



## General Horse Information Agents Need To Know

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### Kinds of Horses

- Draft- Heavier type breeds generally characterized as work/plow horses.
- Horse- Regular type breeds that are generally seen as your everyday riding horses.
- Ponies- A smaller horse. Has to be 14.2 hands or under.
- Miniature Horse - A scaled down horse. Is 34 inches tall or under.

### Basic Materials

- Saddle- the person sits in it when riding. 2 main styles – English and Western and many variations of the two.
- Bridle and bit- is on the horses head when riding to aid in control.
- Saddle Pad/Blanket- goes under the saddle.
- Halter- what is on the horses head when leading it from the ground.
- Lead rope- what the person holds while handling the horse from the ground. It is connected to the halter.

### Basic Safety Attire

- Helmet is to be worn at all times when mounted. Must be ASTM/SEI certified.
- Closed toed shoe or boot is to be worn at all times when around a horse.
- Boots or shoes with an adequate size heel should be worn when riding.
- Long pants should be worn at all times when mounted.

### General Safety around horses

- Never stand directly in front or behind a horse. (In horses blind spot)
- When leading the horse you want to be just behind the head and beside the throat latch area.
- Always let a horse know when you are approaching.
- Don't run and/or scream when around a horse.
- Never loop lead rope or reins around your hand when leading.
- Always lead and saddle/bridle from the left side when possible.

- When calling fire and rescue squads to respond to an emergency, let them know to not use the lights and sirens when entering the premises.

#### Measurement of height, weight, and Body Condition Score.

- Horses are measured at the withers in hands. One hand is equal to 4 inches. Ex: A horse that is 15 hands is 60 inches tall at the top of the withers.  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ettprRpg2jA>
- The use of a weight tape is the most common way to measure a horse's weight at home. Measurement is taken around the heart girth.  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fpqw1vZnC4s>  
Photo of measurement location.  
<http://equestrianoutreach.com/EOWebArtFolder/Eq%20Info%20-%20Illustrations/HorseWeightTape.gif>
- The Body Condition Score (BCS) is a scoring system from 1-9. A score of 4 – 6 is desirable with 5 being the ideal in most cases. Anything below that is considered too thin, and above that is considered too heavy.  
<http://www.uky.edu/Ag/AnimalSciences/pubs/asc145.pdf>
- Parts of a Horse –  
[http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/4h7933/\\$FILE/g\\_partsofhorse.pdf](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/4h7933/$FILE/g_partsofhorse.pdf)

#### Basic Disciplines

- The tack, equipment, movement/gaits of the horse is what makes each discipline different.
- The 4-H program offers these disciplines in the show ring. Hunter (over fences and pleasure); Western; Reining; Saddleseat; Gaited; Gymkhana (games or speed events); Dressage; Driving; Mini's (in hand and driving); Drill Team; and Ranch Horse.  
[http://www.4-h.ext.vt.edu/programs/anscience/horse/Events/State\\_Horse\\_Show/2013\\_Horse\\_Show\\_Rulebook/ShowDivisions.pdf](http://www.4-h.ext.vt.edu/programs/anscience/horse/Events/State_Horse_Show/2013_Horse_Show_Rulebook/ShowDivisions.pdf)

#### What are some attributes of a healthy horse?

- The eyes are bright and clear.
- Should have a shiny hair coat that will shed out when it warms up.
- The horse should have an acceptable body condition score for its age, discipline and stage of life.
- Temperature should be around 100.5 degrees.
- Respiration rate should be 8-16 breaths per minute.
- The pulse rate should be 36-45 beats per minute.

Good sites for trustworthy, science based information on all aspects of horse care, handling, housing and use

- Covers everything and also has great short courses and on-line seminars for horse producers and enthusiasts.

<http://www.extension.org/horses>

- Horse Care Information not specific just to rescue and retirement facilities

<http://m.aaep.org/images/files/AAEPCareGuidelinesRR2012.pdf>

- Over 20 pages of articles on a variety of topics and in various languages

[http://www.aaep.org/slug.php?slug=horse-health&info\\_id=45&page=1](http://www.aaep.org/slug.php?slug=horse-health&info_id=45&page=1)

- This link tells you about the various vaccinations horses can be given and why they are given.

<http://www.aaep.org/custdocs/AdultVaccinationChart.pdf>