



PONY CLUB



ACHIEVEMENT BADGES

CARE OF THE FOOT

Achievement Badge

Learning Objectives

How to pick out a pony's feet safely and be able to describe when a pony needs shoeing.

Syllabus

- 1 Know how often a pony's feet need picking out.
- 2 Show an understanding of safety when picking out feet.
- 3 How should the pony be standing before you pick out the feet?
Understand they are more likely to be knocked over or kicked if pony not relaxed.
- 4 Know that to pick out a foot you stand close to the pony's leg facing the tail. Run the hand nearest the pony down the back of the front leg and the front of the back leg.
- 5 Know that a hoof pick is used in the opposite hand to the hand nearest the pony, and in a downwards direction.
- 6 Be able to describe when a pony needs shoeing.

Teaching Ideas and Resources

- 1 Daily, before and after a ride. Members to make a mini diary for a week showing what times each day they picked out a pony's feet.
- 2 Pony should be tied up with a quick release knot or held. Hind quarters should be away from the wall when picked up. Discuss with members why this is important.
- 3 The pony should be standing quietly in a relaxed manner. Members to act out how a pony stands in a relaxed way and how it might behave when not relaxed.
- 4 Ideally, this is done practically in a yard, although it can be fun to

practise on each other indoors. Watch that the hand does not go behind the back leg as could lead to injury if pony kicks.

Discuss the essential use of a skip.

- 5 Practise using the correct hand to pick out feet, using the hoof pick in a downwards direction, so not driving stones/dirt into the cleft of frog. Practise on both sides as some members will find using the left hand on the pony's right side more difficult.

- 6 Show members an unshod pony with overgrown feet, explain how this leads to cracked/broken feet and pony resting on its heels. All four feet to be checked for shoes. Talk about shoes worn thin having less grip. Show how feet grow over the edges of the shoe, or that the shoe can become twisted. Ask members to feel, (carefully), for risen clenches.

If members change shoes with their neighbour and walk around the room, they may feel how uncomfortable it is for a pony to work in shoes that no longer fit.

Explain that a pony needs shoeing on average every 6 weeks.

Recommended Reading

14th Edition The Pony Club Manual P48, P100 and P113.

Questions

- 1 How often should you pick out pony's feet?
- 2 What preparations should be made before picking out feet? Describe or identify a safe place to tie a pony.
- 3 How should the pony be standing before picking out feet.
- 4 Show where to stand and how to pick up the feet.
- 5 Show how to pick out the feet into a skip.
- 6 Describe when a pony needs shoeing, and how frequently it should be re-shod.

Answers

- 1 Daily, before and after a ride.
- 2 Assemble hoof pick and skip. Tie pony up safely in a suitable position.
- 3 In a relaxed manner.
- 4 Stand facing the rear of the pony, run the hand down the back of the front leg and the front of the back leg.
- 5 Feet are picked out correctly using the appropriate hand.

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- 6 If the unshod feet are too long. If a shoe is missing or twisted, if the clenches are risen or the hoof is over growing the shoe.
On average every 6 weeks.