



Virginia 4-H Horse Project

Horseless Horse Project Unit 2

Horses Are Fun



Name	Age	Club Year
Address		
County or City		
Name of Club		
Name of Leader	Years in 4-H	
Date Project Began	Ended	

Horseless Horse Project

Revised by

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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.

Horses Are Fun

Prepared by
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Project Requirements

To complete this project, you must:

- Enroll in the 4-H Program.
- Complete the topics covered in this project book.
- Complete nine of the following activities and all of the worksheets.

Activity:

Date Completed

Give One Talk or Demonstration _____

Title: _____

See a Horse Movie _____

Name of Movie: _____

Read a Horse Book _____

Name of Book: _____

Read a Horse Magazine _____

Name of Magazine: _____

Attend a Horse Show _____

Name/Location: _____

Date Attended

Attend a Horse Sale _____

Groom a Horse _____

Tack a Horse _____

Visit a Horse Farm _____

Visit with a Farrier _____

Visit with a Veterinarian _____

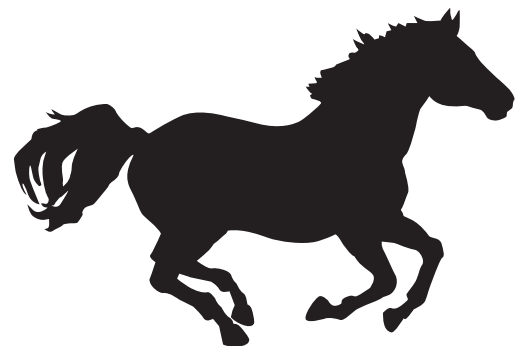
Visit a Hunt, Race, and/or Trail Ride _____

Tour a Riding School _____

Visit a Tack Shop _____

Visit with a Horseman _____

Visit a Feed Store _____

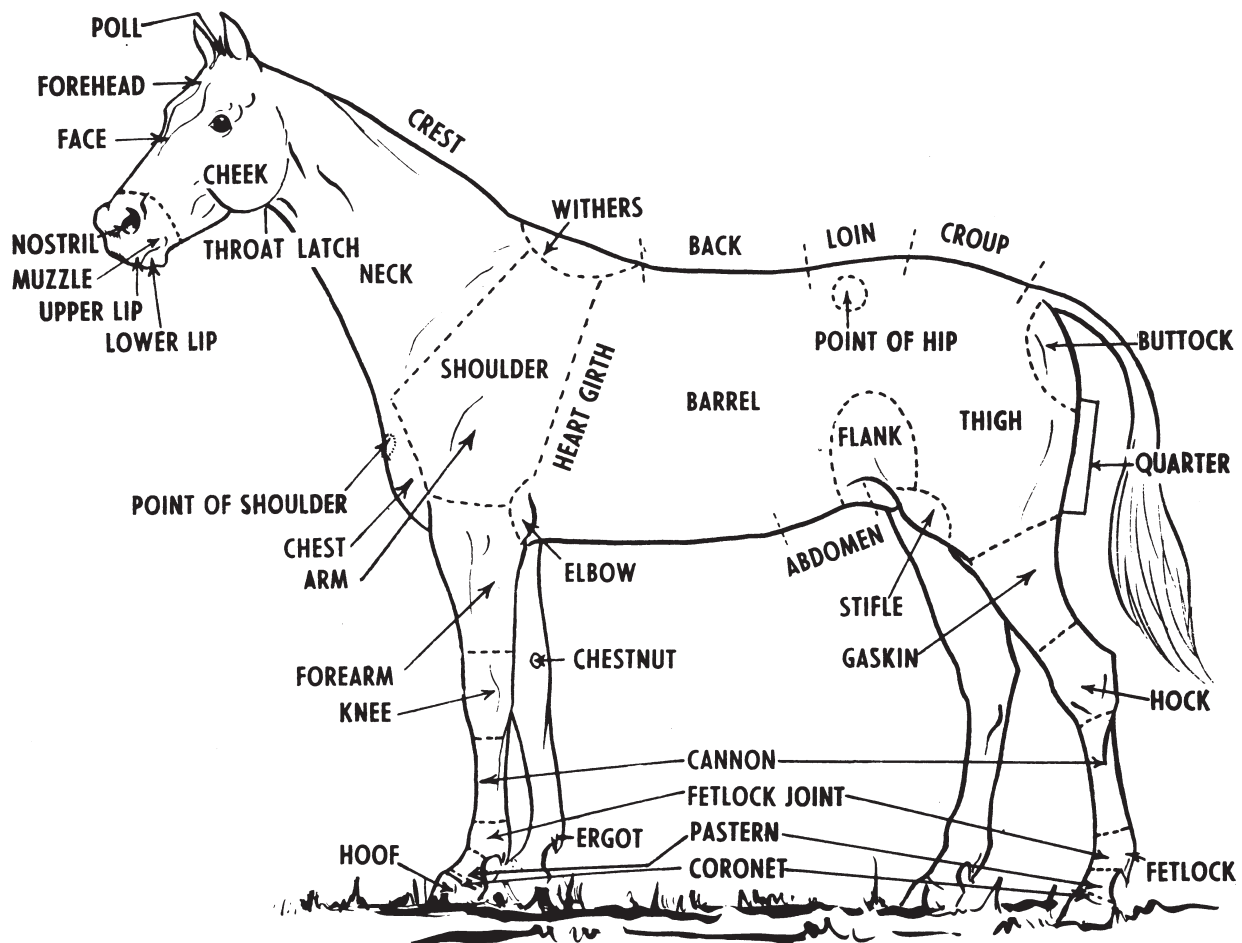


Meet the Horse

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



Breeds and Coat Colors of the Horse

(Use a horse book for reference to describe the following coat colors and **attach** color picture examples.)

Bay _____

Breed that is this color: _____ I have seen this color horse:

Chestnut _____

Breed that is this color: _____ I have seen this color horse:

Grey _____

Breed that is this color: _____ I have seen this color horse:

Brown _____

Breed that is this color: _____ I have seen this color horse:

Black _____

Breed that is this color: _____ I have seen this color horse:

Palomino _____

Breed that is this color: _____ I have seen this color horse:

Appaloosa _____

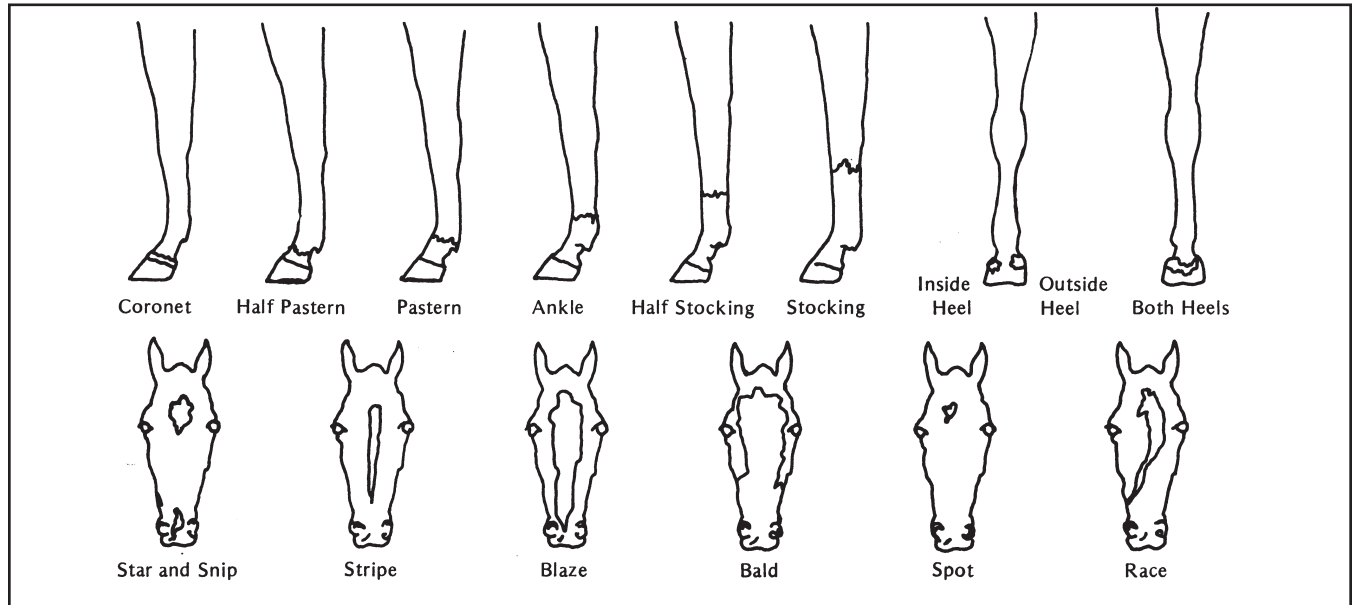
Breed that is this color: _____ I have seen this color horse:



Markings of the Horse

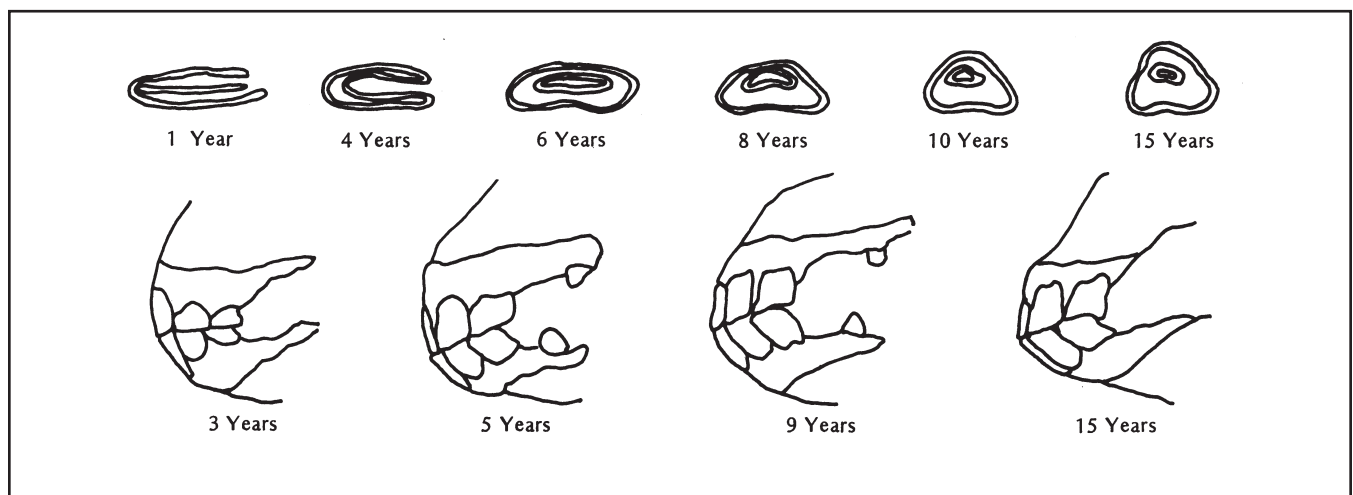
When discussing a specific horse, it may be necessary to distinguish it from others by something less general than its overall coat color. Usually, any distinctive coloration appears on the face and/or the legs. Instead of saying simply “the bay,” it may be necessary to say “the bay with the star,” or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

Circle the Markings that you saw at the barn or show.



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 2 ½ 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 2 ½ to 5 years old. It is during this period that age determination of a horse can be most accurate.

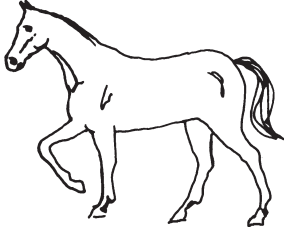



Gaits of the Horse

A gait is a manner of walking, running, or moving. The three natural gaits of any horse (except for the gaited horse) are the walk, trot, and canter. The natural gaits of a Tennessee Walking Horse are the walk, the running walk, and the canter. Standardbreds exhibit a pace that is a variation of the trot. Two gaits that are artificial and must be learned by the horse are the slow gait and the rack. Other gaits may include the tolt, singlefoot, and foxtrot.

Walk

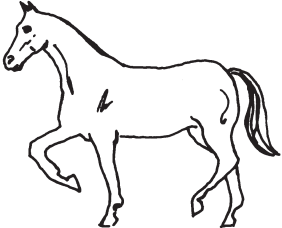

The walk is a four-beat gait with the feet striking the ground in the following order: right front, left rear, left front, right rear. The feet should be lifted from the ground and placed down flatfooted.

I have seen a horse walk

Trot/Jog

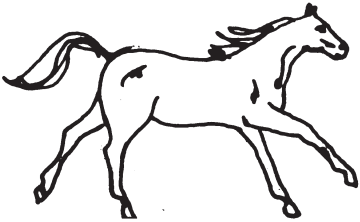
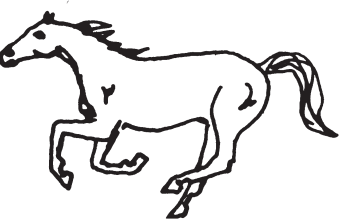
The trot is a two-beat gait in which the left front and right rear feet and the right front and left rear feet strike the ground together. The horse's body remains in perfect balance. The trot should be balanced and springy.


I have seen a horse trot/jog

Canter/Lope

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.

I have seen a horse canter/lope



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.

Arabian

This breed of horse is used as a driving, 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 hunter jumper or stock horse. It is usually about 15 hands tall and weighs between 950 and 1,100 pounds. It has irregular white markings on the rump.

Morgan

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

Paint

The Paint is a stock horse. This breed must have a minimum amount of white hair over un-pigmented skin. It is usually 14.2 to 16 hands tall. This breed exhibits Pinto markings in overo, tobiano, or tovero coat patterns. Specific colors include bay, black, brown, dun, chestnut, buckskin, palomino, grullo, sorrel, grey or roan.

Quarter Horse

The Quarter Horse is used in racing and as a stock horse. The breed originated in the United States. The Quarter Horse is heavily muscled and has a quiet 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 gray, bay, or chestnut with white markings.

Warmblood

The Warmblood is used under saddle mainly for dressage, eventing, or show jumping. It is usually 16 hands tall and weighs 1,000 to 1,200 pounds. The predominant color of this breed is bay.



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 breeding.

Hackney

The Hackney pony may not be above 14.2 hands and usually range between 12 and 14 hands. It should have true pony characteristics, and should *not* be a scaled down version of the Hackney Horse. The pony should have a small pony head, carried high, with alert and pricked ears and large, intelligent eyes. Hackney ponies may be black, bay (which includes brown), or chestnut. Bay is by far the most common color, but black is also relatively common.

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.

Draw a picture of a barn that will meet the needs of a horse:



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.

Identify 5 different parts of a bridle for a leader or senior member

<p>Single-Reined Bridle</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Crownpiece, or Headstall 2. Browband 3. Cheekpiece 4. Throatlatch 5. Noseband 6. Snaffle Bit 7. Reins 	<p>Split-Eared Bridle</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Crownpiece or Headstall 2. Cheekpiece 3. Curb Bit 4. Curb Strap 5. Reins 	<p>Bosal Hackamore</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Headstall 2. Bosal 3. Reins 4. Tie or Lead Rope

Circle the bits that you found in a barn or a tack shop.

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 animals 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.

<h3>English Saddle</h3>	<h3>Western Stock Saddle</h3>		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pommel 2. Skirt 3. Seat 4. Cantle 5. Panel 6. Flap 7. Stirrup Bar 8. Tread of Stirrup Iron 9. Stirrup Leather 	<table border="0"> <tbody> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Horn 2. Fork 3. Seat 4. Cantle 5. Skirt 6. Back House or Back Jockey 7. Lace Strings 8. Dee Rings 9. Leather Flank Girth </td> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 10. Fender 11. Stirrup 12. Stirrup Leather 13. Front Tie Strip or Cinch Strap 14. Front Jockey and Seat Jockey 15. Wool Lining 16. Rope Strap 17. Pommel </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Horn 2. Fork 3. Seat 4. Cantle 5. Skirt 6. Back House or Back Jockey 7. Lace Strings 8. Dee Rings 9. Leather Flank Girth 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 10. Fender 11. Stirrup 12. Stirrup Leather 13. Front Tie Strip or Cinch Strap 14. Front Jockey and Seat Jockey 15. Wool Lining 16. Rope Strap 17. Pommel
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Identify parts on a real saddle with a leader or senior 4-H member.

Sign: _____ Date: _____

Equipment Care

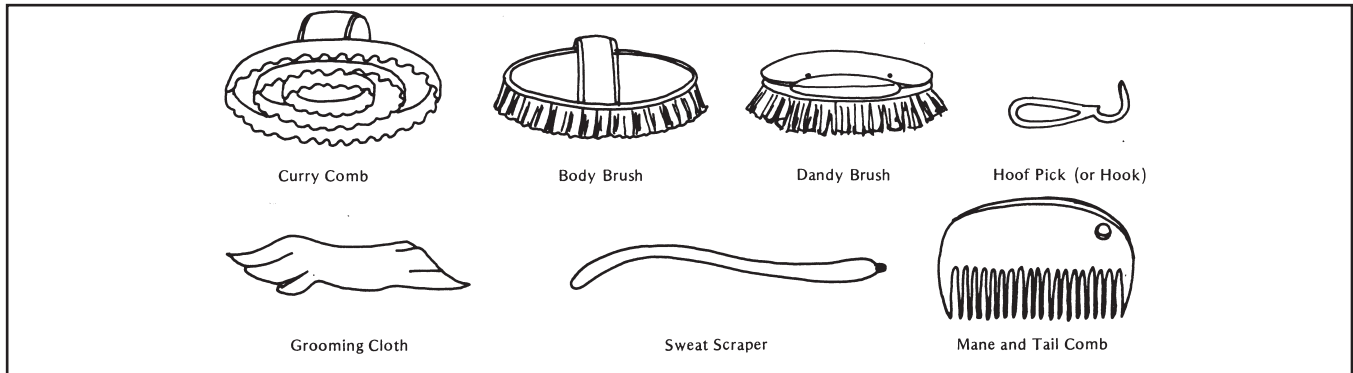
A rider should always:

- 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

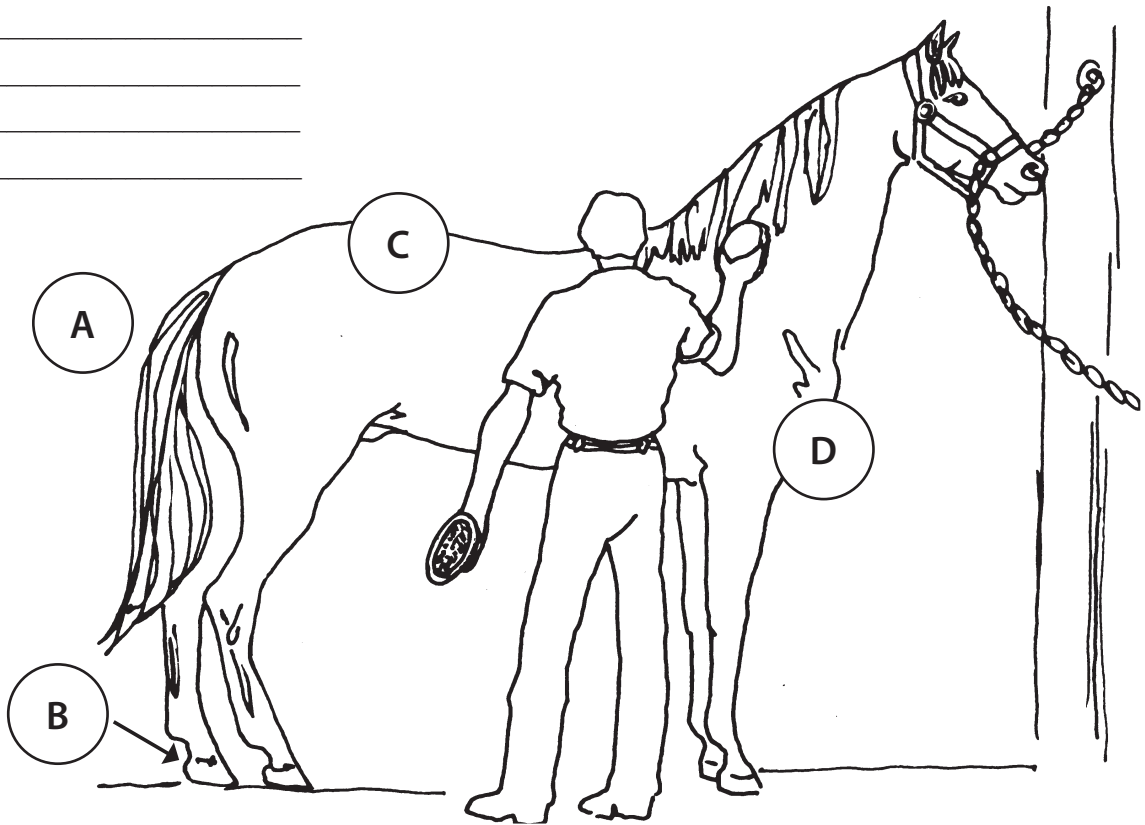
A horse should be groomed before and after he is ridden. The first requirement is to use the hoof pick to remove stones or other small objects and dirt that may have been embedded in the feet. Following that, the body of the horse should be groomed, first with a curry comb — except for bony areas such 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.

Below are the basic grooming items for a tack box. Visit a barn or tack shop and circle at least five pieces of the grooming equipment that you found.



Identify the most appropriate equipment for grooming the horse below:

- A. _____
- B. _____
- C. _____
- D. _____



List other grooming items that you saw:

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 some guidelines 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.

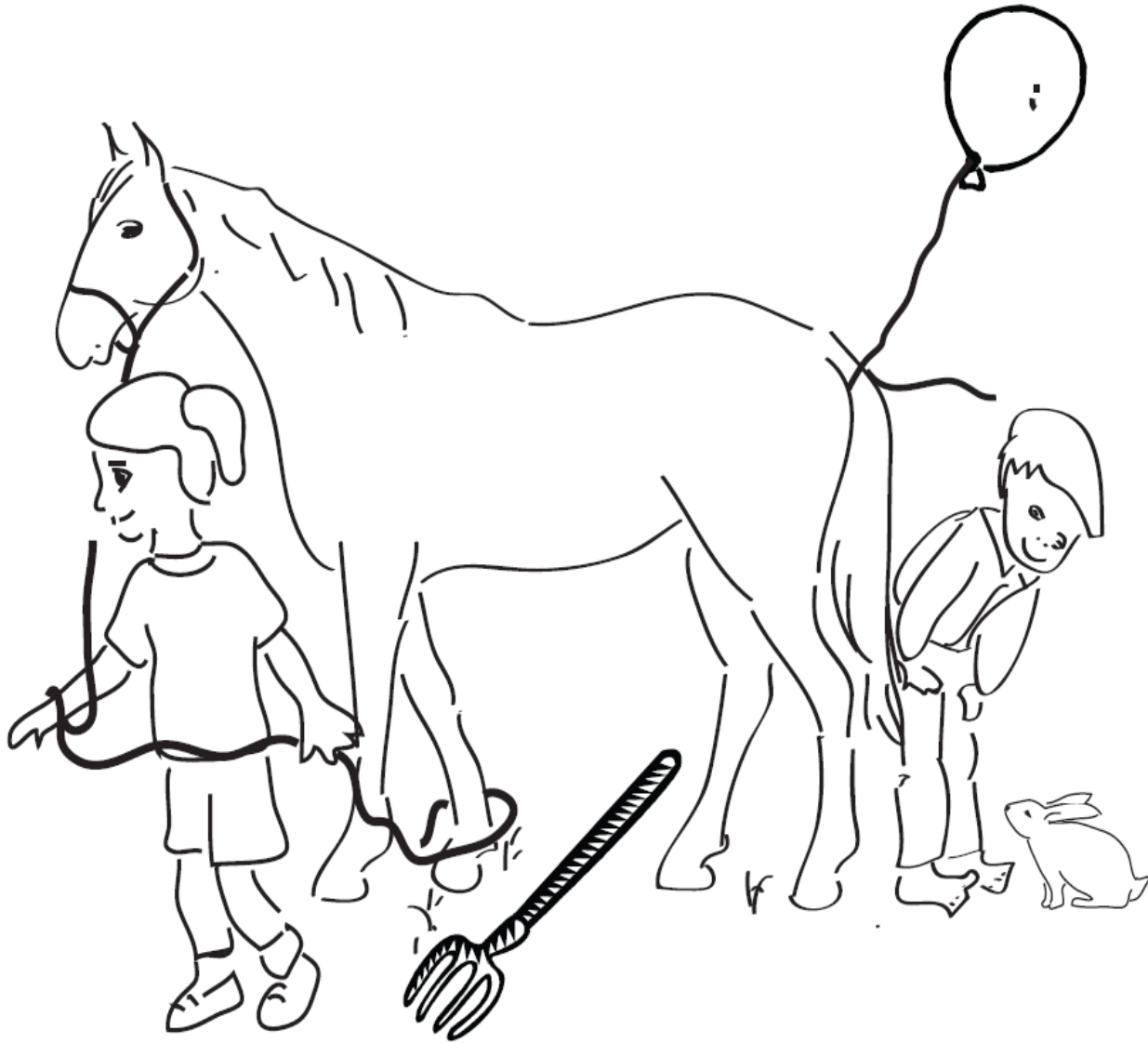
Name two additional safety guidelines and why they are important:

A. _____

B. _____



Can you find and circle 7 things that are unsafe when working around a horse?




*Artwork credit to Eleszabeth McNeel

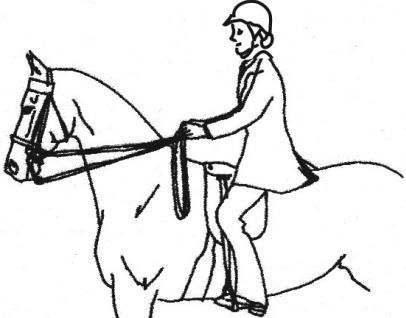


Riding


There are three styles of riding disciplines. 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

*Artwork credit to Eleszabeth McNeel

Which riding disciplines would be most appropriate for the following classes?

Hunter Under Saddle: _____

Trail: _____

Hunter Over Fences: _____

Gymkhana: _____

Western Pleasure: _____

Stock Seat Equitation: _____

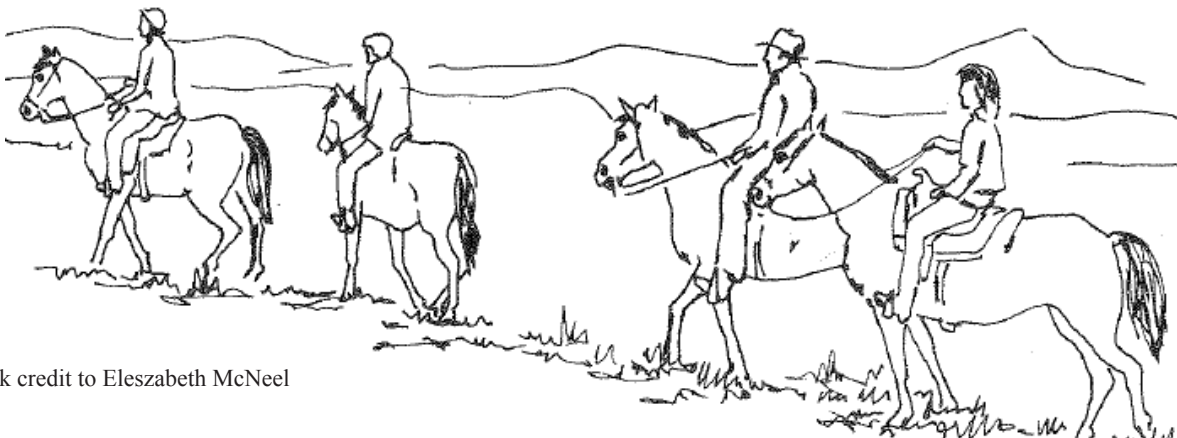
Reining: _____

Country Pleasure: _____

Dressage: _____

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.
21. Keep water fresh and clean.



*Artwork credit to Eleszabeth McNeel



How to Obtain the Use of a Horse

To obtain the use of a horse, you can buy and own one, 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.)
- An experienced horse professional.

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.
- Internet.



Virginia Cooperative Extension

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Advertisement

Create an advertisement to sell a horse, in the box below. Make sure to include:

- A. Picture
- B. Description of Horse
- C. Price of Horse
- D. Information on Horse's abilities
- E. Age
- F. Training



Fun Activities

You can learn to have fun with horses without actually owning one. 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.

Listed below are several 4-H activities where horse ownership is not required:

- Horse Bowl.
- Hippology.
- Horse Judging.
- Horse Public Speaking.
 1. Horse Team Presentation.
 2. Horse Individual Presentation.
- Model Horse Show.
- Horse Camp.
- Lessons.
- Trail Riding.
- Volunteering at Horse Events.
- Horse Art Contest.
- Horse Project Book Contest.
- Photography.

See your local 4-H Horse Club for more opportunities.

Your Story During the Project Year:



Your Project Goals for Next Year:

*You may repeat this project by adding to the list of activities. Check with your leader or Extension Agent about other available 4-H horse projects.

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

4-H Leader _____

Date _____

Extension Agent _____



Color this page

