



**AMHAY Horsemastership Achievement
Program
Woodbury Badge
Level 2
Workbook**

Youth Program
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True horsemanship is the culmination of many centuries of tradition, training, teaching and research. In this horsemanship program, you will begin to explore the many facets of horsemanship.

At each level you will be asked to explore and gain experience in different activities. The mere superficial participation in the activities is not the goal. It is hoped that you will study and explore each event carefully and participate in depth with understanding and appreciation.

We hope that through your experience in the Horsemastership program you will gain the knowledge and appreciation of your relationship with the Morgan Horse. Hopefully you will begin a lifetime relationship with the Morgan.

The republication of this horsemanship manual is dedicated to Mrs. Gloria Jones of Diablo, California, and the original author of these manuals. It is with a great deal of affection we recognize her efforts and support of the American Morgan Horse Association Youth Program.

Section A: Care for a horse and keep records for at least three months, or prepare a budget that outlines the estimated annual expense for boarding, farrier and veterinary care, basic horse equipment, and worming materials. The project should include a schedule for routine farrier and veterinary visits, a worming schedule and a balanced feed ration.

If you are fortunate enough to own a horse, chances are you are boarding it and you will be very familiar with these expenses. If you do not own a horse, this project will familiarize you with the costs of feeding, housing and maintaining your horse as a responsible horse owner. It is often said, "the cheapest part of owning a horse is the horse itself".

The following worksheets in this section will require you to make some decisions and do some research. You will be able to get some of the information from someone you know: a trainer, barn owner, friend or instructor. For other information you may need to call farms in your area to find out what is available. You may also be able to use the Internet to get some information as well.

Here is some basic information that will help you to make decisions on the later worksheets.

Boarding - Boarding a horse occurs when you do not have the facilities to do it at home. You pay a facility for the privilege to keep your horse there. Some farms offer different levels of care depending on your situation.

Full board is when you pay the facility for all of the feed, bedding, feeding, turnout and stall cleaning of your horse. Options that it can include but usually do not are worming, scheduling farrier and vet appointments, handling of your horse for the farrier and vet, and blanketing among others. Cost of this board can depend on many factors; how large the facility is, what type of riding facilities they have, i.e.; trails, outdoor arena, indoor arena, round pens, etc.

Partial Care - This type of arrangement is different from full board. It can include a stall, but could just be a run-in shed. You will still bear all the costs of the feed and bedding, but you may be responsible for some of the care of your horse; i.e. some of the feeding, turning out or stall cleaning.

Self-Care - In this arrangement you pay a facility for a stall, a place to store your equipment and feed and a paddock or pasture for turnout. You are responsible for buying all of your feed, hay, grain, and etc., plus you are responsible for all the care of your horse.

Farrier - The level of care your horse's feet requires depends on your horse and the type of riding you do. It is a good idea to know the various services your farrier offers, how much are: trims, front (2) shoes, full (4) shoes, special shoeing (i.e., pads, clips, toe-weights, etc.)

Veterinarian - The level of health care horses receive today is far superior to that of even 20 years ago. How often and what we vaccinate for has evolved quite a bit in the past few years. Many vets offer health care plans for horses; this is all the horses' basic health care for one year at a special rate. Other services can be added on usually at a slight discount and a discount is offered for non-routine care. Find out what your vet offers. Your vet can also provide a basic worming schedule for you to follow.

Basic Tack and Equipment - If you already own a horse you know how quickly equipment accumulates. This is a good chance to inventory your equipment. If you are a non-horse owner, compiling a list of basic equipment will give you an idea of what you will need.

Once you work through the following sheets you will have all the information to complete this section.

To complete the following worksheets it might be helpful if you create a horse that you own and will need to board. Here is your chance.

Horse Registered Name _____
Horse Nick Name _____
Sire _____ *x Dam* _____
Foaled _____ *Color* _____
Markings _____ *Hands* _____

Worksheet #1 - Boarding

Use the following questions to outline what you would want when boarding your horse. This will help you to ask the right questions when shopping around.

1. What type of care is available or do I want? (Full, partial, self-care) _____

2. What type of facilities do I want? (Trails, arena, indoor arena, size of pasture, etc.) _____

3. What kind of hay is fed? (Timothy, Alfalfa, Orchard/Prairie Grass, etc.) _____

4. What kind or brand of grain is fed? (sweet feed, pellets, etc.)
What protein level? _____

5. What kind of pasture or turnout is available? How large is the pasture? Is my horse turned out with others (how many)? _____

6. Can you think of other information you need? Use the following space or another sheet of paper to write out your thoughts or questions. _____

Worksheet #2 - Boarding Research

Now you are ready to find a boarding facility. Use the following chart to help record your information. You should try and use at least two different sources for information. Some areas are already put in for you. Use the other spaces for other information you need to know.

	Facility #1	Facility #2	Facility #3
Board Cost			
Type of Grain			
Type of Hay			
Type of Bedding			
Type of Fencing			
Turn-out			
Arena			
Trails			

Notes:

Worksheet #4 - Veterinary Research

Veterinary care is very important. Inoculations usually occur twice a year, spring and fall. Usually horses are vaccinated for tetanus, influenza, WEE/EEE, Rhino, and Rabies they also receive a Coggins test. Some areas of the country also vaccinate for Potomac Horse Fever and West Nile Virus. Certain areas require or recommend other vaccinations. Check with your vet or the farm owner where your horse is boarded to see if there are other required vaccinations. Now you can check with the vet to see if they have a health care plan available or what the cost would be for the required vaccinations.

Veterinary Care Requirements		
Vaccination	Required (Circle Yes or No)	Cost
Tetanus	Yes / No	
Influenza	Yes / No	
WEE/VEE	Yes / No	
Rhino	Yes / No	
Rabies	Yes / No	
Potomac Horse Fever	Yes / No	
West Nile Virus	Yes / No	
Coggins Test	Yes	
	Yes / No	
	Yes / No	
	Yes / No	
Farm Call Fee		
		Total

Veterinary Care Schedule	
Spring - Date/Time	Fall - Date/Time

Worksheet #6 - Annual Horse Keeping Budget

Use the information from the previous worksheets and compile your annual budget.

Annual Horse Keeping Budget					
	<i>Boarding</i>	<i>Farrier</i>	<i>Vet</i>	<i>Worming</i>	<i>Equipment</i>
January					
February					
March					
April					
May					
June					
July					
August					
September					
October					
November					
December					
TOTALS					

Feed Schedule - Using your horse or a horse you know as an example. Include his/her daily feed schedule.

<i>Daily Schedule</i>	
AM	PM
Grain	
Supplements	
Hay	

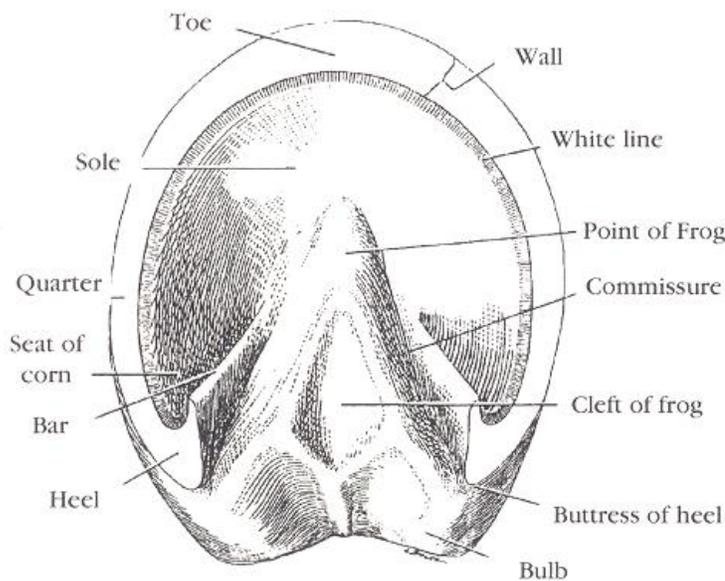
Notes:

Section B - Demonstrate how to pick up a horse's front and rear hooves and clean them. You must be able to pass a written or oral test on the basic parts of the hoof.

The hoof care of your horse is very important. Learning the parts of the hoof and how to clean and care for the feet keeps your horse useful and sound.

Practicing the proper way to pick the feet is the only way to get confident with what you are doing. Understanding the parts to the feet will help you do a better job when picking hooves.

Study the following illustrations, so you can become proficient at naming the parts of the hoof.



Basic parts that you want to be familiar with are: Heel, Bar, Quarter, Sole Toe, Wall, White Line, Point of frog, Frog, Cleft of frog, Commissure, Buttress of heel, and bulb.

Worksheet #1 - Color the Hoof

Using colored pencils, markers or crayons color the hoof by using the key.

Color the:

White Line - Purple

Frog - Blue

Cleft of the frog - green

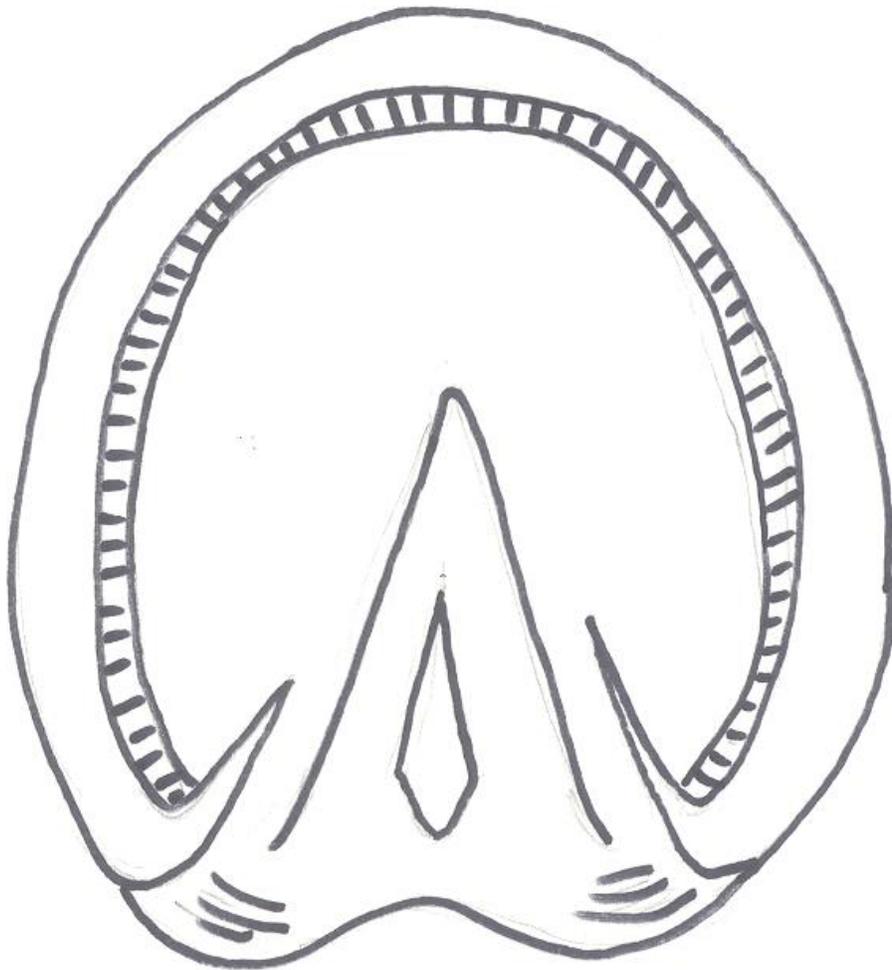
Hoof Wall - Red

Sole - Yellow

Bulbs of the Heel - Orange

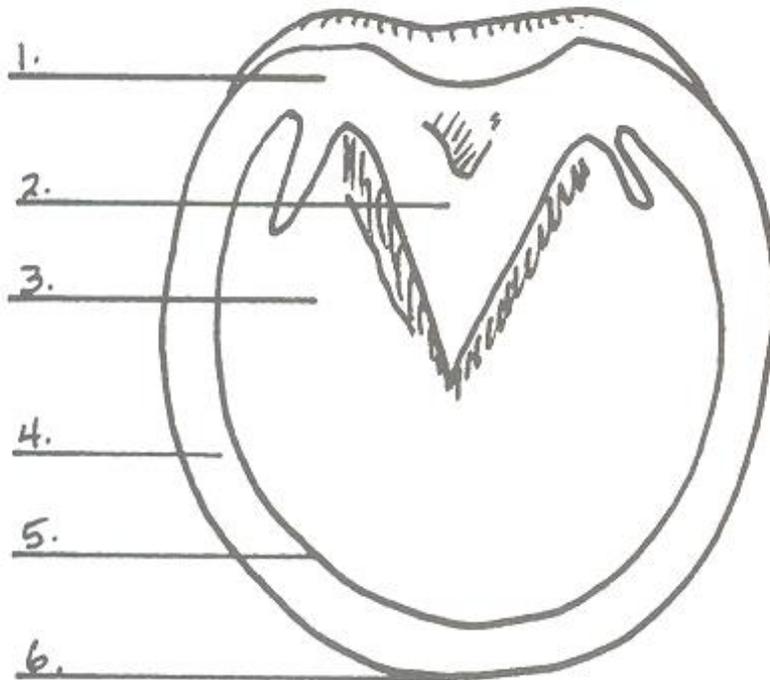
Bars - Pink

Heel - Brown



Worksheet #2 - Identify Parts of the hoof.

Using the word bank write the correct name for the part on the numbered line.



WORD BANK

Sole

Frog

Toe

White Line

Heel

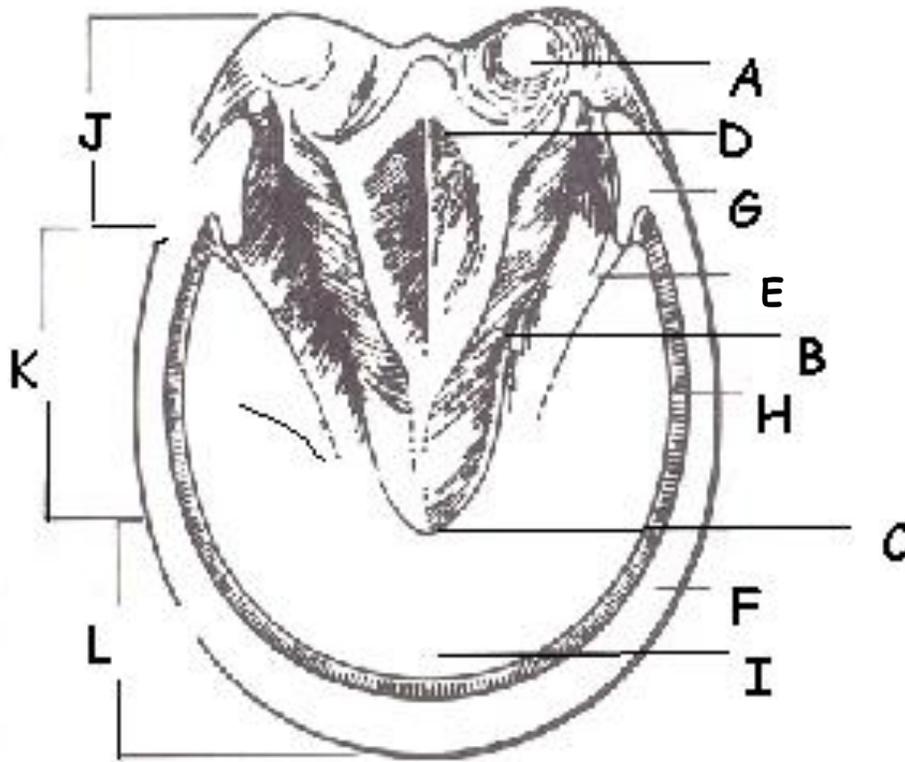
Hoof Wall

Now you need to go back and study the hoof parts really well because they are going to get tougher.

TIP TO REMEMBER:

Sometimes the same part of the hoof can have more than one name. Look through horse books to see what differences you can find. It is good to know the different names.

Worksheet #3 - Identify Parts of the Hoof



_____ Point of the Frog

_____ Toe

_____ Bulb

_____ Sole

_____ White Line

_____ Hoof Wall

_____ Quarter

_____ Bar

_____ Commissure

_____ Heel

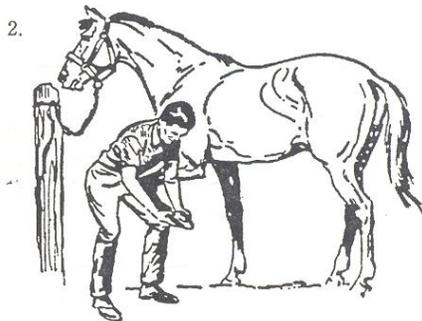
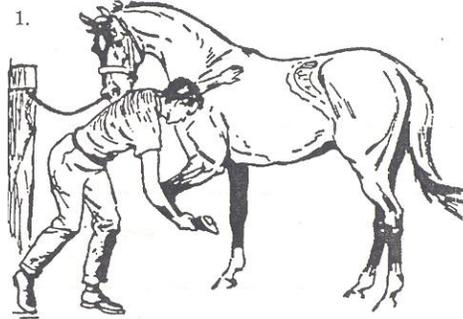
_____ Cleft of Frog

_____ Buttress of Heel

Picking out Hooves

Cleaning or picking the hooves can sometimes be very challenging when you are first learning. Here are some tips to help you out, but remember to practice and don't give up. Soon you will be doing it with no problem.

1. Always work in the same order - near fore, near hind, off fore, off hind. Stand on the left side of your horse facing his rear. Place your left hand on the horse's shoulder. Bending over, run your right hand gently but firmly down the back of the leg until your hand is just above the fetlock. Press against the horse's shoulder with your left hand, forcing his weight onto the opposite foreleg. Grasp his fetlock with your fingers.



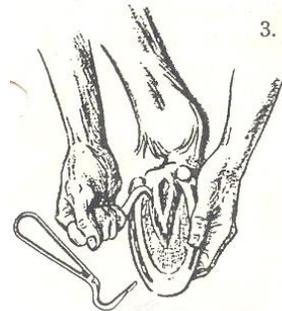
2. When your horse picks up his hoof, support it on your left knee.

3. With the hoof pick, clean out the hoof from heel to toe. Clean around the frog, remember to clean the cleft in the center of the frog. Clean the

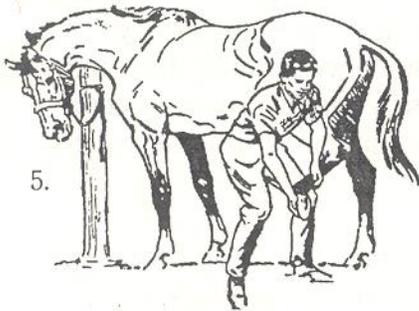
commissures down both sides of the frog.

It is important to clean these areas thoroughly; this is where thrush and other foot infections occur. Inspect the feet for rocks, nails, injuries, loose shoes and thrush.

4. Again working from the left side, stand forward of the horse's hindquarters, facing



his rear. Using your left hand, gently stroke his back as far as the croup, against which your left hand rests. Stroke the legs gently but firmly with your right hand down as far as the middle of the cannon. Press against the horse's hip, forcing his weight onto the opposite hind leg. Grasp the cannon just above the fetlock with your right hand, lifting the hoof directly toward you so the leg is bent at the hock.



5. Then move to the rear, keeping the hind leg next to your thigh. Avoid holding the hoof out to one side of the horse. The discomfort of this position will make him resist. Swing your left leg underneath the fetlock to support the leg firmly.

Worksheet #4 - Short Answer

1. When picking up a rear hoof, what do you avoid doing?

2. What is the triangular growth in the center of the hoof?

3. Name the depressions on both sides of the frog.

4. What condition can occur if the hoofs are not cleaned thoroughly?

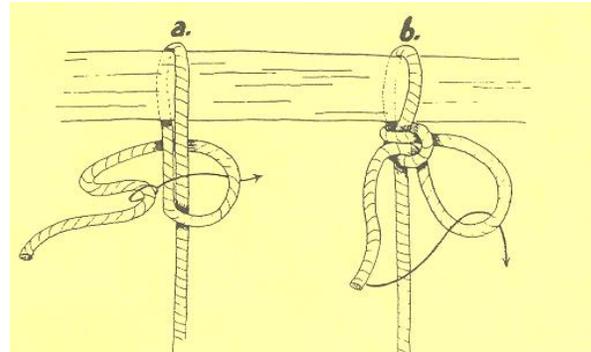
5. In what order should you clean the hooves?

6. When cleaning the hooves what else should you inspect for?

Section C - Demonstrate how to tie two quick release knots and explain why you use them.

It is important that every horseperson know a few basic knots and when to use them. There are no "rules" of tying a horse other than those of safety and common sense. You want to use a knot that can be untied quickly, will not slip and can be untied even if the horse is pulling back, also that the horse cannot untie with his teeth.

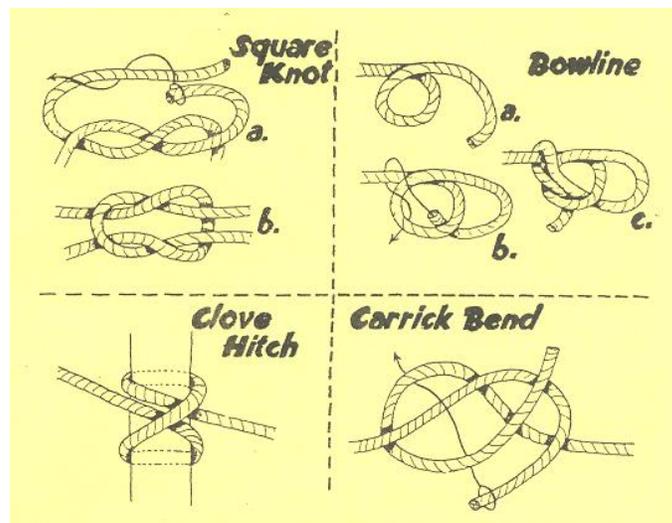
The recommended knot for tying a lead rope to a fixed object is a quick-release knot. This knot is easy to tie and meets all of the requirements. It really is the only knot that should be used for this type of tying. Remember to "lock" it by putting the end through the loop.



When a rope needs to be tied around a horse's neck the recommended knot would be the bowline. It will not slip and can be untied because it does not draw tight, and is relatively easy to tie. Slip knots should never be used in place of the bowline or the quick release knot.

Other helpful knots for the horseperson to know are the sheet bend or carrick bend, clove hitch and the square knot. They all have some specific uses but should never be used by themselves to tie a horse.

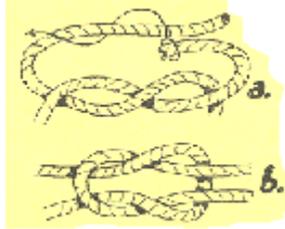
The square knot is useful for tying two ends of the same size rope together. The sheet bend or carrick bend is good to use to tie two ropes of different diameters together; this knot will not slip. The clove hitch is useful in combination with the quick release knot to prevent the rope from slipping down a smooth pole.



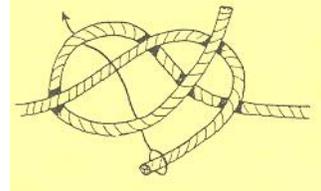
Worksheet # 1 - Knots

Identify the following knots. Using the word bank, draw a line from the knot to the correct name.

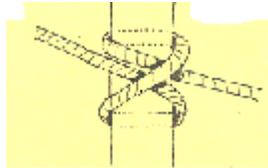
Bowline



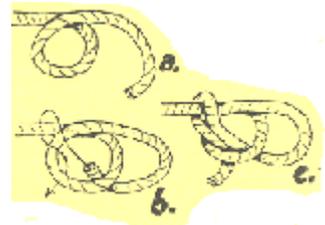
Quick-Release



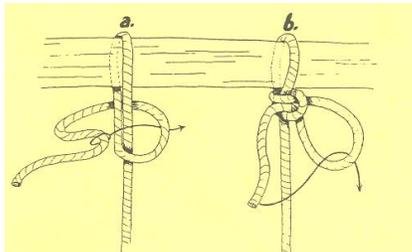
Square knot



Sheet bend



Clove hitch



Answer the following questions.

1. Which knot is good for tying two ends of the same type of rope together? _____

2. What knot is recommended for tying a horse?

3. Which knot is recommended used in combination with the quick-release knot on a smooth pole? _____

4. Which knot is safe to use around a horse's neck?

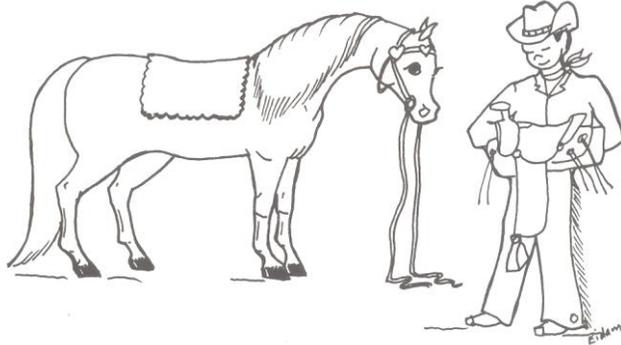
5. What is another name for the sheet bend knot?

Part D - Demonstrate how to tack up and untack a horse.

The basic methods for tacking and untacking a horse are similar for both English and Western. The following instructions are written as general guidelines, differences are noted for English and Western where important.

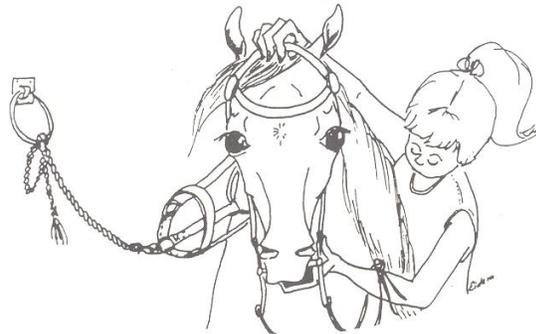
Tacking Up

- ✓ The horse is led to the tacking area with a halter and lead shank.
- ✓ He is put into crossties when possible.
- ✓ The horse is groomed thoroughly.
- ✓ Place the saddle pad or blanket high on the withers, then slide it backward into place on the horse's back to smooth the horse's hair.
- ✓ Pick up the saddle make sure the stirrups are run up or the right stirrup and cinch are over the seat.
- ✓ Working from the near (left) side of the horse, lift the saddle over the horse's back and gently place the saddle on the pad or blanket.
- ✓ Be sure to check the pad or blanket to make sure it is not tight or binding over the horse's withers or back.
- ✓ From the off (right) the horse and either gently lift the stirrup and cinch down or attach the girth to the right side of the saddle.
- ✓ Check to make sure the cinch or girth is not twisted.
- ✓ From the near side of the horse pull the girth/cinch under the horse and tighten the girth/cinch, but not snugly at this time. With the western saddle remember to hook the left stirrup over the horn.



Bridling

- ✓ Stand on the horse's near (left) side and place the reins over the horse's head and around his neck in order to keep them from falling on the ground.
- ✓ Now you are ready to slip the



horse's halter off his head and leave it hanging around the neck, so the horse is still secured.

- ✓ Holding the crown piece in your right hand and the bit in the left. *(Or you can hold the headstall just below the browband with your right hand and guide the bit with your left hand.)*
- ✓ Bring the crownpiece towards the horse's ears.
- ✓ Place the bit between the horse's lips. If the horse doesn't open his mouth, put your thumb in the side of his mouth and press down on the horse's bars *(the area where the bit sits where there are no teeth).*
- ✓ Raise the crown piece and insert the bit.
- ✓ Slip the crown piece gently over one ear and then the other, first pushing the ears flat. *(When using a one-eared bridle, place the one ear in the earpiece and slide the rest of the crownpiece over the other ear.)*
- ✓ Straighten and adjust the browband and forelock.
- ✓ Buckle the throatlatch loose enough so you can insert your handbreadth wise between the throatlatch and throat of the horse.
- ✓ Fasten the cavesson or noseband on the English bridle so that one finger can be inserted between the cavesson and the horse.
- ✓ Adjust the curb strap or chain so that it is not twisted and that two fingers can be inserted between the strap and the horse's jaw.
- ✓ Remember to check that all leather straps are securely tucked into their keepers.
- ✓ With the bridle securely in place the halter is removed from the horse's neck and hung out of the way. *(DO NOT leave the halter dangling from the rope, where a horse could step in it, get caught and break a leg.)*

The Final Check

- ✓ Your girth/cinch should be checked again. Tightened as needed.
- ✓ Move the horse forward a few steps. *(To prevent a possible pinch from the girth/cinch it is wise to raise each front leg forward pulling any excess flesh out from behind the girth/cinch and to make certain no flesh is wrinkled underneath. Avoiding and pinches or rubs.)*
- ✓ The girth/cinch should be checked once again after walking the horse a few feet. Then tighten if necessary.
- ✓ Now you are ready to go to the area where you can mount.

Untacking

- ✓ To begin untacking the horse should be put back on the crossties with the halter around the neck.
- ✓ English riders should have run up their stirrups after dismounting.

- ✓ The girth/cinch can be loosened at this time, but do not unfasten.
- ✓ The throatlatch, curb chain and cavesson should be unfastened after the horse is on crossties.
- ✓ The bridle is carefully removed using the same arm position as when bridling, encourage the horse to gently drop or slip the bit from the horse's mouth.
- ✓ As soon as the bridle is off, hang it on your shoulder and slip the halter back on the horse's head and fasten it in place.
- ✓ Next, the girth or cinch is completely unfastened. Girths removed and cinches brought up.
- ✓ The saddle and pad is gently removed from the horses back.
- ✓ Bridles should be properly hung up and saddle placed on its rack with pads/blankets hung to air or dry.
- ✓ The horse should then cooled and groomed.

Worksheet #1 - Tacking Up

Using the guidelines on the previous pages, number the following statements in the order that they should occur. The statements are not worded exactly the same as the step on the previous pages, but mean the same thing.

TACKING UP

_____ Place the saddle pad/blanket on the withers, and then slide it back into place.

_____ Check to make sure the girth/cinch is not twisted.

_____ Lead the horse to the tacking area.

_____ Check the saddle pad/blanket to make sure it is not binding over the withers.

_____ Put the horse into crossties.

_____ From the near side of the horse bring the girth/cinch under the horse and tighten.

_____ Working on the near side of the horse, lift the saddle over the horse's back and gently place the saddle on the pad or blanket.

_____ Groom the horse.

*HINT:
Some steps may be
missing.*

BRIDLING

_____ Bring the crownpiece toward the horse's ears.

_____ Check that all straps are in their keepers.

_____ Slip the halter off the horse's head, but leave it around his neck.

- _____ Raise the crown piece and insert the bit.
- _____ Stand on the near side of the horse and slip the reins over the horse's head and around his neck.
- _____ Fasten the cavesson.
- _____ Straighten the browband and forelock.
- _____ Hold the crownpiece in your right hand and the bit in your left.
- _____ Slip the crownpiece gently over one ear and then the other.
- _____ Fasten and adjust the curb chain.
- _____ With the bridle securely on, remove the halter from the horse's neck and hang it up.
- _____ Buckle the throatlatch.

Worksheet #2 - More about tacking up.

Short Answer. Fill in the blank with the correct answer.

1. Which side of the English saddle is the girth attached to first?

2. When buckling the throatlatch how loose should it be?

3. When you are riding English, what is the first thing you should do when you dismount? _____
4. When fastening the curb chain how much space should leave?

5. When you fasten the curb chain what else should you check for?

6. After you have tightened the girth, what should you check for?

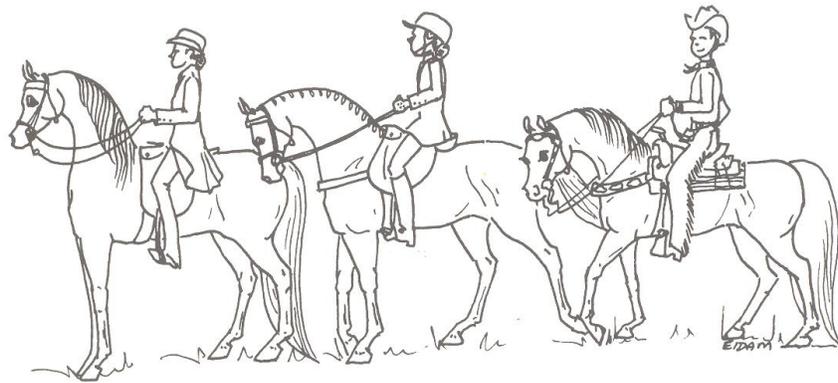
7. When tightening the cavesson, how much space is recommended between the horse and cavesson _____

8. What do you do to prevent a possible pinch from the girth/cinch?

9. When finished riding and untacking, what do you do with your equipment?

10. Where are the horse's bars and what will sit there?

Part E – Demonstrate ability to mount and dismount, ride and control a horse at the walk, trot or jog and canter or lope.



A correct seat in the saddle is the basic key to successful horsemanship. Correct position gives the rider good balance and helps provide good control of the horse by correct weight distribution and use of riding aids.

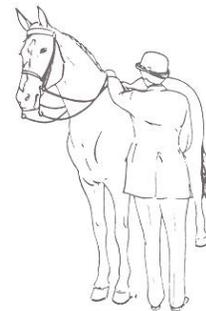
Methods of mounting, sitting in the saddle and dismounting differ slightly from seat to seat, but are basically the same. A steady, secure, relaxed seat with quiet hands is important in all seats. A rider who is proficient in English riding can easily do the same in Western riding and vice versa.

REMEMBER!
Always check the tightness of your girth before mounting.

English Equitation: Mounting, Correct Seat, and Dismounting

• Mounting

- Put the reins over the horse's head, one on each side of the neck.
- Stand on the near (left) side of the horse, facing the rear of the horse.
- Address the reins (*pick them up and adjust them*) in the following manner.
 - Grasp the center of the snaffle rein with your right hand and take this rein in the left hand at the horse's neck just in front of the saddle.



- Pull the rein up tight.
- Then grasp the curb rein with the right hand and place it loosely in the left hand. *(You will then be holding the horse snugly on the snaffle and loosely on the curb)* Hold the reins with the bight (loop) on the right side. *(If the horse tends to move toward you, keep the right (off) snaffle rein tighter than the near snaffle)*

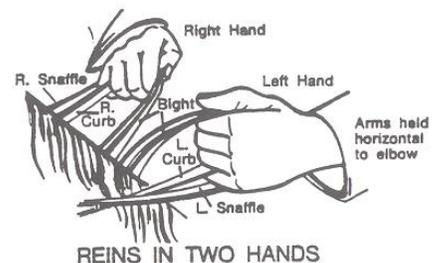
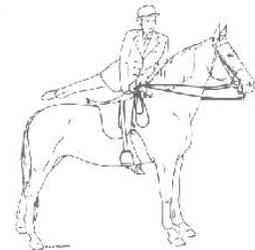


- Face the rear of the horse and grasp the far side of the left stirrup with your right hand and turn it at a right angle to the horse and place your left foot well into the stirrup.
- Take a hop step closer to the horse and grasp the off side of the cantle with your right hand.
- Immediately spring off the right foot and swing your right leg over the horse's hindquarters *(careful not to brush the horse)*.
- As your body clears the saddle, your right hand slides forward.
- Allow your seat to sink gently into the lowest part of the saddle without a bump. Place the right foot quietly in the stirrup and take the reins in both hands.



Rider's Position: Hands and Arms

- Your hands should be held in an easy position, neither perpendicular nor horizontal to the saddle. Your hands should show sympathy, adaptability and control.
- The height of your hands above the withers will be determined by how and where the horse carries its head.
- The reins should be held with the snaffle on the outside of the curb rein, with the bight falling on the off side of the horse.
- Elbows should be held at your sides in a natural position, not in too tight or out too far.
- When shorting the reins, maintain your original hold and grasp the left reins just below the left thumb with your right fingers and slide the left hand forward on the reins. Repeat the same procedure for the other hand.



- ❑ To lengthen the reins, relax your grip and slide both hands back at the same time.

Head -

- ❑ Your head is held up, eyes looking ahead of the horse.

Shoulders -

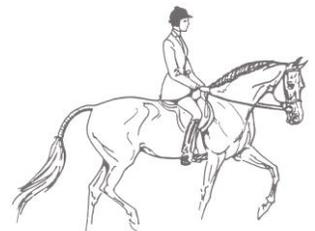
- ❑ Both of your shoulders should be square and even.

Back -

- ❑ Your upper back should be erect. Sit tall in the saddle. Your lower back should be relaxed and flexing with the horse's movements.
- ❑ Your hip should be in line with your shoulder and the back of your heel.

Rider's Position: Legs and Feet

- ❑ While sitting in the saddle with feet out of the stirrups, adjust stirrup leather to fit. Properly adjusted, the bottom (*tread or bar*) of the stirrup iron should touch the rider on the point of the ankle joint.
- ❑ Irons should be placed under the balls of the feet (*not toe or heme*) with even pressure on the entire width of the sole and center of the iron.
- ❑ Correct leg and foot position go together. Your toe should be about 15 degrees out from parallel with the horse and the heel slightly lower than the stirrup bar.
- ❑ To achieve this position, place your foot evenly on the stirrup and while holding your entire leg steady from the hip down, swing the heel down and out.
- ❑ This will turn your entire leg at the hip joint until the knee and thigh are in close, comfortable contact with the saddle. Don't try and grip with the knee.



- **Dismounting - the reverse of mounting**

- ❑ With the snaffle reins tighter than your curb reins.
- ❑ Put your left hand on the withers holding the reins.
- ❑ Right hand on the pommel, support your self in the stirrups.

Common Mistakes in English Riding

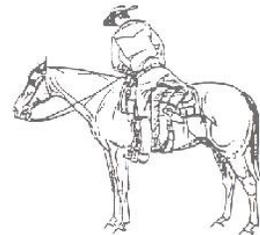
1. Chin and eyes too low.
2. Elbows flapping.
3. Heels too high, riding on toes.
4. Leaning too far forward.
5. Wrists breaking over (*piano hands*).
6. Riding with hands too low in lap.
7. Feet too far forward or too far

- ❑ Swing your right leg over the horse's back and put your right hand on the cantle of the saddle.
- ❑ Then take your left foot out of the stirrup and slide down to the ground.
- ❑ Always run your stirrups up after dismounting.

Western Equitation: Mounting, Correct Seat, and Dismounting

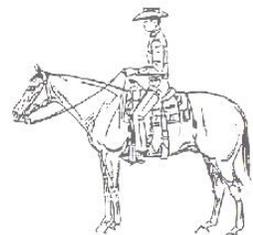
• Mounting

- ❑ Stand on the horses near (left) side.
- ❑ Put the reins over the horse's neck, one on each side of the neck.
- ❑ Grip the reins properly with left hand; place your hand on the neck in front of the withers with the bight of the reins on the near side.
- ❑ Face the rear of the horse.
- ❑ Take the left stirrup with your right hand and place your left foot in the stirrup.
- ❑ With your right hand grasp the pommel or horn.
- ❑ Bounce and swing your right leg over the saddle. Careful not to hit the horse with your right leg or dig your left toe into his side.
- ❑ Gently ease into the saddle and put your right foot in the stirrup.
- ❑ Hold the reins in your left hand and stand with weight in the right stirrup to straighten the saddle.

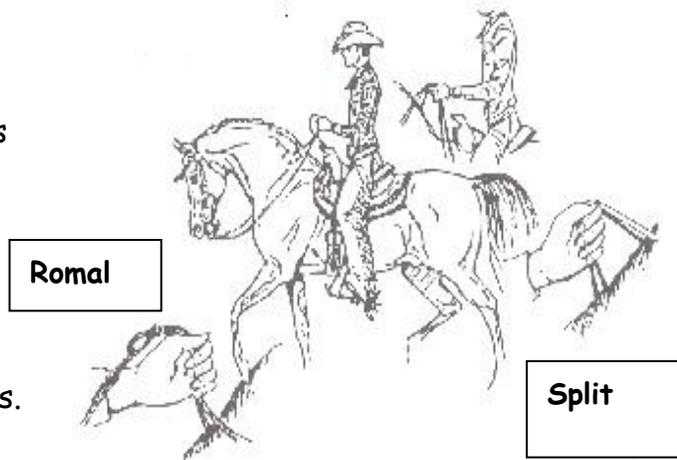


Rider's Position: Hands and Arms

- ❑ Arms should be straight line with the body, rein arm bent at the elbow.
- ❑ Right hand can be held loosely on the right thigh or near the belt buckle. It should be kept free of the horse and equipment.
- ❑ Elbows are relaxed and close to your sides and not permitted to flap.
- ❑ Only one hand is to be used for reining and you cannot change hands.



- ❑ Reining hand is to be above the horn and as near to it as possible.
- ❑ When using split reins the ends of the split reins falls on the side of the reining hand, one finger is permitted between the reins.
- ❑ When using romal reins, no fingers are allowed between the reins. The reins are held in the left hand with the end of the reins coming out of the top of the fist. The end of the reins or romal is held in the right hand at least 16 inches away from the left hand.



Rider's Position: Head

- ❑ The head is held up with the eyes looking ahead of the horse.
- Shoulders -
- ❑ Both shoulders should be square and even. Be careful that the left shoulder is not carried higher or that you twist forward with the right shoulder as a result of holding the reins in the left hand.

Back -

- ❑ Upper back should be erect, sit tall in the saddle. Do not slump.
- ❑ Lower back should be relaxed and flexing with the horse's movements.

Lower Body -

- ❑ Sit relaxed in the center of the saddle with your feet and legs under your body. Keep your hip in line with your shoulder and the back of your heel.
- ❑ Your body should always appear comfortable, relaxed and flexible.

Rider's Position: Legs and Feet

- ❑ Stirrup length is important. When standing in the stirrups with your heels lower than your toes and knees slightly bent, there should be a space of 2 ½" to 3" (a hand's width) between your buttocks and the saddle.

Common Mistakes in Western Riding

1. Slouching in the saddle.
2. Flapping elbows.
3. Feet and knees too far forward.
4. Heels too high.
5. Holding reins too short - too long
6. Toes turned out too far.
7. Rider behind or ahead of horse.
8. Improper hand position on reins; finger between romal reins, too many fingers between split reins.
9. Improper weight distribution in saddle (leaning).
10. Chin and eyes too low.

- ❑ Only the balls of the feet are on the treads of the stirrup.
- ❑ Insteps and ankles should be flexible with heel remaining lower than the toes.
- ❑ Toes should not be extremely out or in, but in a comfortable position.
- ❑ Knees and thighs should be rolled in so that the flat part of the knee is held against the saddle.
- ❑ There is light contact with the horse on the inside of the calves and legs.

Dismounting- is the reverse of mounting.

- ❑ With right hand on horn, rise in stirrups, lean forward.
- ❑ With left hand on withers, controlling the horse with the reins, swing right leg clear of horse's hips.
- ❑ Disengage left foot from the stirrup and slide down to the ground.

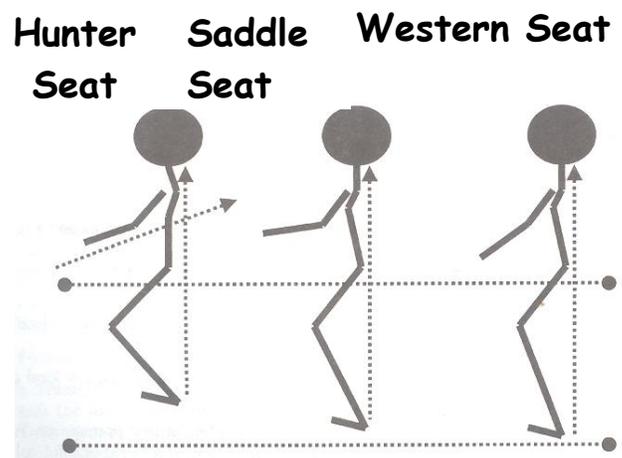
Equitation

General information

Most equitation experts agree there is very little difference between the hunt, saddle and western seats. If you, the rider will attempt to use a fairly straight line through the body from the shoulder through the hip and the ankle you are reasonably assured of good position. In hunt seat there is a slight arch in the back. In saddle seat that slight arch is removed and the hips are more underneath the rider. Riders are encouraged to practice a good balanced seat position, therefore enabling you to ride all three positions well.

In all seats you should adjust your reins as to have contact with the horse's mouth. Sloppy reins do not necessarily indicate a pleasure horse, merely a sloppy one. Reins that are too loose are dangerous, because immediate checking of the horse in the case of stumbling or falling down cannot be given.

At all gaits you should "be with your horse" or in balance with your horse so that you remain sitting erect in your seat with the least possible effort, so that your weight distribution doesn't interfere with the horse's



* Line from heel, hip, and shoulder.
* Heels down

movements. The condition of "being with the horse" is key to good riding. Your balance as a rider must be entirely independent of your hands and reins. You should not balance yourself with the reins; this causes jerking of the horse's mouth. As a rider you must fit into the saddle and so be attached to your horse. At that point both rider and horse can move in rhythm gracefully and comfortably.

It is suggested you refer to the Equitation section of the United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) Rule Book. All seats are discussed in this reference. You can access the rulebook on the Internet at www.usef.org.

Worksheet #1 -Mounting/Dismounting and Basic Equitation

Short Answer - Fill in the blank with the correct answer.

1. Name the two types of reins used when riding western? _____
2. When riding English with double reins, which rein should lie on the inside against the horse's neck? _____
3. Mounting is the reverse of what? _____
4. In all seats, what part of your foot should be in contact with the tread of the stirrup? _____
5. When riding with Romal reins, how many fingers are allowed between the reins? _____
6. From which side of the horse do you mount? _____
7. What does address your reins mean? _____
8. When riding western which hand do you traditionally hold the reins in?

9. When riding western where can your other hand rest? _____
10. Your heel should always be _____ than your toe.
11. What publication should be your reference for equitation questions?
12. Most equitation experts agree that there is very little
_____ between hunt, saddle and western seat riding?
13. Riders of any seat are encouraged to maintain a straight line between your _____, _____ and _____.
14. Your balance as a rider should be entirely independent of your
_____ and _____.
15. In all seats your eyes should be _____ of the horse.

Worksheet #2 - More Equitation

In an English equitation class you are in the lineup. The judge asks you to address your reins. Number the following steps in the correct order of how you would address your reins.

_____ Pull the snaffle rein up tight.

_____ Hold the reins with the bight (loop) on the right side. *(If the horse tends to move toward you, keep the right (off) snaffle rein tighter than the near snaffle)*

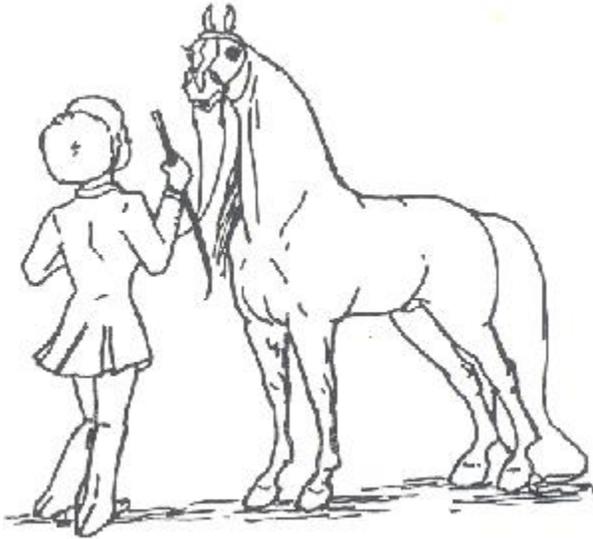
_____ Then grasp the curb rein with the right hand and place it loosely in the left hand. *(You will then be holding the horse snugly on the snaffle and loosely on the curb)*

_____ Grasp the center of the snaffle rein with your right hand and take this rein in the left hand at the horse's neck just in front of the saddle.

Read the following statements. Circle the ones that are **not** common riding mistakes.

1. Chin and eyes to low.
2. Elbows flapping.
3. Heels down.
4. Toe turned out too far.
5. Slouching in the saddle.
6. Putting one finger in between split reins.
7. Feet too far forward.
8. Straight line from shoulder to hip to heel.
9. Leaning too far forward.
10. Eyes looking ahead of the horse.
11. Sitting with right shoulder twisted forward.
12. Riding with the ball of your foot on the tread of the stirrup.
13. Switching reins from one hand to the other.

Part F – Participate in a fitting and/or showmanship class at a horse show or play day and demonstrate the ability to fit and show a horse to a designated person.



Fitting and Showmanship

The Morgan showmanship class demonstrates the exhibitor's ability to fit and prepare as well as show a horse to a designated person. Horses may be presented in saddle seat, hunt or western tack. Stallions are prohibited in classes limited to junior exhibitors (under 18 years old). Showmanship classes are judged 40% on presentation and 60% on showmanship.

I. Presentation – 40%

A. Condition – The horse should be healthy, alert, serviceably sound and in good condition.

B. Grooming

1. Coat should be clean, glossy, of good texture and free of stains. Daily grooming, a good diet and peak physical condition will produce a natural, high luster. Excessive amounts of oil, fly spray and polish are discouraged.

2. The mane and tail should be clean, soft and shiny, full-bodied and of good texture. The mane may be pulled to correct any unevenness or to facilitate braiding in hunter classes. Any evidence of rubbed out hair will be faulted. The mane is usually trained to the off (right) side. Braiding is optional if shown under hunter tack.

3. Hooves should be clean and smooth. They should be picked clean. If unshod, hooves should be trimmed and shaped. If the horse is shod, shoes must fit, not show un-due wear, and clinches should be smooth. A "non-sticky" hoof dressing or polish may be used for a more polished overall appearance.

4. Clipping. The bridlepath is traditionally trimmed from 2 to 6 inches behind the poll according to the conformation and length of neck. The hair on the fetlocks, back of cannons, in the ears, under the jowls, and on the muzzle is clipped to provide a neat appearance.

C. Tack - Tack should be clean, neat, in safe condition, fit properly and be appropriate to the way the horse is shown (saddle seat, hunt or western).

1. Saddle seat - Show halter or bridle with one bit (Weymouth curb or snaffle) and cavesson.

2. Hunt - Show halter or bridle with one bit (snaffle, kimberwicke, Weymouth curb with short shank and thick mouth, or Pelham) and cavesson.

3. Western - Show halter or bridle with throatlatch and western (snaffle or curb) bit.

D. Exhibitor - Clothes and person must be neat and clean. Suitable riding clothes are desirable and must be appropriate to the manner in which the horse is being shown (saddle seat, hunt, western). Boots are mandatory. A whip, not to exceed 42" in length, is optional.

II. Showmanship - 60%

A. Leading

1. Enter leading the horse at a collected trot around the ring in a counter-clockwise direction or as specified by the judge.

2. Recommended method is to lead on the horse's left side holding the reins or lead strap in the right hand 4 to 10 inches from the bit or ring. The remaining portion of the reins or lead strap should be held safely and in a neat manner in the left hand.

3. Horse must work individually on the line at a walk and trot. The horse should lead readily. When making a turn, the horse should turn to the right, exhibitor walking around the horse.

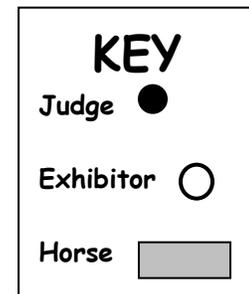
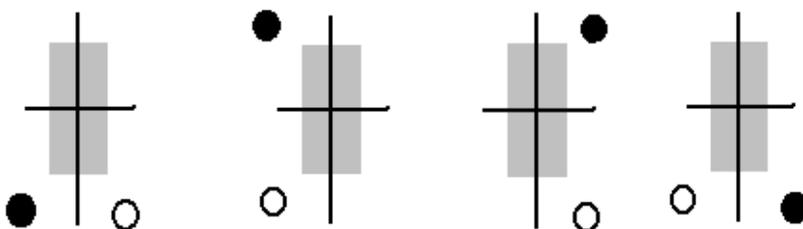
B. Posing

1. When posing the horse, the exhibitor should stand towards the front, off the horse's shoulder facing the horse, always in a position where he or she can keep an eye on the horse and know the position of the judge. The judge should have an unobstructed view of the horse.

Exhibitor to Horse



Examples of Exhibitor to Judge



2. Horses must stand squarely on all four feet with front legs perpendicular to the ground. Rear legs may be placed slightly back in saddle seat attire only.

3. Crowding should be penalized. The exhibitor should maintain a horse's length apart (8 to 10 feet) when leading or posing in a line head to tail. When lined up side by side, there should be plenty of room between entries. An exhibitor should not lead his horse between the judge and a horse the judge is observing.

4. The horse should be alert and awake but not overly shown.

C. Poise, Alertness and Attitude

1. The exhibitor should quickly recognize the conformation faults of the horse he is leading and show it to overcome its faults.

2. The horse should be shown at all times quietly and effectively. Exhibitors must not show just themselves.

3. Exhibitors should respond promptly to requests from the judge. Courteous and sportsmanlike behavior should be displayed at all times.

4. Exhibitors should avoid being distracted by persons or things from outside or inside the ring.

5. Exhibitors should be alert and showing until the entire class has been worked and judged and the winners have been announced.

D. Additional Testing

1. Exhibitors may be asked to answer horse-related questions.

2. Exhibitors may be asked to perform additional tests at the judge's discretion.

Worksheet #1 - Showmanship

Fill in the blank with the correct answer.

1. Showmanship classes are judged ____% on presentation and ____% on showmanship.

2. When clipping a bridlepath, what is the traditional length?

3. Stallions are _____ in classes limited to jr. exhibitors.

4. Name the three styles or seats in which a horse can be shown in showmanship. _____, _____, _____

5. If carrying a whip, it is not to exceed _____ inches.

6. Judges may do additional testing in a showmanship class.

Name the two options they may ask. _____,

7. When in a head to tail line-up, how much space should you allow between you and the horse in front of you? _____

8. When holding the reins or lead strap in showmanship, how far should your right hand be from the bit or ring? _____

9. What is optional if a horse is being shown under hunter tack?

10. If showing in hunt attire and tack name the 3 of the bits that you may use. _____, _____, _____

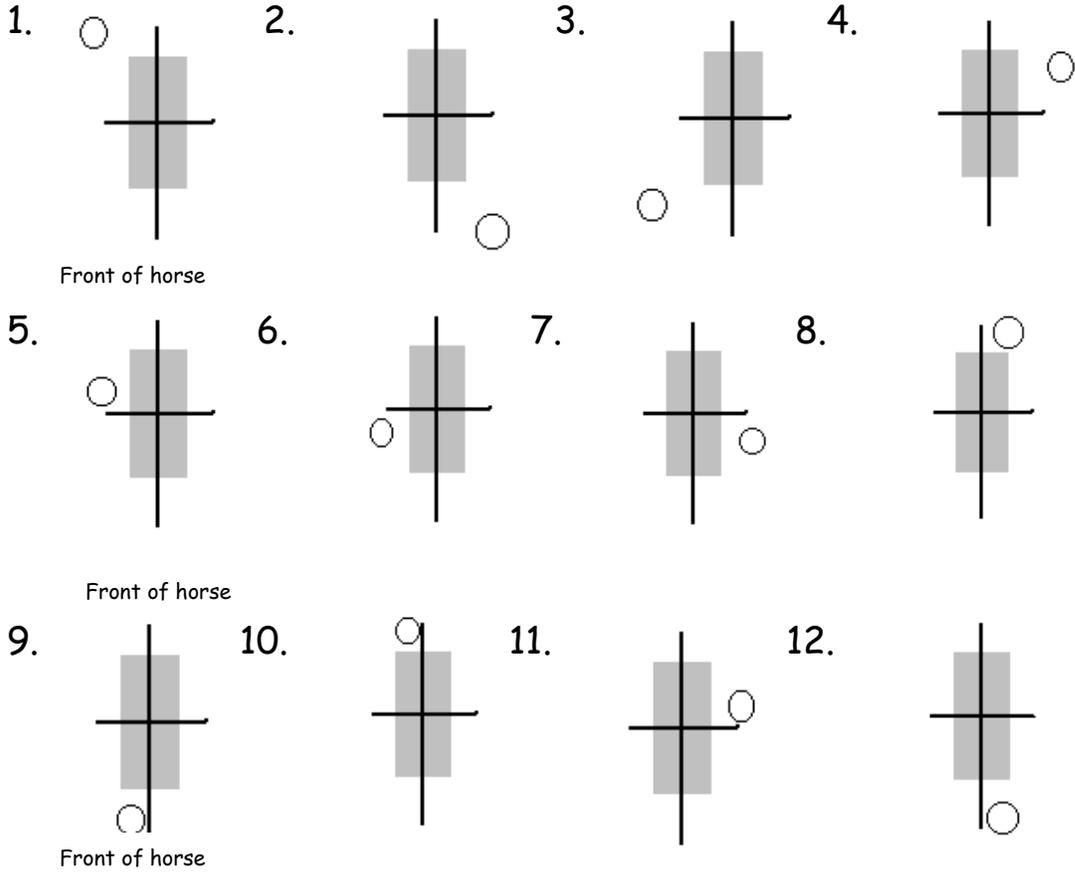
Worksheet #2 - Showmanship

Multiple Choice - Circle the correct answer for each question.

1. You enter the ring showing your horse at the collected trot, what direction do you go?
 - A. Straight into the center of the ring.
 - B. To the right, clock-wise.
 - C. To the left, counter-clockwise.
2. An exhibitor should recognize the conformation faults of the horse they are showing and
 - A. Tell the judge.
 - B. Show it to overcome the faults.
 - C. Hope no one notices.
3. The condition of a horse for showmanship should be:
 - A. Healthy, asleep, serviceably sound and in good condition.
 - B. Healthy, alert, unsound and in good condition.
 - C. Healthy, alert, serviceably sound and in good condition.
4. When showing the exhibitor should
 - A. Not be distracted by people outside or inside the ring.
 - B. Listening to see when their next class is.
 - C. Wondering what they should have for lunch.
5. Horse must stand squarely on all four feet with front legs perpendicular to the ground. Rear legs may be placed slightly back
 - A. In case they need to back-up.
 - B. If they are showing in a western halter.
 - C. If they are showing in saddle seat attire only.
6. When posing the horse, the exhibitor should
 - A. Stand only on the left side, facing the horse of the horse.
 - B. Stand on the off side facing the back of the horse.
 - C. Stand towards the front, off the shoulder facing the horse.
7. The exhibitor should always stand where he/she can keep an eye on the horse and
 - A. Know where center ring is.
 - B. Know the position of the ringmaster.
 - C. Know the position of the judge.

Worksheet #3 - Showmanship

In the following diagrams the judge is shown standing with the horse. You fill in with an "X" where the exhibitor should be standing.



Matching - Draw a line from the bit/tack to the appropriate way it would be shown.

Weymouth Curb

Pelham

Snaffle

Kimberwicke

Curb

Weymouth Curb w/ short shank

Show Halter

Western

Hunt

Saddle Seat

Part G – Give an acceptable Morgan Oriented Demonstration before a group.

For this part you will need to use your creative ability. You will find some ideas for demonstrations outlined in this section. You can use one of the ideas or come up with one of your own. Be sure to talk with your leader or a mentor to make sure it is an acceptable topic.



- Morgan characteristics
- Morgan colors and markings
- Parts of Tack - Hunter, Western, Saddle seat, or Driving
- Morgan structure or conformation
- Morgan History - pick a time period, event, topic, story or horse
- Morgan Versatility
- Morgan Youth Programs and opportunities
- AMHA Programs

You can do the presentation as a lesson to teach the topic you choose. The group you talk to could be your own youth group or a 4-H group, girl or Boy Scout group. It also could be at a lunch break of a local open or 4-H horse show.

You could use several types of support materials depending on your topic and your setting. You could request relevant promotional material from the AMHA office. If you are indoors in front of a group, you can use video (VCR or DVD tapes), PowerPoint presentation, posters, pictures and other visual material. If you are doing a demonstration at a horse show or other outdoor type of event you can use live animals and other props. The Morgan Museum is also a great source for information on historical topics.

Worksheet #1 - Demonstration

Use this sheet and the questions to help plan the lesson or demonstration or are going to give.

1. What is the subject of your demonstration?

2. What group are you doing it for?

3. Who is your contact person for the group?

4. When are you going to do the demonstration? (Date)

5. About how big is the group? _____

This will help you if you need to order promotional material.

6. What kind of props will you need? _____

Use the following space to outline your subject and begin your writing.