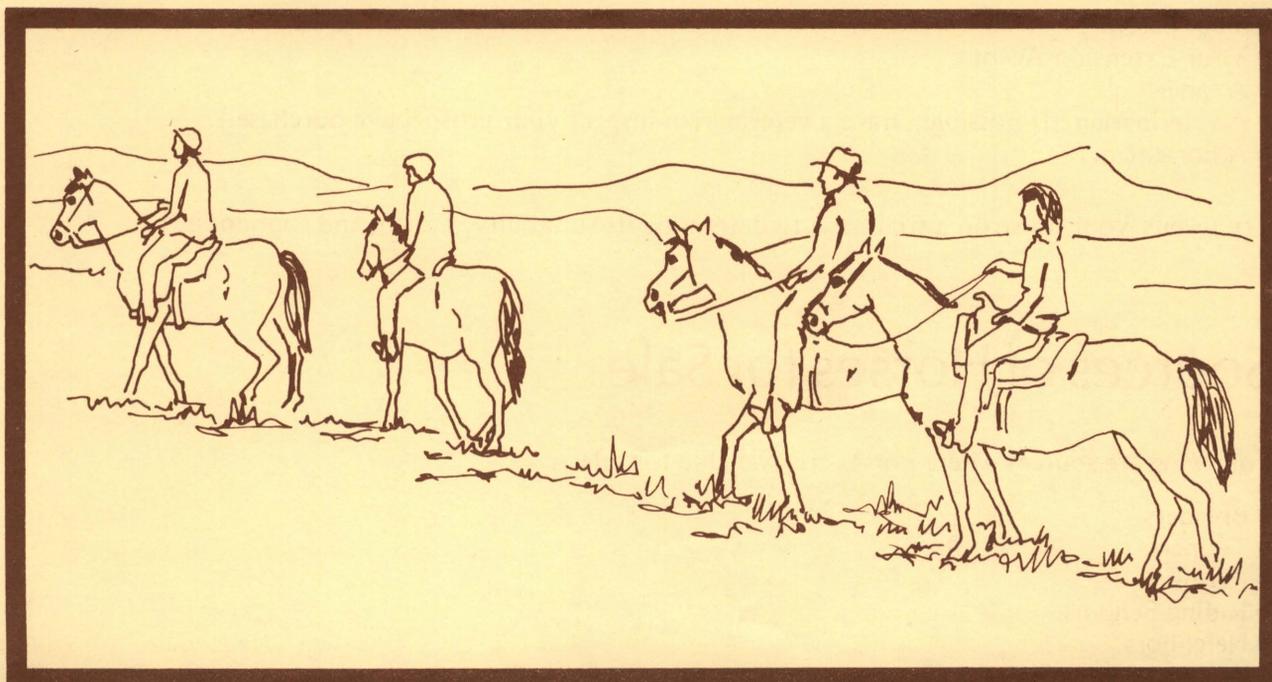


Hunt Seat



Some Rules of Good Horsemanship

1. Mount correctly from the left side. Make the horse stand still until you are properly seated in the saddle.
2. Ride with your heels down, your toes turned out slightly, your head and chest lifted. Your shoulders should be square; your elbows close to your body; and your ankles, shoulders, arms, and wrists, flexed.
3. Avoid such habits as "clacking" to the horse or slapping him with the ends of the reins.
4. Warm up the horse slowly. Walk him the first half mile, and then jog him slowly for another quarter mile.
5. Hold the horse to a walk when traveling over paved streets or roads.
6. Keep to the right side of the road, except when passing, and give right-of-way courteously.
7. Never rush past riders who are proceeding at a slower gait. This startles both horses and riders, and frequently causes accidents. Instead, approach slowly and pass cautiously on the left.
8. Keep the horse under control at all times. Galloping a willing horse not only is poor horsemanship, but shows ignorance on the part of the rider.
9. Keep the proper tension on the reins: avoid either tight or dangling reins.
10. Slow the horse down when making a short turn.
11. To avoid being kicked, do not ride too close to the horse in front. Either keep abreast, or a full horse's length behind, other mounts.
12. Walk the horse when going up or down hill.
13. Do not force the horse to maintain a rapid gait for more than a half mile at a time without allowing a breathing spell.
14. Walk the horse when approaching and passing through underpasses and going over bridges.
15. Bring the horse in cool: ride at a walk the last mile to the stable.
16. Never let the horse gorge on water or feed when he is hot.
17. Groom the horse thoroughly after each ride.
18. Avoid walking behind any horse.
19. Wash the bit off thoroughly before hanging it in the tackroom. Remove any hair or sweat marks from the saddle and girth before putting them on the rack. Wash all leather equipment at frequent intervals with saddle soap.
20. Feed the horse a balanced ration and keep him healthy.



How To Obtain the Use of a Horse

To obtain the use of a horse, you can buy and own one, or borrow or rent one.

Factors To Consider When Buying a Horse

When buying a horse, you should consider:

- The facilities available for keeping a horse.
- The expense of keeping a horse.
- The riding area available.
- Your ability as a rider.
- Your style of riding.
- The use you will make of the horse (hunter, pleasure, trail riding, etc.).
- The suitability of the horse for you.
- The age of the horse. (Beginners should use aged, well-schooled horses.)
- The breed, age, sex, and color of the horse.
- The price you can afford to pay.
- The health and soundness of the horse.
- The conformation of the horse.
- Your dedication to feed, care for, and manage your horse.

People Who Can Advise You in Selecting a Horse

Following are the people whom you might ask for advice before purchasing a horse:

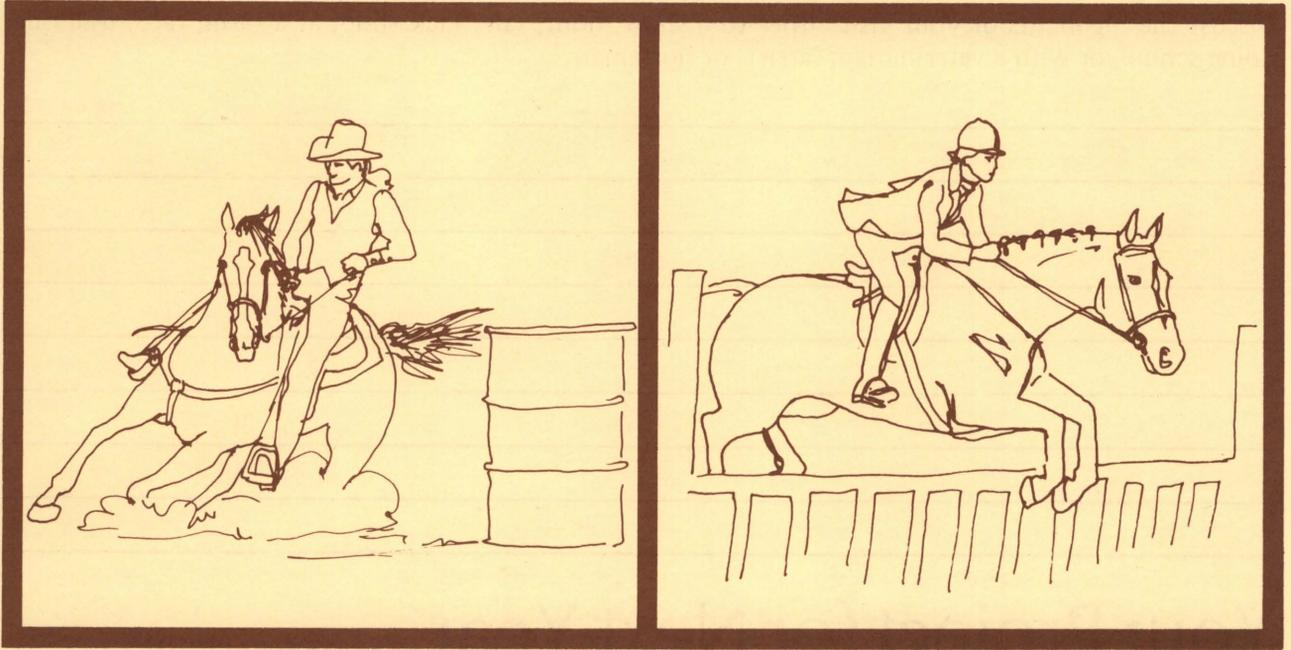
- Your parents.
- Your Extension Agent
- A farrier.
- A veterinarian. (If possible, have a veterinarian inspect your prospective purchase.)
- A horseman.

Try to buy your horse on a trial basis to determine its suitability, health, and soundness.

Sources of Horses for Sale

Following are sources where horses are available for sale:

- Breeders.
- Trainers.
- Farms.
- Riding Schools.
- Neighbors.
- Auction Sales.

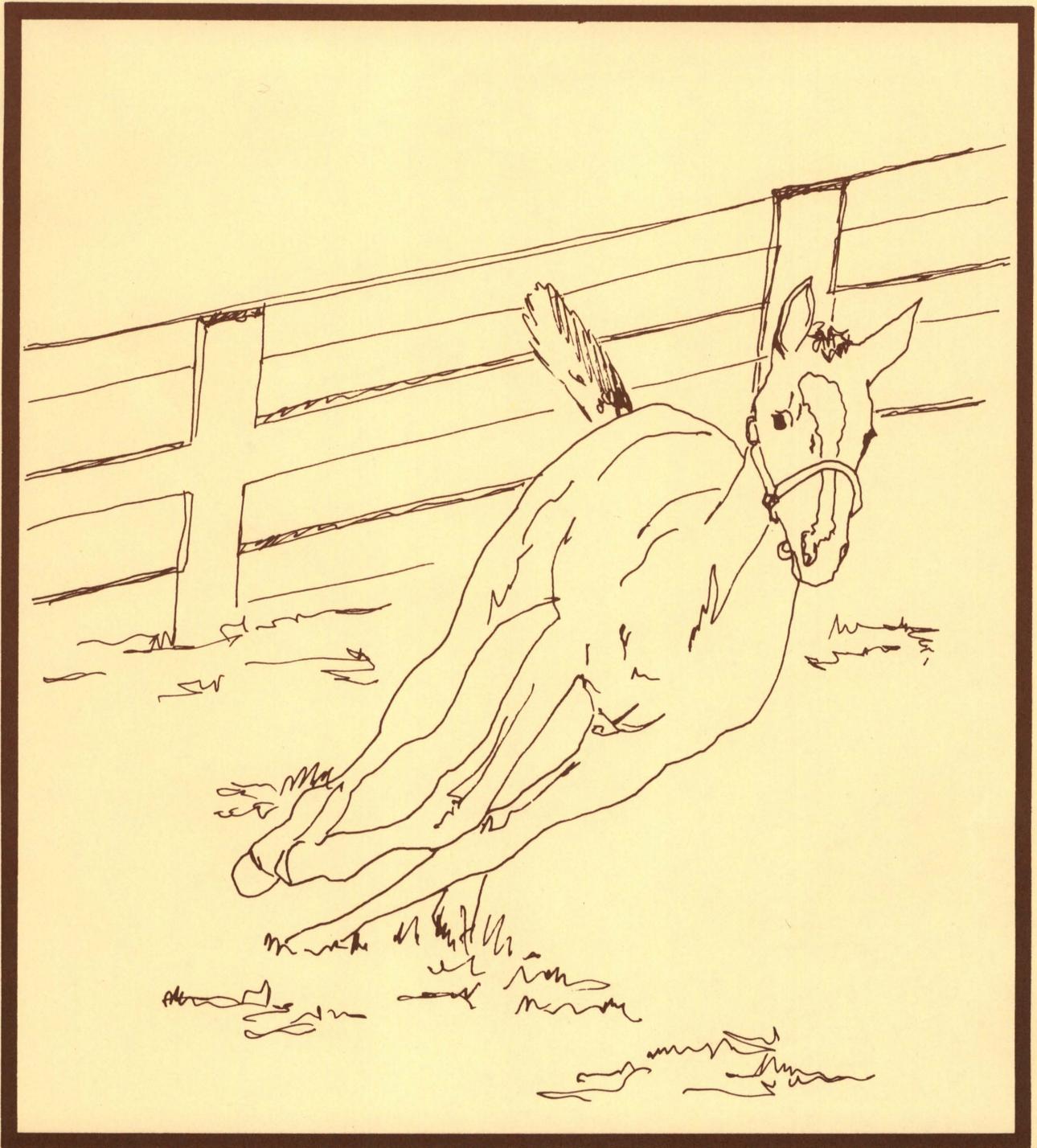


Fun Activities

You can learn to have fun with horses. The horse can provide you with a lifelong sport which is of benefit to your physical, mental, and emotional development. The sport will help you enjoy outdoor recreation and will help you develop poise and confidence. The horse offers unlimited fun and a conditioning program for both you and the horse.

- Pleasure Riding
- Trail Riding
- Hunting
- Racing
- Mounted Games
- Packing and Camping
- Showing
- Producing Horses as a Business

Select one of the above areas, and discuss your plans to participate: (Example: Hunting)



This is to certify that _____ has
successfully completed all the requirements of this record book.

4-H Leader

Date

Extension Agent

