

NOTES:

A Progression of HorseSense Skills

STUDENT'S NAME: _____

LEVEL ONE - RED

Completed: _____

Objectives: Student will learn basic safety practices for working around horses; simple identification of tack and grooming equipment; elementary equine anatomy; and basic needs of the horse.



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- ☐ Know and discuss safety rules in barn, pasture and arena.
- ☐ Describe safe riding attire; demonstrate how to correctly fit a helmet.
- ☐ Catch horse in stall and pasture, with safe technique.
- ☐ Demonstrate safe leading from near side, both in barn and through doorways/gates.
- ☐ Tie horse safely, using an effective quick-release knot.
- ☐ Demonstrate basic grooming to prepare a horse for a ride.
- ☐ Know names and functions of basic grooming tools.
- ☐ Demonstrate picking out hooves safely, with knowledge of reasons for basic hoof care.
- ☐ Know parts of the horse, to include: withers, poll, croup, hock, fetlock, etc.
- ☐ Know parts and functions of saddle and bridle.
- ☐ Know how to store tack correctly, and give at least two reasons for cleaning tack and equipment.
- ☐ Know basic rules for feeding.
- ☐ Be able to identify good and bad hay, grain, and water.
- ☐ Demonstrate mucking and re-bedding a stall, cleaning stall thoroughly and efficiently.

LEVEL TWO - YELLOW

Completed: _____

Objectives: Student will refine leading and grooming skills; will learn to care for tack; to describe and measure horses; to apply protective boots and blankets; to identify elementary feeding principles and situations requiring veterinary care.

- ☐ Jog horse in hand, with safe technique, as though jogging for soundness.
- ☐ Blanket and remove blanket from horse safely.
- ☐ Correctly apply splint boots, bell boots, and shipping boots. Know what each is used for and which vital areas are protected.
- ☐ Clean and condition a saddle, bridle, and girth, knowing reasons for each step.
- ☐ Reassemble saddle and bridle without assistance.
- ☐ Care for a horse after a workout, to include:
 - ☐ Cooling out
 - ☐ Thorough post-ride grooming and inspection
 - ☐ Appropriate feeding and watering
- ☐ Know normal TPR range for a horse, and discuss how to take TPR.
- ☐ Know basic colors and markings.
- ☐ Know basic types and breeds of the horse.
- ☐ Know how to measure a horse for height.
- ☐ Know reasons for basic feeding principles, to include discussion of roughage and concentrates.
- ☐ Know signs of colic and action to take.
- ☐ Know which injuries can be handled with minor treatment and which need veterinary attention.

LEVEL SEVEN - TEAL

Completed: _____

Objectives: Student will be able to teach basic HorseSense skills; to demonstrate understanding of correct movement, training philosophy and course design; to demonstrate advanced health care skills; to evaluate more complex concepts of conformation and movement; to understand functional equine anatomy and relate equine systems to feeding, diseases and their control; to incorporate stable management principles in facility design.

- ☐ Judge an Introductory or Training Level dressage test, demonstrating knowledge of basic dressage principles.
- ☐ Design a hunter, equitation and show jumping course, demonstrating knowledge of distances and types of fences.
- ☐ Discuss methods of starting a young horse from the ground up, including ground exercises, longeing, backing, and progressive training.
- ☐ Discuss methods of conditioning for different activities, such as dressage, eventing, games, endurance riding, etc.
- ☐ Evaluate conformation of a selection of horses, discussing relationship to soundness, movement, and athletic ability.
- ☐ Know basic equine anatomy, to include: musculoskeletal, circulatory, respiratory, and reproductive systems; know what diseases or health conditions affect each system.
- ☐ Draw a diagram showing the bones, ligaments, and tendons in the lower leg.
- ☐ Estimate the age of a horse using teeth as a guide; discuss number of teeth, growth, and dental care.
- ☐ Discuss different approaches to veterinary medicine, to include:
 - ☐ Disease prevention practices and management of infectious diseases
 - ☐ Uses and dangers of common equine medications and sedatives
 - ☐ Other treatment methods such as physical therapy, chiropractic, acupuncture, etc.
- ☐ Give an intramuscular injection.
- ☐ Know uses and dangers of common equine medications and sedatives.
- ☐ Wrap a knee and a hock.
- ☐ Discuss nutrients needed for a balanced diet, with consideration for different stages of a horse's life.
- ☐ Using a tag from a commercially prepared feed mixture, analyze nutritional value of a feeding program (to include hay and/or pasture).
- ☐ Discuss equine disaster planning, to include: fire and storm emergency plans, supplies, and evacuation procedures.
- ☐ Draw a diagram of a stable and pasture setup for 1) private 2-horse farm on 5 acres; and 2) commercial boarding and training facility on 20 acres.
- ☐ Teach a new student Red Level HorseSense skills.

LEVEL FOUR - BLUE

Completed: _____

Objectives: Student will be able to perform thorough grooming; to understand action of bits and specialty tack; to identify farrier tools; to understand principles of horse gaits and movement, safe trailering practices, basic first aid and parasite control, and safe longeing and trailering practices.

- ☐ Groom a horse to turnout inspection quality (no braiding necessary).
- ☐ Perform a safety check on a younger rider under supervision.
- ☐ Know how to adjust different types of tack, including:
 - ☐ *Martingales*
 - ☐ *Auxiliary nosebands*
 - ☐ *Breastplates*
 - ☐ *Curb chain*
 - ☐ *Western cinch*
- ☐ Identify different types of bits, to include both snaffle and leverage bits.
- ☐ Apply a polo wrap and discuss its purpose.
- ☐ Know how the following injuries are treated: stone bruise, laceration, puncture wound, abscess, swollen tendon, injured eye.
- ☐ Discuss life cycle and prevention of internal and external parasites.
- ☐ Know names and functions of farrier tools used in trimming and shoeing.
- ☐ Know basic horse movement, to include number of beats in each gait, footfall pattern, faulty movement, and methods of detecting unsoundness.
- ☐ Discuss what conformation is and why it is important, to include basic faults of the forelegs and hind legs, back, shoulder, neck and head.
- ☐ Name and locate five unsoundnesses.
- ☐ Perform a pre-trip safety check on a truck or trailer.
- ☐ Safely load and unload a quiet horse, with assistance.
- ☐ Discuss reasons for longeing, safe longeing practices and equipment. Demonstrate how to hold and give aids with a line and whip.

LEVEL FIVE - ORANGE

Completed: _____

Objectives: Student will be able to demonstrate safe longeing and an understanding of gaits and distances; to evaluate basic conformation points; to plan conditioning schedules and relate horse's work and condition to feed rations; to continue expanding knowledge of stable management and veterinary care; to begin relating equine behavior to management practices.

- ☐ Know elementary concepts of equine behavior theory and relate them to 1) riding and training practices, and 2) stable management practices.
- ☐ Longe a quiet horse for exercise, showing safe technique and consideration of the horse.
- ☐ Set walk, trot, and canter poles for a selection of three different-sized horses.
- ☐ Build a simple gymnastic grid for an average 15.2hh horse.
- ☐ Discuss different types and reasons for clipping.
- ☐ Evaluate a horse's conformation, listing both good and bad points.
- ☐ Know basic conformation traits specific to the following breeds: Arabian, Thoroughbred, Quarter Horse, Andalusian. Relate to suitability for specific disciplines.
- ☐ Know stable vices, causes and possible remedies.
- ☐ Discuss equine dental structure and the need for routine dental care.
- ☐ Know specific immunizations needed for local area and at what frequency.
- ☐ Wrap a hoof.
- ☐ Discuss correct measurement of feed and suitable feed rations for horses in light, moderate, and hard work; including considerations such as conditioning, injury and/or illness.
- ☐ Identify parts of the horse's digestive system.
- ☐ Identify different types of grains, hays, and supplements.
- ☐ Create an eight-week conditioning schedule to prepare a horse and rider for a strenuous activity (i.e., horse trial, show jumping competition, fox hunt, etc.).

LEVEL SIX - PURPLE

Completed: _____

Objectives: Student will be able to understand and demonstrate show-quality grooming; to evaluate longeing performance; to apply advanced bandaging techniques; to understand more advanced concepts of equine farrier and veterinary care; to identify daily horse management practices and safety issues related to trailering; to understand the economic realities of horse ownership.

- ☐ Groom a horse to turnout inspection quality, to include appropriate hunt or button braids in the mane.
- ☐ Thoroughly clean an udder and a sheath.
- ☐ Longe a quiet horse and evaluate performance and movement.
- ☐ Fit side reins.
- ☐ Pull a mane.
- ☐ Apply a shipping bandage.
- ☐ Wrap a tail for travel.
- ☐ Know how to select and maintain a trailer and tow vehicle.
- ☐ Identify different types of shoes and their uses, to include traction devices such as borium and studs.
- ☐ Identify a minimum of five toxic plants native to this area.
- ☐ Know location, appearance and treatment of unsoundnesses: navicular, splints, strained or bowed tendon, ringbone, sidebone, curb, bone spavin, capped hock. Discuss blemishes such as windpuffs and bog spavin.
- ☐ Describe causes, signs, and treatment of laminitis/founder, tying up, choking, ulcers, thrush, skin conditions.
- ☐ Name five diseases of the horse and describe symptoms and preventative measures.
- ☐ Discuss stable and pasture management, to include:
 - ☐ Daily care of horses including turnout schedules
 - ☐ Parasite management
 - ☐ Grass management
 - ☐ Different options for fencing and bedding
 - ☐ Routine facility maintenance
- ☐ Create a budget for keeping a horse for a year, to include:
 - ☐ Feed and board
 - ☐ Routine health care
 - ☐ Emergency care
 - ☐ Tack and equipment
 - ☐ Showing and training expenses

LEVEL THREE - GREEN

Completed: _____

Objectives: Student will be able to demonstrate safe longeing and an understanding of gaits and distances; to evaluate basic conformation points; to plan conditioning schedules and relate horse's work and condition to feed rations; to continue expanding knowledge of stable management and veterinary care; to begin relating equine behavior to management practices.

- ☐ Fit a saddle, bridle (including bit), girth and halter to a horse.
- ☐ Identify items in equine first aid kit, giving reasons for each item's use.
- ☐ Take and record TPR.
- ☐ Measure a horse for weight and height.
- ☐ Administer a paste or gel dewormer safely.
- ☐ Apply a stable bandage.
- ☐ Describe ten riding disciplines (English or Western).
- ☐ Name five breeds in each of the following categories: sporthorse, draft, gaited, pony, color breeds.
- ☐ Discuss safe trail riding practices, including appropriate tack and equipment.
- ☐ Discuss basic conditioning for horse and rider.
- ☐ Know signs of a hoof needing trimming or shoeing.
- ☐ Know basic stall and pasture management practices to keep horse safe and happy, to include:
 - ☐ Provision for water, forage
 - ☐ Shelter and living arrangements
 - ☐ Fly and manure management
 - ☐ Seasonal considerations
- ☐ Create a simple calendar showing routine care needed for horse, to include:
 - ☐ Immunizations
 - ☐ Shoeing or trimming
 - ☐ Deworming
 - ☐ Dental care
 - ☐ Coggins test

LEARNING LEVELS PROGRESSION BOOKLETS

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ASSEMBLING BOOKLETS

1. Print booklet pages front-and-back:
 - a. Print page 1.
 - b. Print page 2 on the back of page 1.
 - c. Print page 3.
 - d. Print page 4 on the back of page 3.
2. Stack both sheets together, then fold them in half, carefully aligning edges, to form booklet.
3. Place 2-3 staples along folded edge of booklet, about 1/8" from edge.



We keep the “official” copy of each booklet, with the checkmarks and completion signatures, in our office. If a student wants a copy of their booklet, we’ll provide one – but find that most kids lose them pretty much immediately!

