



PONY CLUB



ACHIEVEMENT BADGES

CARE OF THE FOOT

Mini Achievement Badge

Learning Objectives

How to be safe when looking at a pony's feet and understand that an adult should help check the feet every day.

Syllabus

- 1 Understand why it is dangerous to look at pony's feet without an adult present.
- 2 Know a pony should be tied up before looking at its feet.
- 3 Know an adult should check the feet daily, and how members might help identify possible problems.
- 4 Recognise a hoof pick and a skip.

Teaching Ideas and Resources

- 1 Ask if any member has been knocked over by a pony, ask them to share with the class, explain that ponies are often startled or pushy and that children just need to be bigger to be safe. Ask class to act out pretend situations where they may be knocked over.
- 2 Explain this is a safety issue. Ideally, they should be tied safely to a piece of string on a flat surface. Go around a yard with the members identifying safe places to tie a pony. Do the same in a field.
- 3 This is checking the members have really understood that they need an adult's help. Class to make a list of the things that might be found in a pony's foot when picked out and discuss what damage these things might do to a pony.
- 4 Ensure members know why it is customary to use a skip. Share the different type of containers used in their yards or homes.

Recommended Reading

14th Edition The Pony Club Manual P46, tying up, P47 recognising a skip.

Questions

- 1** Should members check pony's feet alone? Who should accompany them?
- 2** Why should a pony be tied up before having its feet checked.
- 3** What could be found in a pony's foot during daily checks.
- 4** What type of skip has the member seen being used, why do we use a skip?

Answers

- 1** No, they should not check alone, a responsible person, probably aged over twelve and ideally an adult should help them. A younger adult may well be safe themselves but may not think sufficient forward to maintain the safety of a smaller child.
- 2** So they don't barge into the handler and possibly knock them over.
- 3** Mud, stones, horse muck, very occasionally sharp items like nails.
- 4** Any suitable, handle free receptacle. A skip is used to keep the yard clean and to remove any sharp objects that might come out of the pony's foot.