



Horse Activity Book C

for



4-H Members in Grades
Kindergarten - 3rd Grade



Name: _____

Club Name: _____

County: _____

Notes for Volunteers

Thank you for helping with the Gloucester County 4-H Horse Cloverbuds! Here are some The NJ 4-H Horse Cloverbud Policy & Safety Guidelines must be followed at all times when using this activity book. Please see <http://nj4h.rutgers.edu/policies/members-cloverbudpolicy-2009-0901.pdf> for a copy of the policy and guidelines.

- ~ Many sections include a variety of activities. At least one activity per section must be completed.
- ~ There are (3) 4-H Horse Cloverbud Activity Books. All Cloverbud members in one club or group should complete the same book in the course of one year, regardless of their ages or the length of time they have been members. Ex: This year, all Cloverbud Horse Club members complete Book B. Next year, all members will complete Book C.
- ~ Currently, this curriculum is available as an electronic publication. Please contact your County 4-H office for printed copies.
- ~ For additional Cloverbud activities, please refer to the NJ 4-H Cloverbud page located at <http://nj4h.rutgers.edu/cloverbud/>.

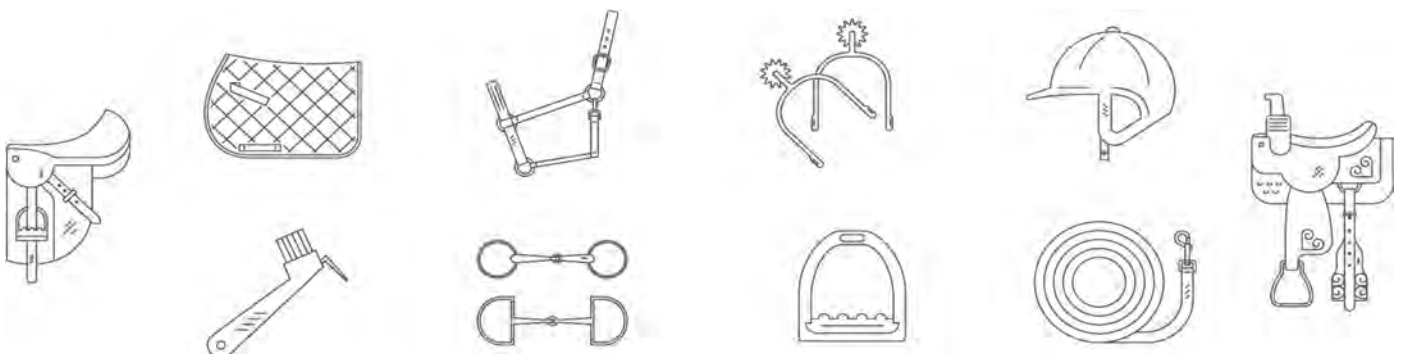
What is the 4-H Cloverbud Program? 4-H can be a valuable experience for youth of many ages. In New Jersey, the earliest 4-H club experience is belonging to a 4-H Cloverbud Club (children in grades K-3).

Summary of Differences Between the Cloverbud Program and the Traditional 4-H Program

	Cloverbuds	4-H Program
Type of Learning	Activity-centered	Project-centered
Type of Instruction	Leader-directed	Self-study, Individual
Recognition	Participation	Achievement
Recognition Goals	Participation	Competition, achievement
Learner Resources	Activity book	Project record book

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My 4-H Club



My Name: _____

4-H Club Name: _____

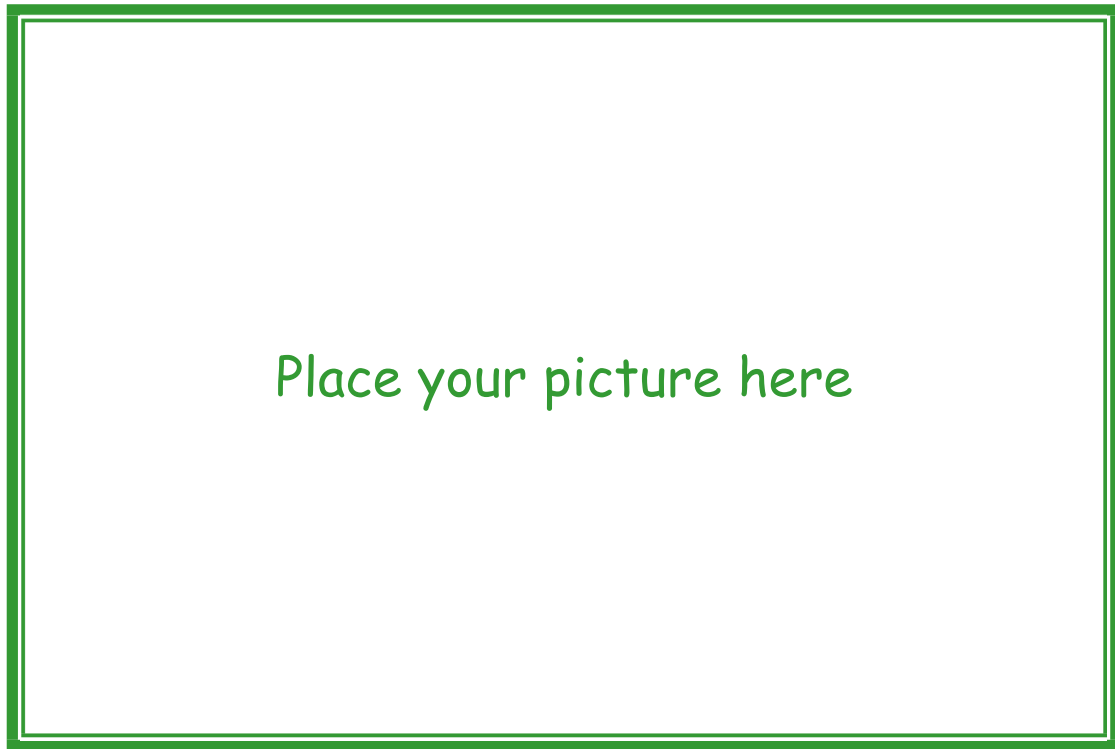
My Project Helper's Name: _____

4-H Leader's Name: _____

My Leader's Phone Number: _____

Other Club Members: _____

A Little Bit About Me



Name: _____ Age: _____

My Family Members: _____

My Favorite Activities: _____

About 4-H

4-H Emblem

The four leaf clover with the letter “H” on each leaf, which stands for head, heart, hands and health. The colors of the emblem are green and white.

Can you color the clover to make it a 4-H clover?



4-H Motto

“TO MAKE THE BEST BETTER”

This motto challenges everyone involved in 4-H to do the very best job they can.

4-H Slogan

“LEARNING BY DOING”

The 4-H Pledge

4-H Pledge

I pledge

My Head to clearer thinking,
(right hand points to forehead)

My Heart to greater loyalty,
(right hand over heart)

My Hands to larger service, and
(arms slightly bent, palms up)

My Health to better living,
(arms at sides)

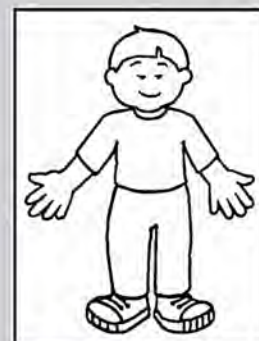
For My Club, My Community,
My Country, and My World.



Head



Heart



Hands



Health



RUTGERS UNIVERSITY
Cooperative Extension
New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station

My Club & County Activities and Events

Event

Date

A Little Bit About My Project Horse

Tell us about a horse you ride or learn about here.



Place a picture of your horse here

Name of Horse: _____

Breed: _____

Gender: _____ Age: _____

Color: _____

Where is the horse kept? _____

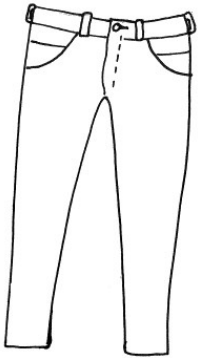
Who helps care for the horse? _____

Getting Ready

Are You Prepared?

Are you in the right mood?

We all get very excited and sometimes very grumpy, but it is important to remember that when you work around horses, you need to act responsibly! So if you need to yell, scream, and jump with joy – don't do it around the horses. You don't want to frighten them!



What are you wearing?

Your clothing should be comfortable and fitted. Clothes should not be so tight that you cannot freely move your arms or legs and should not be so loose that your shirt or pants get caught on the saddle. If you are planning to ride, be sure you are wearing long pants to avoid pinching from the saddle.

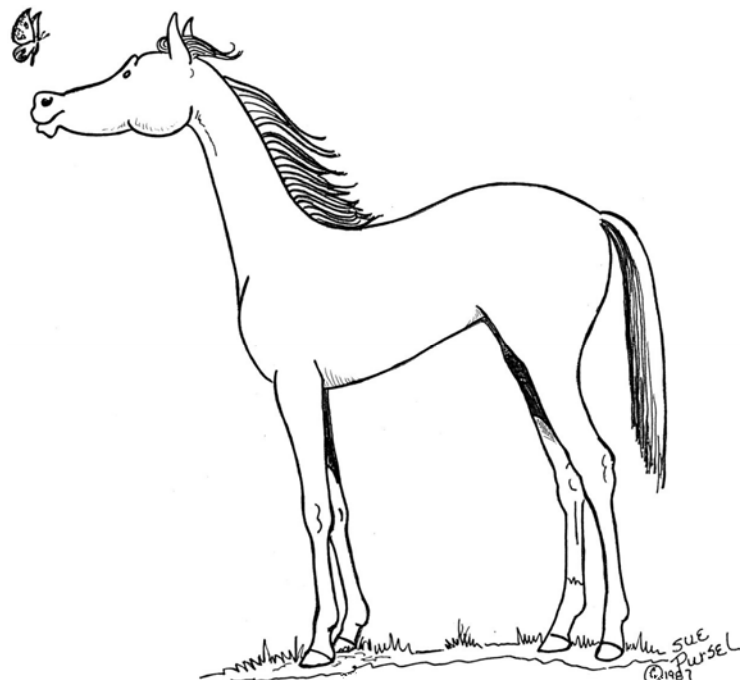
Do you have your helmet on?

A properly fitted helmet is essential when working with horses. Your brain controls your entire body so your head is the most important thing to keep safe. See the helmet page in this book for information on proper fit of a helmet.



Are you wearing boots or hard-riding sneakers?

The right footwear will protect your feet in case a horse accidentally steps on you. Never work around a horse in sandals, flip-flops, bare feet, or even soft sneakers. If you plan to ride, make sure your boots have a heel to prevent your feet from slipping through the stirrup.





use your head

DO THE FIVE-POINT SAFETY CHECK when selecting your riding helmet.

1. FRONT

The helmet should sit firmly in place about an inch above the eyebrows.

More than 1" = too small.

Less than 1" = too big.

2. SIDE

The straps on the side should meet just below and in front of your earlobes.

3. BACK

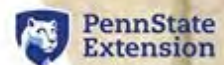
A snug-fitting helmet is best. The harness on the back should prevent the helmet from moving forward. Avoid using your hair to create a proper fit.

4. THROAT

The strap under your chin should be snug but not tight. Tilt your chin up and down to ensure a proper fit.

5. TEST

Grasp the helmet with two hands and rock it back and forth. The skin and eyebrows should move with the helmet.



Always choose to wear
a certified riding helmet.



No helmet can protect against every head injury. However, studies show a dramatic reduction in the severity of injuries when a properly fitted helmet is worn every time you ride a horse. Replace your helmet every five years or immediately after a direct impact from a fall.

extension.psu.edu/4-H

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Horse Safety

Stable Safety

Safety is always important around horses. We've talked about keeping you safe; now, let's talk about keeping your horse safe. You must be aware of and prepared for many safety hazards in a horse's environment. In this section, we'll talk about keeping your horse safe in the barn, in the pasture, and in case of emergencies.

Barn Safety

Stalls

Many horses spend a lot of time in their stalls. Think about some things that a horse does in its stall. Can you name some?

A good size for a box stall is 12 feet by 12 feet. You may need a larger one if you have a bigger horse. It is probably about the size of your bedroom. Could a horse live in your bedroom?



Horses like to roll and sometimes kick, so you'll need to make sure any open spaces in the stall are small enough that a horse can't get its foot stuck. The barn aisle and stall floor should be a rough, non-slip surface. No skating rinks for these horses!

Aisles (Hallways)

Barn aisles should be at least 10 to 12 feet wide. However, this width still does not give you enough room to walk around your horse without entering the horse's comfort or flight zone. Therefore, when passing horses tied in the aisle, approach each horse carefully and pass safely.

Keep the aisles clear of junk for your safety and your horses'. Be sure to put away shovels, brooms, and manure forks. Grooming tools and tack should be stored in a tack room or a separate area. Be sure to remove loose hay, baling twine, and trash regularly.

Feeders & Feed Storage

Feeders should be hung as high as your horse's chest and have no sharp edges. Feeders should be sturdy and easy to clean. Feed tubs on the ground may also be used if they have no sharp edges and do not easily overturn.

Grain must be kept in a securely locked grain room or container. The grain room needs to be ventilated to prevent mold and dust. The grain bin should be securely closed so that a loose horse cannot get into the bin and to the grain. A securely locked grain bin prevents other animals, like cats or mice, from getting into the grain.

The safest way to feed hay is on the floor. Hayracks can also be used, but they need to be at the same height as your horse's withers or shoulders. If the hay is higher than your horse's withers, it can cause dust and particles to go into your horse's nose and eyes and can lead to problems with your horse's lungs or eyes. Be aware that a horse's leg could be caught in a hayrack and injured.

Pasture Safety

If your horse spends most of their time in a pasture, it's important to check on them at least twice a day. It is best to remove halters from a horse that is loose in a stall or turned out in a pasture. If keeping a halter on is necessary, use a safety or breakaway halter. Remember to use adult help whenever handling horses to and from a pasture.

Water & Shelter

Your horse needs a constant supply of fresh water at all times, whether the horse is in a stall or pasture. Make sure water buckets and troughs are clean and easily accessible. Your horse should also have access to a windbreak or shelter, such as a thick grove of trees or a run-in shed. Being able to see the white around a horse's eyes sometimes means they are angry or scared. White around the eyes is also a normal characteristic of the Appaloosa breed.

Fencing

Fences for horses must be strong, visible, tall enough to discourage jumping, and in good repair. Board or vinyl fencing is usually the safest type of fencing. If smooth wire fencing must be used, then it needs to have flags, signs, or colored wire that can increase visibility.

You are responsible for making sure the gate to your pasture is closed and latched every time you enter or leave a pasture. Gates should close tight to the post with no gap in between. A gate latch should be used to keep your horse inside the pasture.



Check Your Pasture

Machinery, equipment, and junk should not be kept in the pasture. If these items are in your pasture, remove them or keep your horse from injury by putting a fence around the machinery and junk. The area and footing around feeders, water sources, and gates should be free of holes, rocks, or other debris that may injure your horse.

Also, check regularly for downed tree limbs, holes in the ground, and broken or loose fencing and gates.



Preparing for an Emergency

We never know when an emergency will take place, so it's important to be prepared!

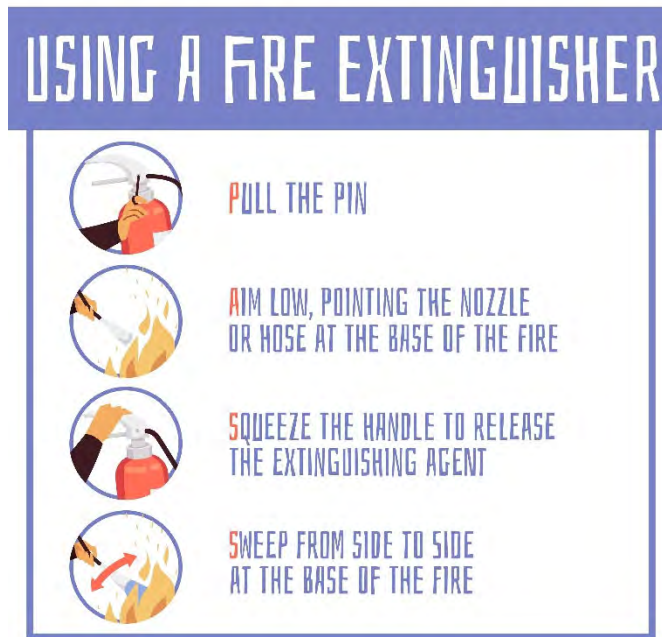
Barn Fire Prevention

Keeping your barn clean and sweeping down any cobwebs will help prevent fires. Ask a parent to make sure any electrical outlets are clean and in good condition to prevent fires. All electrical appliances should be unplugged when not in use. Portable heaters, heat lamps, and fans should be used with caution and should not be left unattended.

Storing hay or straw in a different building than where your horses are stalled can also keep horses safe in the event of a fire. "No Smoking" signs should be posted where they can be easily seen and followed.



A fire extinguisher should be available every 50 feet in the barn. Your local fire department can service your extinguisher to be sure it is charged and ready to use.



Emergency Contacts

Keep an easy-to-read list of the following phone numbers posted in the barn:

- 911 or Emergency Dispatcher
- Fire Department
- Local Police or Sheriff's Office
- Poison Control
- Electric or Gas Supply Company
- Relative or Neighbor
- Parent's Work Phone
- Veterinarian

Also, keep a copy of these numbers in a nearby location, like a fence post or in your house, so that they are readily available in the event of any emergency.

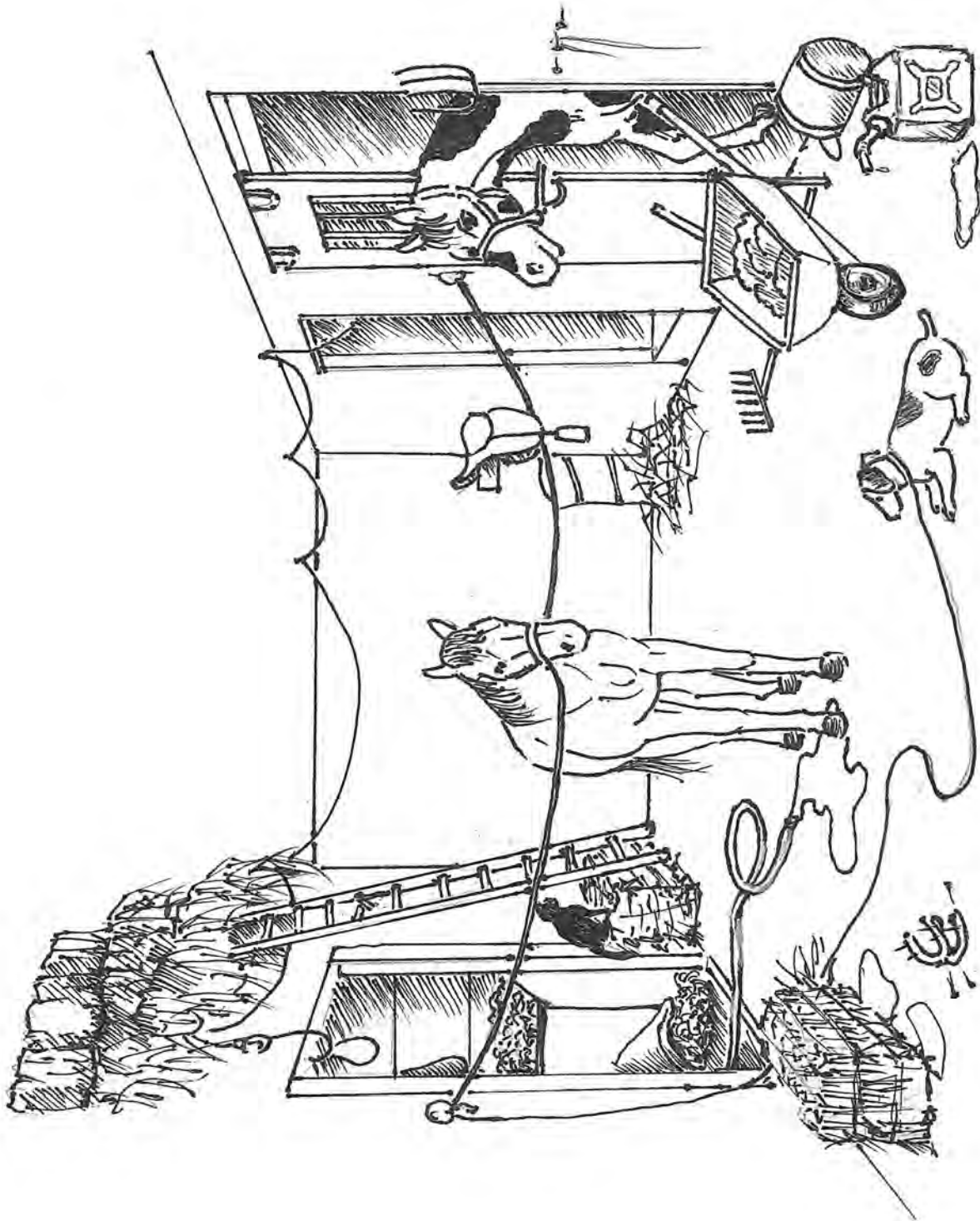
Always have specific directions to the farm written down by the phone for the emergency dispatcher. The address to the barn should be easily read and seen from the road to allow emergency responders to locate your facility easily.



Safety Activities

Hazard Scavenger Hunt

Find the safety hazards in the picture below and color them.





Safety Activities

Check Out Our Stable

	Good	Fair	Needs Improvement	Changes
Stalls				
Aisles				
Feeders/Storage				
Water				
Fence				
Pasture				
Fire Safety				
Emergency Contacts				

Horse Management

Who Keeps Your Horse, Pony, or VSE Healthy?

Veterinarian

Veterinarians provide health care for horses. They provide vaccinations, treat injuries, and diagnose and treat diseases.

Veterinarians perform surgery on horses when needed. If your horse needs to see the veterinarian, they typically visit the animals at farms. Other duties may include performing pre-purchase exams, monitoring the reproductive health of breeding stallions and broodmares, assisting with foalings, and taking x-rays.



Several Tools of the Trade: Stethoscopes, thermometers, syringes, weight tape

Chiropractor

An equine chiropractor focuses on the relationship between structure and function and how that relationship affects health. Equine chiropractic is a manual therapy using short levers, high velocity, low amplitude, and controlled thrusts. Adjustments are applied to specific body regions to induce a therapeutic response. Chiropractic treatment is not a substitute for, but rather a supplement to, proper veterinary care.

Several Tools of the Trade: Hands, CAT (Chiropractic Adjust Tool)

Equine Dentist

An equine dentist performs regular dental checkups on horses are essential to maintaining a healthy horse. Horses with healthy teeth will be more comfortable, utilize feed more efficiently, perform better, and will likely keep their teeth longer.

Several Tools of the Trade: Speculums, floats, dental stands, dental mirror

Farrier

A farrier trims, shapes, and balances a horse's hooves and places shoes on their hooves, if necessary. Their routine work is primarily hoof trimming and shoeing. If the animal has a heavy workload, works on abrasive footing, or needs additional traction, then shoes may be required. Additional tasks for the farrier include dealing with injured or diseased hooves and applying special shoes for racing, training, or special purposes.

Does your horse or pony wear shoes?



Several Tools of the Trade: Rasps, hoof knife, hoof picks, nippers, clinchers, cutters, pullers, stand, hammers, anvil

Massage Therapist

An equine massage therapist uses their hands to put pressure on a horse's skin and muscles in ways that can relax the animal, decrease pain and stress, and assist in injury rehabilitation. In many cases, massage therapists travel to the farm. Massage therapy is not a substitute for, but rather a supplement to, proper veterinary care.

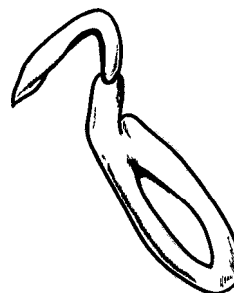
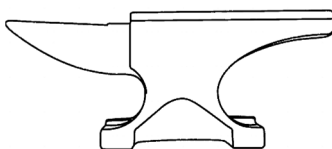
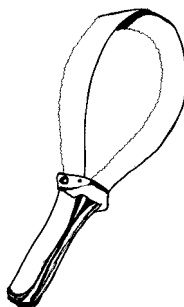
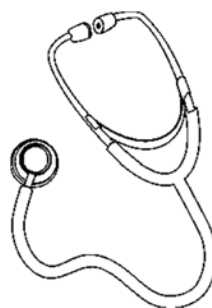
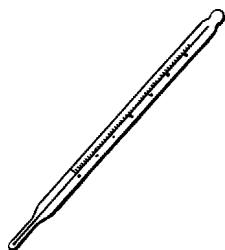
Several Tools of the Trade: Hands, massager, equistix



Horse Management Activities

What Goes Together

Circle the picture or pictures that belong with the photo.



Horse Identification

Measuring Your Horse

Giraffes are measured in feet. Horses, ponies, and donkeys are measured in hands. Miniature horses are measured by inches. The largest horse on record is 21 hands!! That is 84 inches or 7 feet! The smallest miniature horse on record is 17 ½ inches. That equals 1 foot 5 ½ inches. That is a big difference! BUT the tallest GIRAFFE ever was 20 feet!!

Measuring Points

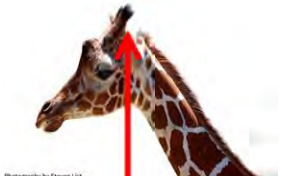
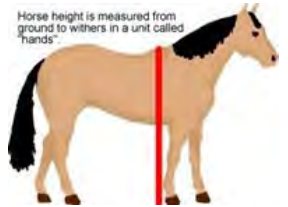
So, are horses and giraffes measured the same? Giraffes are measured to the TOP of their HEADS. Horses are measured to the TOP of their WITHERS. If you measured a horse to the top of their head, there would be a fairly significant difference in their heights.

So what is a "hand"?



One hand is equal to 4 inches. Originally horses were measured by the width of a person's hand, which was approximately 4 inches. Place one hand on the ground with the other above it, and repeat the process of moving one hand above the other until you reach

the horse's withers. The term used for the height measurement of a horse is "hands high" or "hh." Often, the height is just over a number of hands, for example, 16 hands and 2 inches, and the height is therefore referred to as 16.2 hh.



Wright, Bob, Dr. "The "Hand" Measurement for Horses."
Biologycorner.com, 2001.
Web. 13 Sept. 2016.

Measuring Method

To measure a horse or pony, it is best to ensure they are stood squarely* on solid ground, as this will give the most accurate height measurement. A measuring stick designed to measure a horse's height is the best way to measure a horse. This consists of an upright "ruler" marked out in hands and inches with an arm that slides up and down, containing a level on the arm. The stick is then placed upright alongside the horse, and the horizontal arm is lowered until it sits on the highest point of the withers and adjusted until the level in the arm indicates it is level. A measuring stick for a miniature horse is similar to the one used for a horse or pony but is marked only in inches.

Tape measures marked out in hands and inches can be used, but these are more difficult to measure accurately.

*Squarely means with their front feet even and their back feet even.

Vocabulary

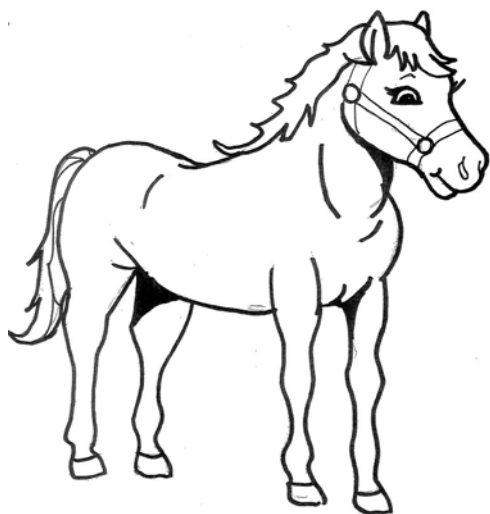
height—the highest part or point

horse—a large hoofed grazing domestic mammal that is used to carry or draw loads and for riding

measure—to find out the size, extent, or amount of

width—the measurement of the short or shorter side of something

What do the Measurements Mean?



The difference between a pony and horse is determined by the size. A pony is 14.2hh (58 inches or 4 feet 10 inches) or less. A horse is any height over 14.2 hh.

Ponies are divided by size: small, medium, and large ponies. Small ponies are 12.2 hands and under. Medium ponies are over 12.2 hands up to 13.2 hands. Large ponies are over 13.2 hands and up to 14.2 hands.

Miniature horses, for the NJ 4-H Horse Program, can be up to 40 inches, but no taller.



Identification Activities

How Tall Are You?

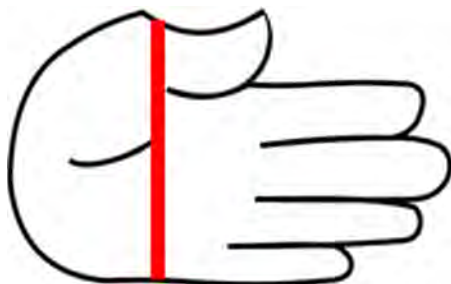
Using a tape measure or yardstick, find out how many inches tall you are. Then get help converting that into feet and into hands.

For hands: divide the inches by 4—i.e 48 inches divided by 4 = 12. So if you are 48 inches, you are 12 hands.

For feet: divide the inches by 12, because there are 12 inches in a foot. So, 48 divided by 12= 4. If you are 48 inches, you are 4 feet tall.

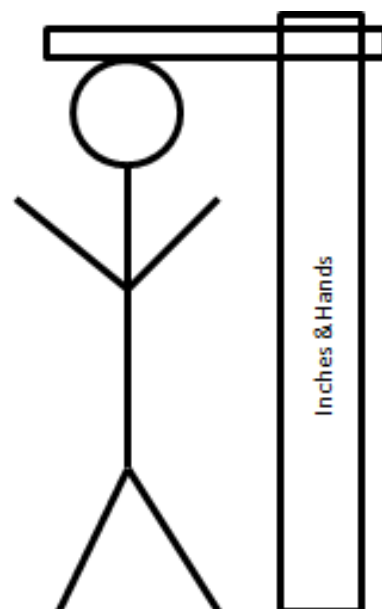
Questions:

1. If you are 48 inches, are you a horse, pony, or mini?
2. If you are 6 feet tall, how many hands are you?
3. How many hands are you?



1 hand = 4 inches

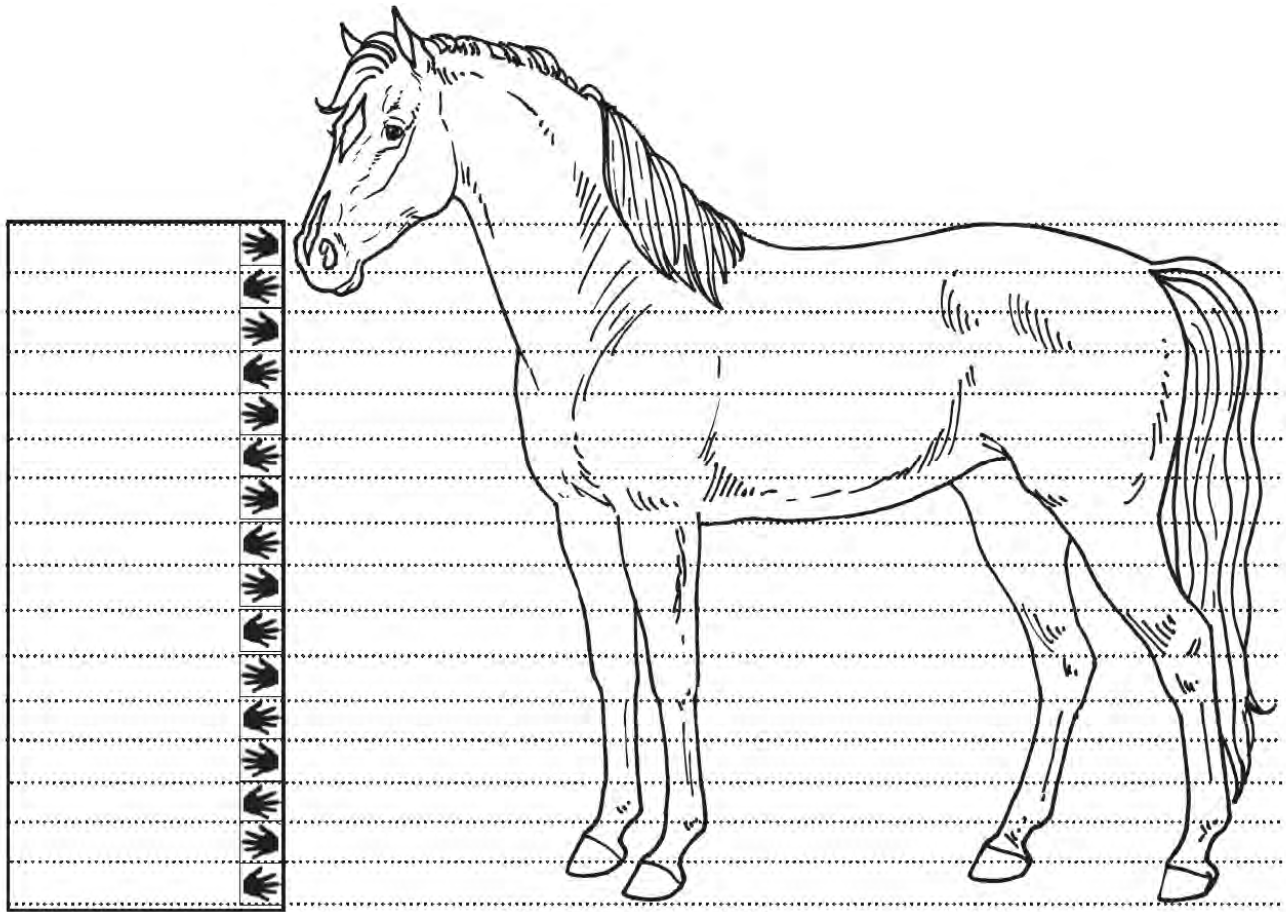
How tall are you?





Identification Activities

A Handy Measure



1. Count the hands in the picture above. The animal in the picture is hands tall. Is it a horse or a pony?
2. Stand with your back to the wall and get your partner to place tape on the wall just above your head. Use a yardstick to measure from the floor to the tape. How tall are you? .
3. Draw a picture of yourself in the space below, at left. Use the hands to draw yourself at the correct height.
4. On another sheet of paper, trace your hand. Use a ruler to measure the widest part of your hand below your fingers. How wide is your hand?
5. Use your hands to measure. How many hands tall are you?

**adapted from www.agclassroom.org/ok A Handy Measure Ag in the Classroom Activity*

Horse Breeds & Uses

A breed is an animal group with many of the same characteristics, such as appearance (known as conformation), height, and gait. They may also have similar color patterns and markings. All of these unique features play an important role in identification and breed registration.

PONY AND MINIATURE HORSE BREEDS & USES

Ponies

Ponies stand under 14.2 or 14 hands high and weigh from 500 to 900 pounds. There is a distinct conformation in ponies. They are draft horses, heavy harness horses, saddle horses, or harness horses type.

Miniature Horses

Miniature horses stand under 40 inches (34-38 inches). They are small, well-balanced horses that, if all reference to size were eliminated, would have the same conformational proportions as other full-sized light breeds.



"Chincoteague Ponies." *Chincoteague Ponies*.
N.p., n.d. Web.

Chincoteague/Assateague

- ❖ Originated in North America, live on the barrier island of Assateague in Maryland and Virginia
- ❖ 12 to 14.2 hands
- ❖ Made famous in Marguerite Henry's book *Misty of Chincoteague*
- ❖ Body colors can be any color, but the most common is a very colorful pinto
- ❖ Ponies on the Virginian side are owned by the Chincoteague Volunteer Fire Department. The Maryland Park Service owns those on the Maryland side. Each year, the ponies in Virginia are swum across the channel; the foals are auctioned, and the mares and stallions returned.

Fun Fact

Light horse breeds can be considered a pony due to their height if they measure 14.2 hands and under.



Hackney

- ❖ Originated in Great Britain
- ❖ 14.2 hands and under
- ❖ Common colors are black, brown, bay, and chestnut; there are even some spotted
- ❖ Have an extremely elegant appearance with a small head, delicate muzzle, and well-shaped ears
- ❖ Has a natural, high-stepping gait
- ❖ Known for its tremendous trotting ability
- ❖ Popular driving pony



Pony of the Americas (POA)

- ❖ Originated in Great Britain
- ❖ 14.2 hands and under
- ❖ Common colors are black, brown, bay, and chestnut; there are even some spotted
- ❖ Have an extremely elegant appearance with a small head, delicate muzzle, and well-shaped ears
- ❖ Has a natural, high-stepping gait
- ❖ Known for its tremendous trotting ability
- ❖ Popular driving pony



Quarter Pony

- ❖ Small-scale replica of a Quarter type horse
- ❖ 14.2 hands and under
- ❖ Must display quarter-type characteristics
- ❖ Any color or coat pattern
- ❖ Cannot be gaited



Shetland

- ❖ Came from the Shetland Island of Great Britain
- ❖ Up to 10.2 hands
- ❖ One of the smallest breeds of ponies
- ❖ Can be almost any color except spotted
- ❖ Sturdy legs and hooves, wide backs, and broad hindquarters
- ❖ Worked as "pit ponies" in the coal mines



Welsh

- ❖ Came from Britain and Wales
- ❖ Larger than Shetland ponies
- ❖ Legs are lightly feathered
- ❖ Can be any color, including roan and palomino, but not pinto or spotted
- ❖ Breed is divided into four sections: A, B, and C based on height/type
- ❖ Section D Cobs exceed 13.2 hands with no upper limit on height, which would classify them as horse size in the NJ 4-H Horse Program if over 14.2 hands



American Miniature Horse

- ❖ Imported into the United States in 1888
- ❖ Various colors, coat patterns, and types
- ❖ "Miniature" versions of well-balanced horses, possessing conformation characteristics found in most equine breeds
- ❖ Uses: Driving, Halter, Jumping (in-hand)



Falabella

- ❖ Originated in Argentina
- ❖ Can be any color
- ❖ Must be under 34 inches, most mature in the 30 to 34-inch height range

Additional Pony Breeds

British/German Riding	Caspian	Connemara	Dales
Dartmoor	Exmoor	Fell	Highland
New Forest	Icelandic	Avelignese	Basuto



Breeds & Uses Activities

Unscramble the letters below to discover pony and miniature horse breeds!

1. YENHACK

2. WLESH

3. LLEF

4. BELLFALLA



Pony Breeds Collage

Look in a horse magazine for pictures of pony and miniature horse breeds.

Cut out pictures of FOUR breeds and glue them below or on separate paper. Write the name of the breed of pony and/or miniature horse under each picture. Looking at the photos, which breed do you like best?

Horse Nutrition

WHY WATER?

Horses must drink 5-10 gallons of water daily to keep their body functioning properly. It's important that horses have plenty of clean, fresh water available to them at all times. Water plays many important roles in the horse's body. It helps the horse keep its body at the right temperature, helps digest food the horse eats, and helps eliminate waste the horse's body produces.

Where does water come from?

Water is available on the earth in two forms – ground and surface water. Both ground and surface water come from rain and snow that has melted. Groundwater is stored in open spaces underneath the ground. We use wells to access this water. Surface water has found its way into rivers, lakes, and streams.

Fun Fact

60% of a horse's body is made of water!

All water tastes the same, right?



Wrong! You may have noticed that the water you drink at school tastes different than the water you drink at home. Just like you, horses can notice the different taste of the water at a show versus the water they drink at home. It's important that your horse likes the taste of the water when you're away from home so that they drink enough to stay hydrated while you're away from home. Some horsemen bring water from home to offer their horses while they're away. Others will flavor the horse's water at home with Kool-Aid or Gatorade for a couple of days before they leave so he gets used to the flavor. While they're away from home, they'll flavor the new water as well to mask the different taste. Another way to encourage horses to drink is to add electrolytes to their feed.

Sometimes, your horse might not want to drink his water at home. If the horse's water has dirt or feed, it is not as tasty, and they will drink less. That's why it's important to clean water buckets and tubs regularly! Watching for ice forming in horses' water buckets and tubs in winter is important. The water on the top of the tub can turn to ice, and horses can't reach the unfrozen water below without breaking the ice. Sometimes, the whole bucket freezes, leaving the horses no water! You can get special heaters from your local farm store to keep your horse's water from freezing.



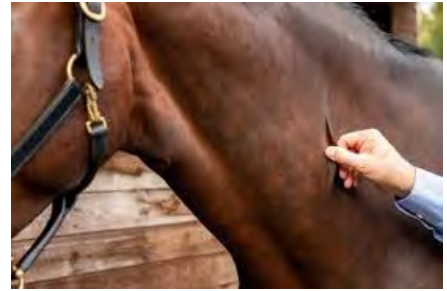
What happens if my horse doesn't get enough water?

Water helps with food digestion. When horses chew up their food, they mix saliva with the food while their teeth tear it into tiny pieces. Without enough water, horses won't make as much saliva, and their chewed-up food will be too dry, which can lead to it getting stuck in the digestive tract, causing colic. Water also helps the horse get rid of waste its body creates from normal processes like digestion.

Dehydration is the biggest concern horses face if they do not drink enough water each day to stay well hydrated. One way to detect dehydration is through the skin pinch test. To do this, pinch the horse's skin along the neck in front of the shoulder. If the horse is well hydrated, the skin will return to normal in two seconds or less. The horse is most likely dehydrated if it takes longer than two seconds.

Some other signs of dehydration are:

- Elevated heart rate
- Change in gum color from bubblegum pink to pale pink
- Dry gums
- Less saliva in their mouth
- Very dry manure or no manure at all
- Weakness



These symptoms aren't noticeable until the dehydration has gotten worse. In these cases, you must call your vet to help your horse.



Nutrition Activity

Which Water Would You Drink?

Have your project helper fill four cups: one with dirty water, one with salt water, one with ice and one with clean water. Think like a horse! Which would you prefer? Talk about the questions below with your helper.

1. **Dirty Water**—Would you drink this water? How does a horse's water get dirty? What can you do to make sure the water is clean?
2. **Salt Water**—Smell this water. How does a horse know if water is good to drink? What other smells might a horse find in water?
3. **Ice Water**—Can a horse drink the ice? Would a horse's water freeze? What do we need to do to horse's water buckets in the winter?
4. Which of the four cups of water would you drink? Why?

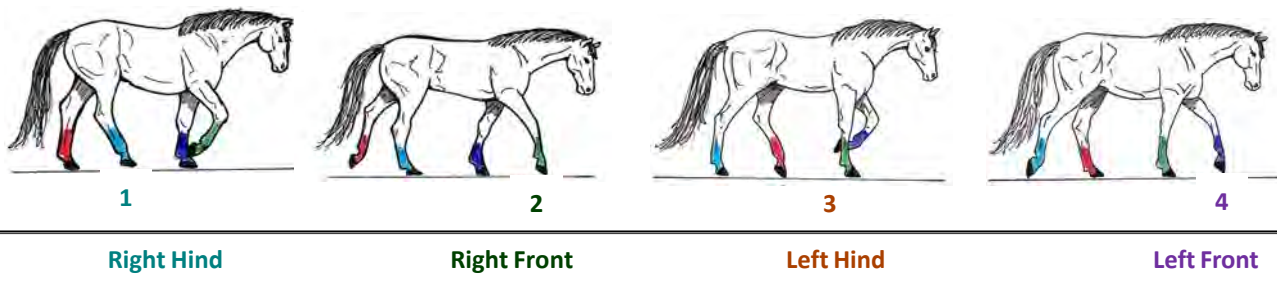
Riding Styles & Tack

GAITS

The movement of a horse's legs and hooves are called gaits. For most horses, the natural gaits are the walk, trot, canter, and gallop. Let's learn about how each of these is different.

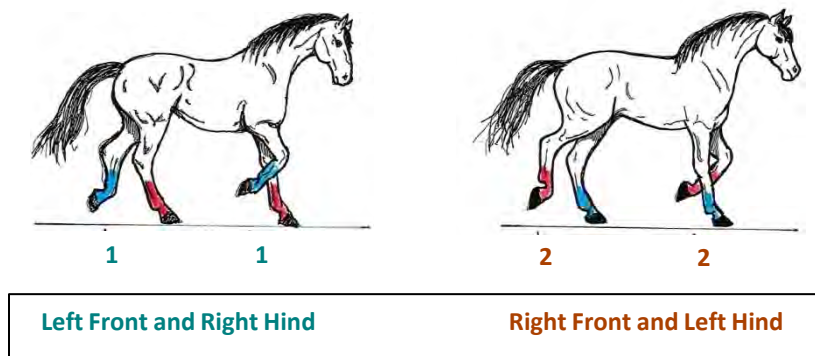
Walk

The walk is a natural 4-beat movement. The horse always has two or three hooves on the ground. The walk is the slowest natural gait, the steadiest, and most comfortable.



Trot

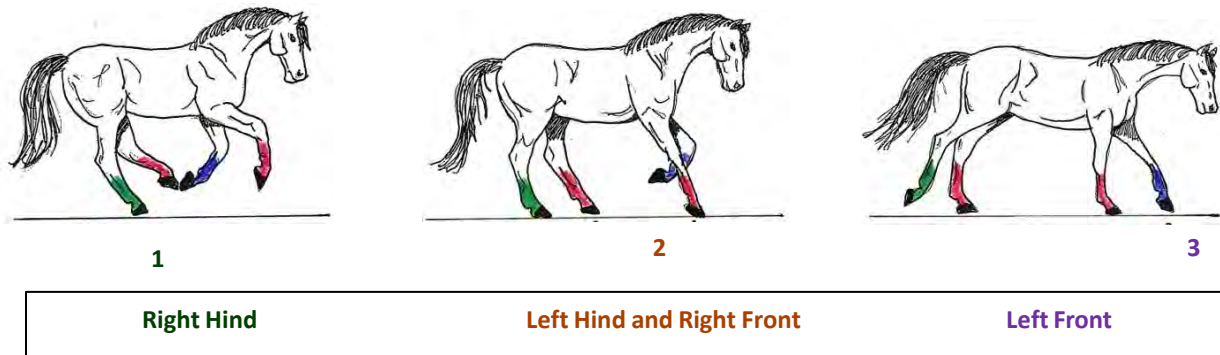
The trot is a steady 2-beat diagonal movement. The forefoot on one side and the hindfoot on the opposite side move together. They lift off at the same time and strike the ground at the same time. For English riders, we call this a trot. For western riders, we call this a jog. The movement is the same.



Canter

The canter is a 3-beat movement. This gait is faster than a trot. This gait starts with the hind leg then the pair of the same side front leg and opposite hind leg, finishing with the last front leg. For western riders, we call this a lope. The movement is the same.

This gait has “leads” – a right lead and a left lead. The lead the horse is on is determined by the last front leg movement.



Gallop

The gallop is a 4-beat movement. This gait is similar to the canter, but the horse's legs move one at a time. The second hind leg (2) hits the ground just slightly before the diagonal foreleg (3). The gallop feels just like a fast canter.



Back

When a horse backs naturally (not being asked by a rider or on a lead line), they perform a two-beat diagonal gait. The back has a hoof pattern similar to the trot, only backward.

The footfall pattern of the back might be that the right front moves with the left hind, and the left front moves with the right hind.



Tack-tivities



Horses In Motion

If you have access to a horse or horses, wrap the legs of the horse to help identify the movements. Then demonstrate each gait. See if the Cloverbuds can follow along.

Hoofbeats

Each gait has a different beat. Record hoof beats (or find them on the internet) and see if the members can count the beats and identify the gait.

Model Horses

Collect a bunch of model horses. See if you can identify the gaits of which the horse is moving based on the footfall of the model.

Stick Pony Show

Have a stick pony class using the correct gait calls: walk, trot/jog, canter, gallop, back, etc. This is a great way to teach leads!

Whoa—Gallop

No horses, no problem! Using the fundamentals of the game Red Light, Green Light, play a game using the commands of the gaits – whoa, jog, gallop, trot, etc.

Simon Says

This game is great for teaching gaits as well.

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