



# HORSES ARE FUN

The 4-H Horseless Horse Project

Level 1

4-H Manual 83

For Grade Level 4-8

Rep. December 1997



**CLEMSON**  
E X T E N S I O N

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Club Year \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Club \_\_\_\_\_ Name Of Leader \_\_\_\_\_

# HORSES ARE FUN

## Objectives

The 4-H Horse Project aims to help 4-H members:

- Develop leadership, initiative, self-reliance, sportsmanship, and other desirable traits of character.
- Experience the pride of owning a horse or pony and being responsible for its management.
- Develop an appreciation of horseback riding as a healthy and wholesome form of recreation.
- Learn skill in horsemanship and an understanding of the business of breeding, raising, and training horses.
- Increase knowledge of safety precautions to prevent injury to themselves, others, and their mount.
- Promote greater love for animals and a humane attitude toward them.
- Be better prepared for citizenship responsibilities through working in groups and supporting community horse projects and activities.

## Guidelines for Meeting

The Horses Are Fun project is designed for younger junior (9-12) members who do not have their own horses. However, the young horse owners will also find useful information in the unit. The booklet is designed to give the 4-H'er an opportunity to learn the basics of horse management and to observe some of the joys of being involved with horses.

Individual members may work through the booklet at their own speed, but involvement and rewards are greater if they can be a part of a group activity. The following is a suggested guideline to use for organizing and developing monthly meetings, but do not regard it as the only way the project can be successful. Each locality has its own needs, its own educational aids, and its own resource persons.



## **September**

Organizational meeting—elect officers and vote on name for club  
Slide set—Ex.: What Is a Horse?  
Project plans—Extension agent and adult leaders coordinate other monthly programs

## **October**

Introduction to the horse—Adult leader  
Horse movie—Ex.: The Horse America Made  
Project books—Extension agent  
Select several members to give demonstrations at next meeting

## **November**

Parts of the horse—Junior leader  
Demonstrations—Members selected at October meeting

## **December**

Breeds and colors—Junior leader  
Visit a tack shop  
Select several members to give demonstrations at next meeting

## **January**

Saddles and equipment—Adult leader  
Demonstrations—members selected at Dec. meeting  
Horse books and magazines

## **February**

Horse nutrition and feeding—local horse farm manager  
Visit a feed store

## **March**

Horse health care—local veterinarian  
Demonstration by farrier

## **April**

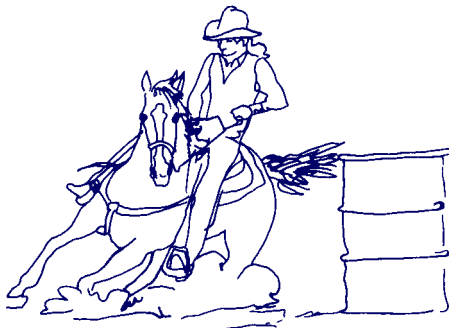
Safety—Adult leader  
Tour of Appaloosa horse farm  
Riding session—all leaders

## **May**

Horse Bowl competition—questions on materials talked about and studied during year  
Turn in project books

## **June**

Announce county medal winners  
Visit a local horse show  
Tryouts for Horse Judging Team



## Horses Are Fun

### Project Requirements

To complete this project, you must:

- Participate in the 4-H Club Program
- Complete the topics covered in this book
- Complete 10 of the following activities

### ACTIVITY

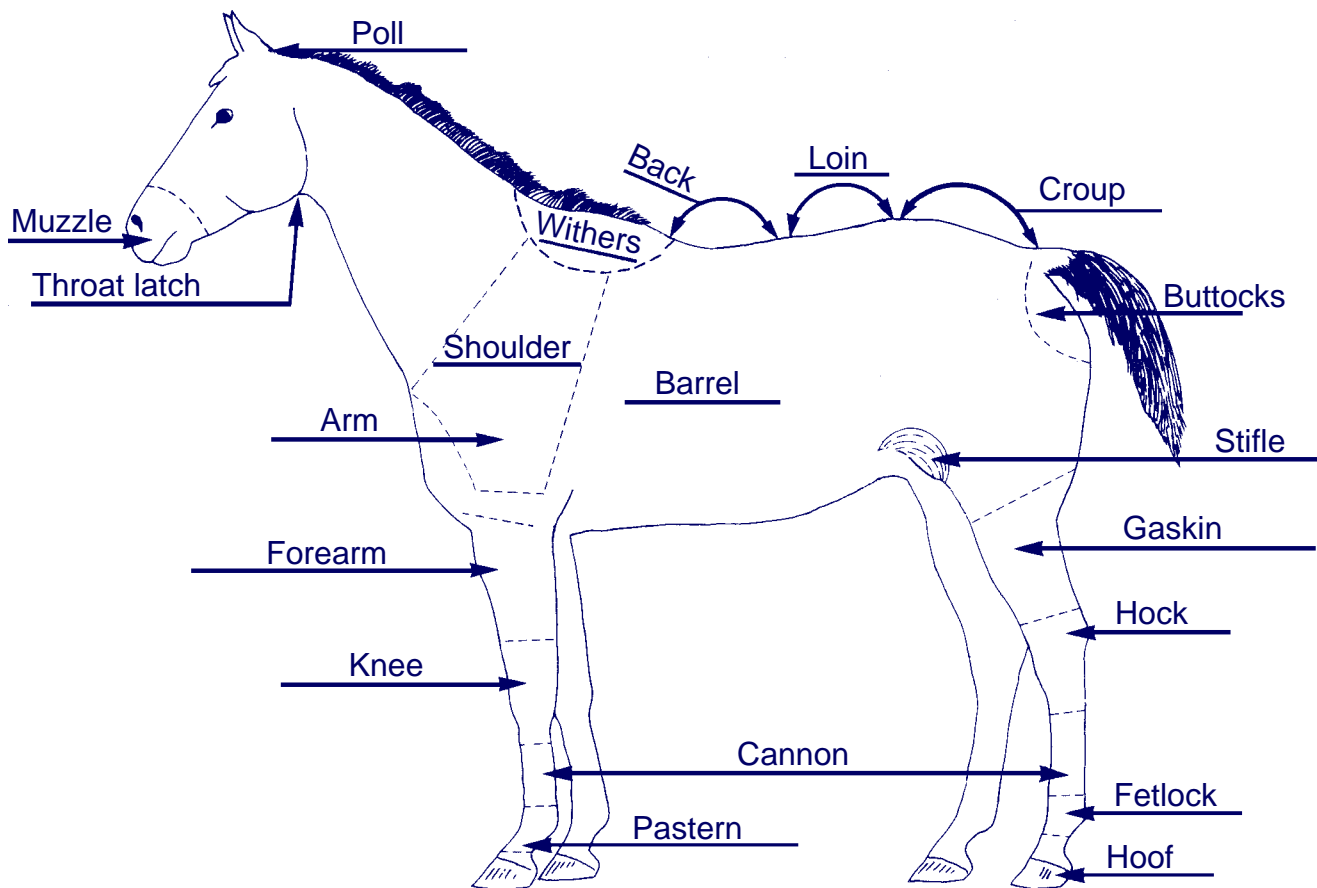
### DATE COMPLETED

- |  |       |
|--|-------|
| 1. See a horse movie                   | _____ |
| 2. Read a horse book                   | _____ |
| 3. Name the parts of the horse         | _____ |
| 4. Name the parts of a saddle          | _____ |
| 5. Give a talk or demonstration        | _____ |
| 6. Read a horse magazine               | _____ |
| 7. Attend a horse show                 | _____ |
| 8. Ride a horse                        | _____ |
| 9. Attend a horse sale                 | _____ |
| 10. Groom a horse                      | _____ |
| 11. Tack a horse                       | _____ |
| 12. Visit a horse farm                 | _____ |
| 13. Visit a farrier                    | _____ |
| 14. Visit a veterinarian               | _____ |
| 15. Visit a tack store                 | _____ |
| 16. Visit with a horseman              | _____ |
| 17. Tour a riding school               | _____ |
| 18. Attend a hunt, race, or trail ride | _____ |
| 19. Others                             | _____ |

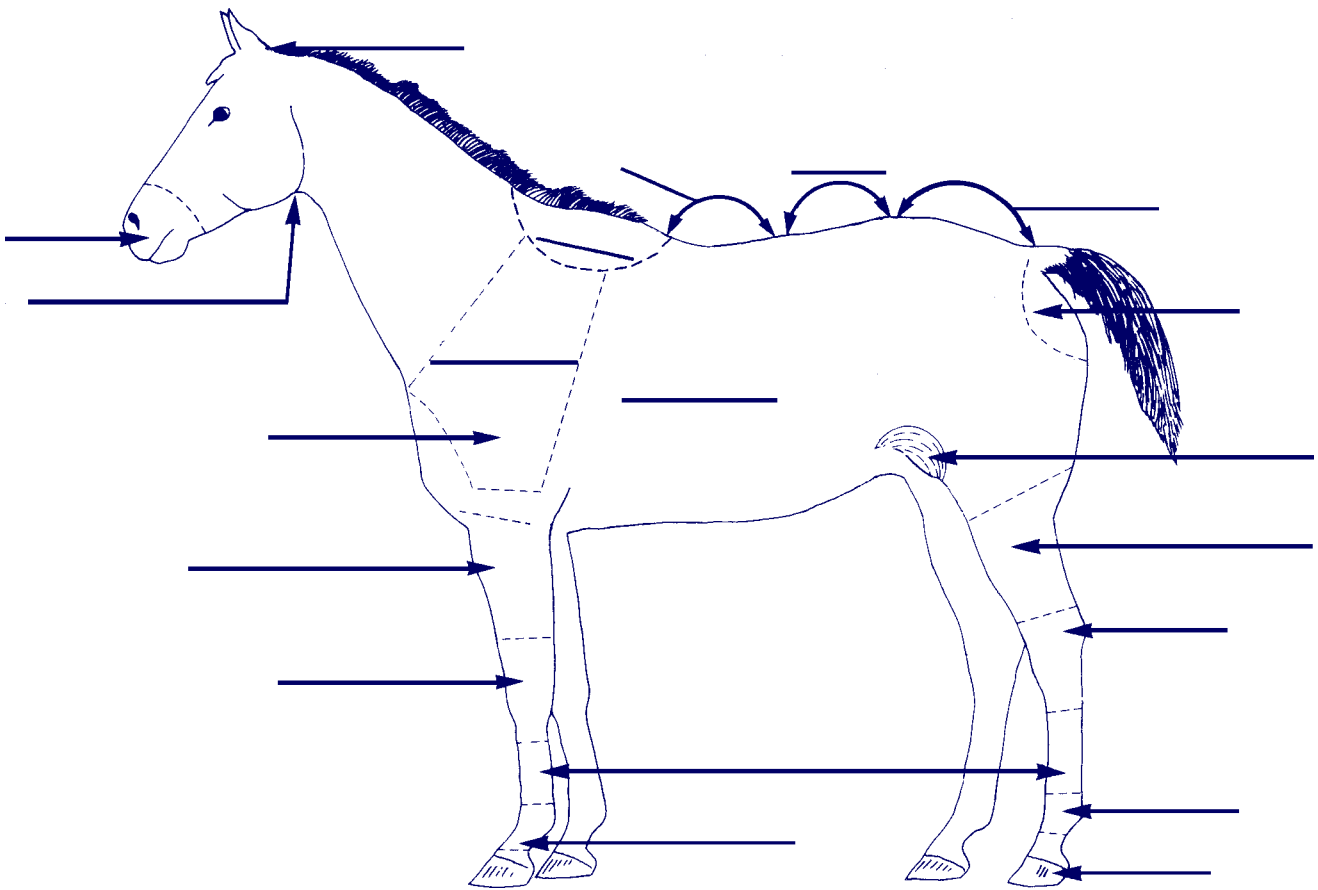
## What is a Horse

A horse is a large solid-hoofed mammal which people have used for centuries for work, war, transportation, and business. Today, however, the horse is used mainly for sport and pleasure.

You need to know the parts of the horse to be able to talk with others about the characteristics of different horses. Let us now get to know this animal, the horse.



Now that you have learned the parts of the horse, test your knowledge by filling in the blanks.



## **Breeds of Horses and Their Characteristics**

### **American Saddle Horse**

The American Saddle Horse originated in Kentucky by infusing Thoroughbred and Arabian blood. These horses are used mainly as three- or five-gaited horses for the show ring and bridle path. They are rather tall horses of 15 to 17 hands, weighing approximately 1,000 pounds. The preferred colors are bright sorrels with white points along with the bay and occasional grays.

### **Arabian**

This breed originated in the desert areas of the Middle East and contributed greatly to many of the younger breeds. The Arab is used as a stock horse, pleasure horse, and as a show horse. It is rather small, being 14 to 15 hands tall and weighing 800 to 1,000 pounds. The predominant colors are bay, sorrel, and gray with an occasional black.

### **Appaloosa**

The Appaloosa is a color breed, used mostly as a stock horse. They normally have white markings over the rump; however, some color patterns have spots over the entire body. The Appaloosa was developed primarily by the Nez Perce Indians in the Northern Rocky Mountains.

### **Morgan**

The Morgan, developed as a multipurpose horse by Justin Morgan in New England, excels as a road horse pulling light loads and also as a saddle horse. They are normally about 15 hands and weigh 1,000 pounds. The conservative colors, chestnut brown and bays, predominate in the breed.

### **Palomino**

The Palomino is a color breed known for its golden coat. Normally these horses are used for parade mounts and as stock horses.

### **Pinto**

The Pinto horse is a color breed. The horses are usually brown and white, black and white, or a combination of the three colors and are used basically as parade and stock horses.

### **Quarter Horse**

The Quarter Horse, another of the American-developed breeds, originated on the Eastern seaboard as a race horse. They are used primarily today in short races and as stock horses. Quarter Horses are heavily muscled and even-tempered. They are normally 15 hands tall and weigh 1,100 to 1,300 pounds. Sorrels, bays, grays, and blacks are common colors.

### **Standardbred**

The Standardbred is used in harness racing for both trotting and pacing as well as a roadster for some show classes. These horses are 15 to 16 hands tall and weigh 900 to 1,200 pounds. They are conservatively colored in sorrels, browns, and blacks.

### **Tennessee Walking Horse**

This plantation walking horse was developed in the Old South as an overseer's mount. They have a gliding, ground-covering walk that has made them famous. About 15 hands tall and weighing 1,000 to 1,200 pounds, the Walking Horse comes in a variety of colors.

### **Thoroughbred**

The Thoroughbred is the most popular race horse for both flat racing and steeple chase racing, along with his uses as a hunter, a polo pony, and a jumper. They are rather tall horses, 15 to 17 hands, and weigh 1,000 to 1,200 pounds. A Thoroughbred is normally bay or sorrel with white points.

## **Breeds of Ponies and Their Characteristics**

### **Shetland**

The Shetland is the most common small pony, weighing 300 to 500 pounds, and normally no taller than 10 hands. He comes in a wide variety of colors. The Shetland is used mostly as a child's pony under saddle or in harness.

### **Welsh**

Welsh is also used under saddle or in harness. It is a medium-sized pony, being about 10 to 12 hands in height and seldom weighing more than 500 pounds. It makes an excellent small jumping pony. Colors are the common chestnut, bay, with occasional grays and blacks.

There are numerous other excellent breeds of horses and ponies. Most breeds can be used for a variety of jobs, and purebred, crossbred, or grade horses are all used on a day-to-day basis.

### **Quick Quiz**

1) What is a breed?

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2) Name two breeds that originated in the United States.

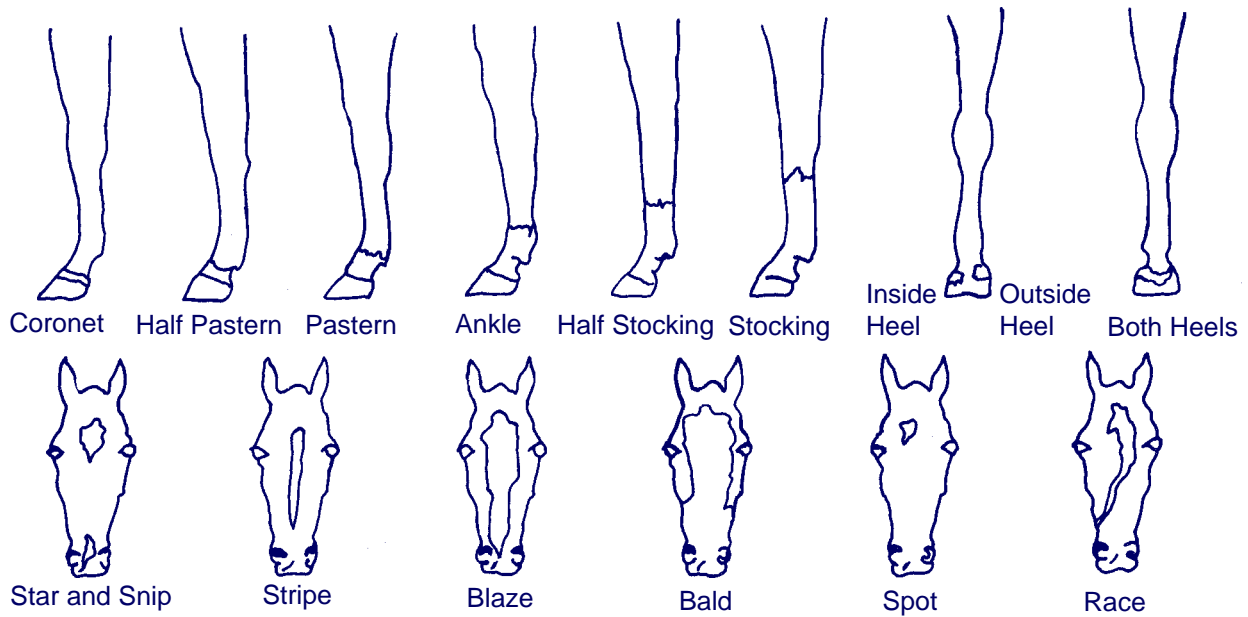
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3) What breed is considered to be the oldest?

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## Markings of the Horse

You may need to distinguish a horse from others by more than its overall coat color. Usually any distinctive coloration on the face and legs is used. So, instead of simply saying “the sorrel horse,” you might say “the sorrel with the blaze” or “the sorrel with the stocking behind.”



## Coat Colors of the Horse

Use a horse book for a reference to describe the following coat colors. You may also want to clip color pictures from magazines and attach them to this page.

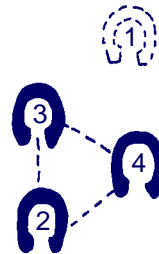
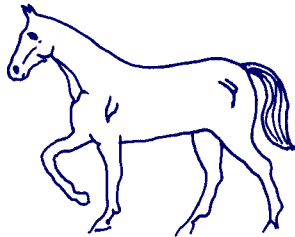
1. BAY \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. SORREL \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. GRAY \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. BROWN \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. BLACK \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. PALOMINO \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. APPALOOSA \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. PINTO \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Gaits of the Horse

A gait is a manner of walking, running, or moving. The three natural gaits of any horse are the walk, trot, and canter. The natural gaits of the Tennessee Walker are the walk, the running walk, and the canter. Two other gaits—the slow gait and the rack—are artificial and must be learned by the horse.

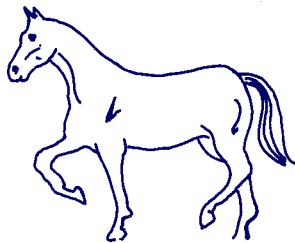
### WALK

The walk is a four-beat gait with the feet striking the ground in the following order: right front, left rear, left front, right rear. The feet should be lifted from the ground and placed down flat footed.



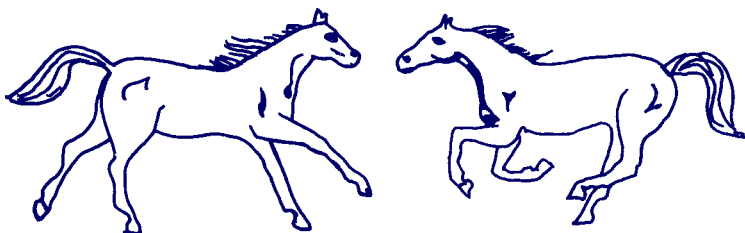
### TROT

The trot is a two-beat gait in which the left front and right rear feet and the right front and left rear feet strike the ground together. The horse's body remains in perfect balance. The trot should be balanced and springy.



### CANTER

The canter is a three-beat gait that should be slow. The canter is actually a restrained gallop in which the horse may lead with either of his front feet. The lead foot will be the first to leave and the last to strike the ground. When a horse leads with his left foot, the feet will strike the ground in the following order: Right rear, left rear and right front, left front.



## Quick Quiz

1. What are the natural gaits?

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2. Describe the foot pattern of the canter at the right lead.

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3. What are the differences between the canter and the trot?

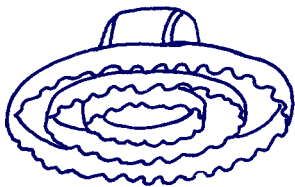
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## Grooming

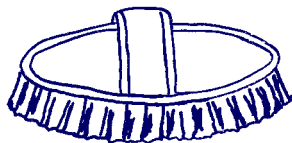
Grooming, also an important part of management, includes daily inspection of the horse to check for cuts, bruises, or any problem. It also means that the horse's foot is picked up and cleaned with a hoof pick before and after each ride. Then the horse's body is groomed to remove dirt and hair from the entire body.

First, go over the horse with a curry comb in a circular motion, except for the bony areas around the knees and hocks. Then brush the horse with a stiff-bristled brush. Comb the mane and tail to eliminate tangles; do this carefully in order not to break off an excessive number of hairs.

Next, shine the horse with a dandy brush and a grooming cloth to bring out the oils in his hair coat. After riding the horse, you can bathe him or simply scrape the sweat with the scraper. If a horse is unduly sweaty, it is a good idea to bathe him to remove the perspiration and salt that have accumulated.



Curry Comb



Body Brush



Dandy Brush



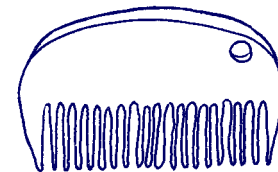
Hoof Pick (or Hook)



Grooming Cloth



Sweat Scraper



Mane and Tail Comb

## Quick Quiz

Describe the grooming procedure.

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) \_\_\_\_\_

Why bathe a horse?

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## **Managing the Horse**

### **Food**

Every horse needs a daily allotment of feed. The kind and balance of feed and its nutrients is important to the well-being of the horse. The basic feeds include grass and/or hay as a roughage source plus some grains, usually oats or corn or commercial ration and protein supplements. The horse is an athlete and needs to stay in trim condition. Obesity is as much concern as not receiving sufficient food.

### **Water**

The horse will need gallons of fresh water each day. During the summer water intake will increase because the horse will lose additional water through perspiration and will have to replace that lost moisture. The water should be clean and cool, and each horse should have his own drinking utensils. After work, horses should be cool and dry before they are allowed to drink large quantities of water.

### **Exercise**

Horses that are turned out each day into paddocks or fields can run and play for their exercise. However, stabled horses will need exercise each day to keep them in condition and to avoid developing bad habits simply from boredom. Forced exercise, usually riding, can be a fun part of owning a horse.

### **Housing**

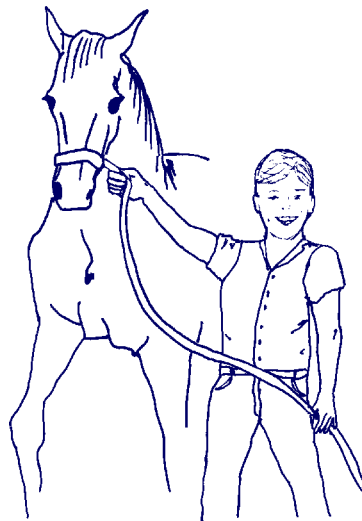
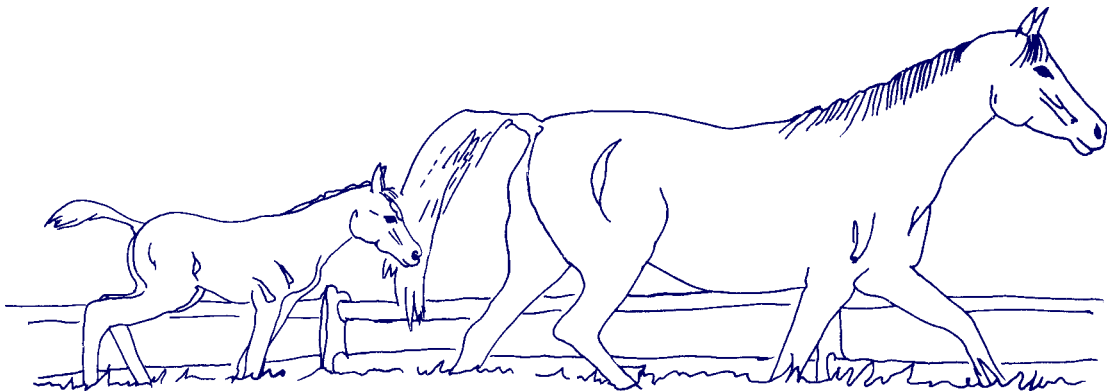
The horse is an outdoor animal and normally needs little shelter. However, he does like a place to protect himself from the rain and cold winds. Stalls that are used daily should be cleaned daily to prevent any substantial buildup of manure and to keep the horse as healthy as possible.

## Animal Health and Safety

You should make sure that your horse gets plenty of exercise and has clean, well-ventilated surroundings and well-balanced meals at regular intervals to keep him in good health. Your horse should be vaccinated against a number of infectious diseases. You can avoid many problems with internal and external parasites with good management. A veterinarian should be contacted if a serious health problem arises.

Learn to obey the ten commandments of horse safety:

1. Buy or ride a safe horse
2. Avoid being overmounted. (This is, avoid riding too spirited or too large a horse.)
3. Know your horse.
4. Avoid surprising your horse.
5. Check your tack.
6. Be careful of small children around horses.
7. Tie your horse with care.
8. Know trailer safety.
9. Avoid crowding others.
10. Avoid clowning, please.



### Quick Quiz

1. What main types of feed are required by the horse?

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2. The normal temperature of a horse is \_\_\_\_\_ .

3. How can you supply exercise to the horse?

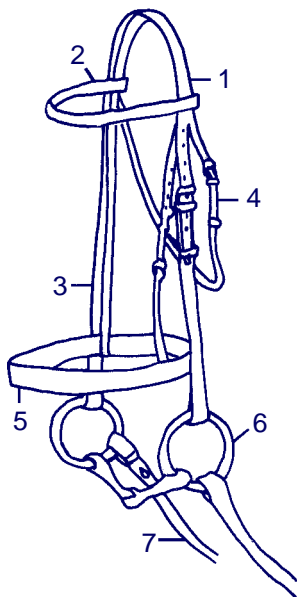
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## Equipment

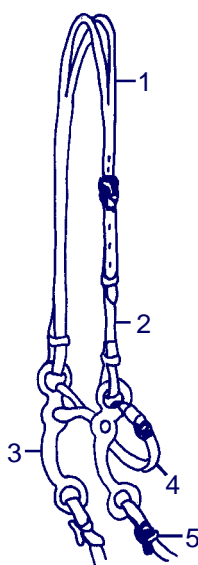
### Bridles and Bits

Bridles come in many styles. Each style calls for a special complement of bits. The reins, bits, and headstall compose the bridle, and different types of riding different ones. The snaffle-bit, single-reined bridle is commonly used for hunting, jumping, or trail riding. The curb-bit, split-eared bridle is generally used for Western riding. The hackamore has a set of reins and lacks a bit. It is used to control and train young horses without injuring their mouths.



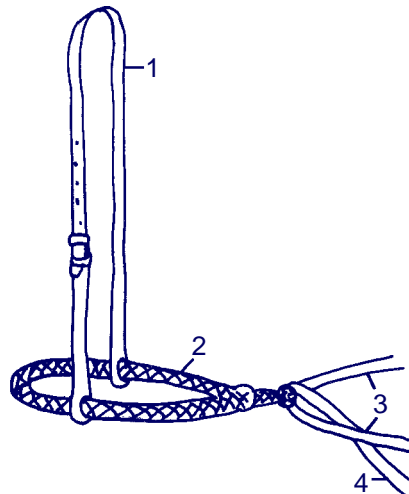
#### Single-Reined Bridle

1. Crownpiece or Headstall
2. Browband
3. Cheekpiece
4. Throatlatch
5. Noseband
6. Snaffle Bit
7. Reins



#### Split-Eared Bridle

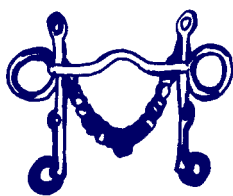
1. Crownpiece or Headstall
2. Cheekpiece
3. Curb Bit
4. Curb Strap
5. Reins



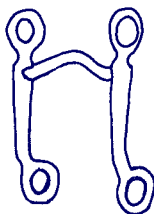
#### Bosal Hackamore

1. Headstall
2. Bosal
3. Reins
4. Tie or Lead Rope

### Kinds of Bits



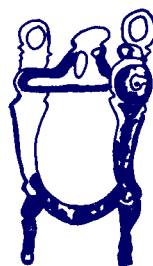
Pelham



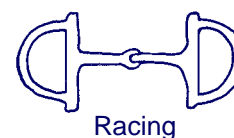
Curb



Weymouth



Spade



Racing



Snaffle

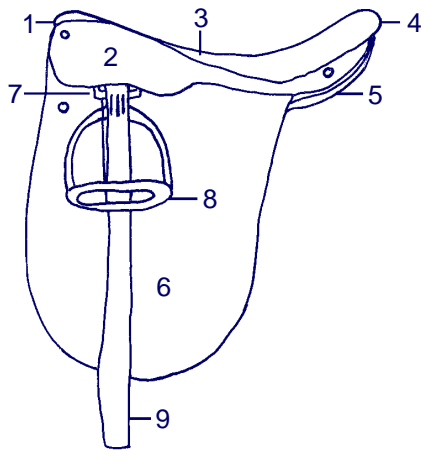
## Equipment Care

A rider should always:

- Put gear away carefully. Inspect it for worn or broken places.
- Hang the blanket to dry and store the saddle so that the leather is not folded or pressed out of shape.
- Hang the bridle so it does not tangle, after washing the bit, so that the bit will be clean and palatable next time.
- Clean the leather regularly and keep all gear out of the rain. It will look better and last longer.
- Store grooming aids and stable gear together in a convenient place.

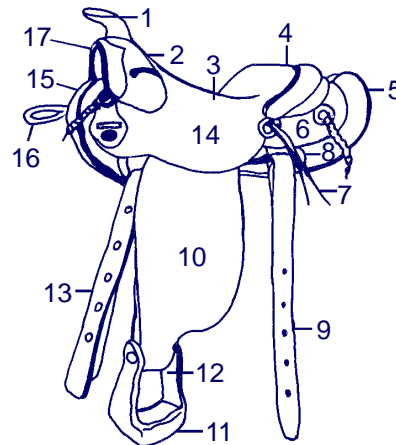
## Saddles

Saddles also come in many styles. The saddle indicates more the type of riding an individual does than the type of animal being ridden. However, certain horses look better tacked one way than they do another. The two main types of saddles are the English and Western. It is as necessary that the saddle fit the horse as it is the rider fit the saddle.



### English Saddle

1. Pommel
2. Skirt
3. Seat
4. Cantle
5. Panel
6. Flap
7. Stirrup Bar
8. Tread of Stirrup
9. Stirrup Leather



### Western Stock Saddle

1. Horn
2. Fork
3. Seat
4. Cantle
5. Skirt
6. Back Housing or Back Jockey
7. Lace Strings
8. Dee Rings
9. Leather Flank Girth
10. Fender
11. Stirrup
12. Stirrup Leather
13. Front Tie Strip or Cinch Strap
14. Front Jockey and Seat Jockey, One Piece
15. Wool Lining
16. Rope Strap
17. Pommel

### Quick Quiz

1. What is the major differences between the snaffle and curb bits?

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2. What is the function of the headstall?

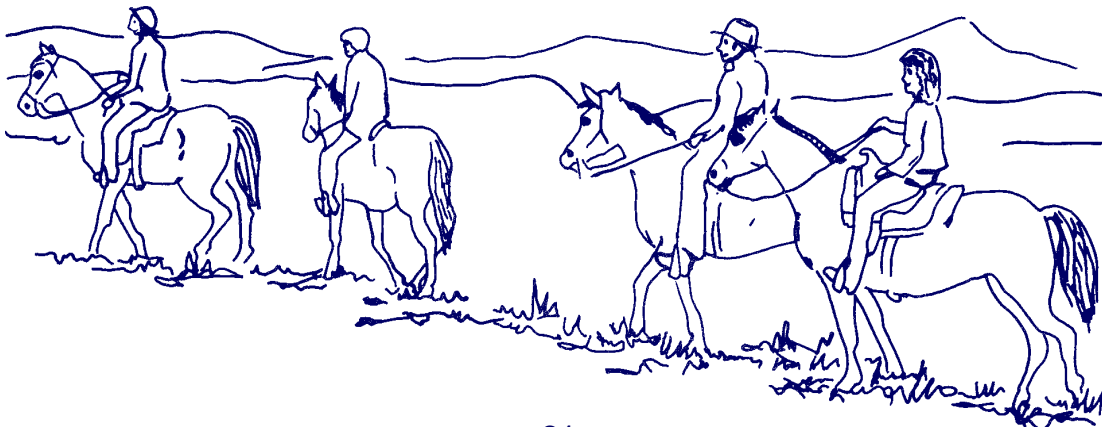
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3. Describe the process of cleaning a saddle.

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## Tips for Good Horsemanship

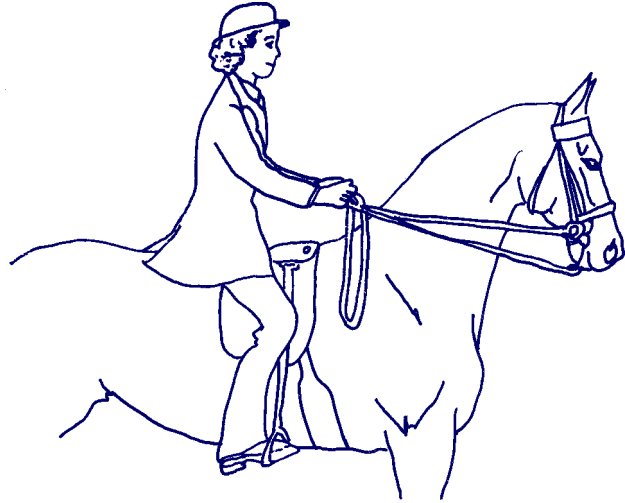
- Mount correctly from the left side. Make the horse stand still until you are properly seated in the saddle.
- Ride with your heels down, your toes turned out slightly, your head and chest lifted. Your shoulders should be square, your elbows close to your body, and your ankles, shoulders, arms, and wrists flexed.
- Avoid such habits as clacking to the horse or slapping him with the ends of the reins.
- Warm up the horse slowly. Walk him the first half mile, and then jog him slowly for another quarter mile.
- Hold the horse to a walk when traveling over paved streets or roads.
- Keep to the right side of the road, except when passing, and give right-of-way courteously.
- Never rush past riders who are proceeding at a slower gait. This startles both horses and riders and frequently causes accidents. Instead, approach slowly and pass cautiously on the left.
- Keep the horse under control at all times. Galloping a willing horse not only is poor horsemanship but also shows ignorance on the part of the rider.
- Keep the proper tension on the reins; avoid either tight or dangling reins.
- Slow the horse down when making a short turn.
- To avoid being kicked, do not ride too close to the horse in front. Either keep abreast or a full horse's length behind other mounts.
- Walk the horse when going up or down hill.
- Do not force the horse to maintain a rapid gait for more than a half mile without allowing a breathing spell.
- Walk the horse when approaching and passing through underpasses and going over bridges.
- Bring the horse in cool; ride at a walk the last mile to the stable.
- Never let the horse gorge on water or feed when he is hot.
- Groom the horse thoroughly after each ride.
- Avoid walking behind any horse.
- Wash the bit off thoroughly before hanging it in the tackroom. Remove any hair or sweat marks from the saddle and girth before putting them on the rack. Wash all leather equipment at frequent intervals with saddle soap.
- Feed the horse a balanced ration and keep him healthy.



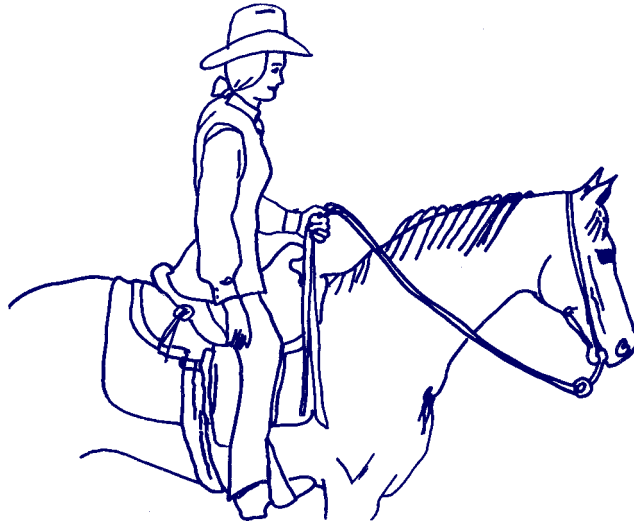
## Riding

Each of the three styles of riding requires that the horse be controlled by the use of the rider's seat, legs, hands, and voice. Describe the difference and similarities of the three styles listed below.

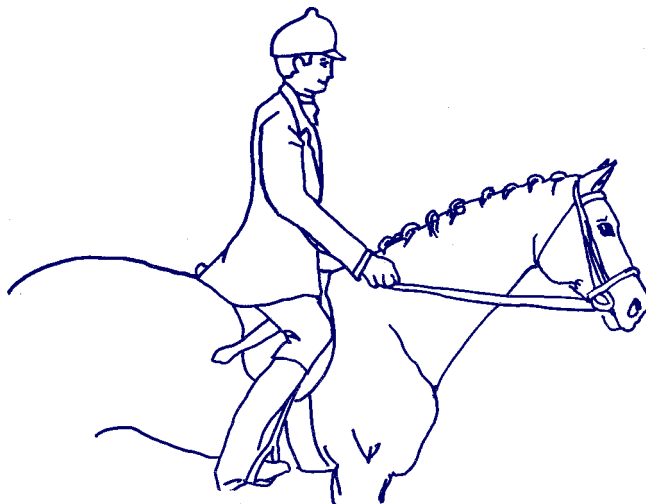
**Saddle Seat**



**Stock Seat**



**Hunt Seat**



## Just for Fun

### Horse Colors, Head and Leg Markings

CHESTNUT  
BAY  
BROWN  
BLACK  
GRAY  
WHITE

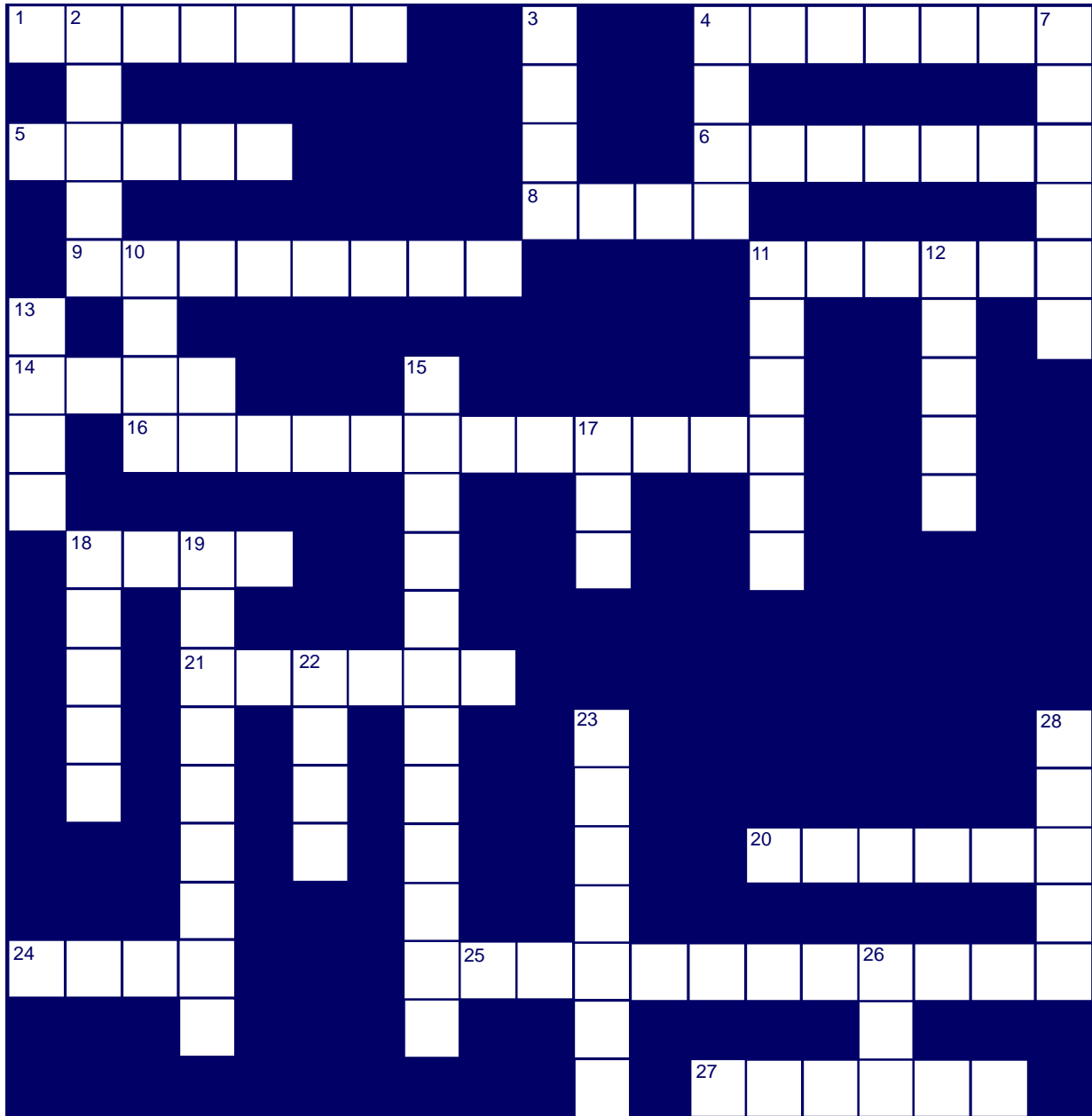
BALD  
BLAZE  
SNIP  
STAR  
STRIPE

CORONET  
FETLOCK  
HEEL  
PASTER  
SOCK  
STOCKING

A Z C F E C N Y B D Q O D J K C O L T E F  
R S F U B P I Z I L B H E X C E P J E Q R  
T S T R I P E D Y A B R P A S T E R N X T  
P L U E R I S N H B V C U Y R D Z S O F K  
E D N J Y N P W A Z D I K B S T A R R C P  
T H T I M S T O C K I N G H O E L F O G L  
I L S D F N O R Y A D Q R P C F B O C S O  
H E E L B O G B Q L B L A C K N T G P R V  
W J H S H U G S X E L H Y B N H L T S Q U  
Z U C Q C X C Z B V T K I J K N A S V K C

Circle the words you find; they may be spelled from left to right, right to left, up or down.

# Crossword Puzzle



## **ACROSS**

1. This breed originated in the desert areas of the Middle East
4. The ridge between the shoulder bones of a horse
5. Piece around body of horse to hold saddle on
6. Animal skin dressed for use
8. Stable gear or articles of harness
9. An unaltered male horse
11. A shelter or compartment
14. The curved covering of horn over the foot.
16. Bred from the best blood through a long line
18. Colt or filly under 1 year old
20. The headgear used to control a horse
21. Knob on top of saddle
24. A widely cultivated cereal grass used as feed
25. Breed used in harness racing for both trotting and pacing
27. One of the three natural gaits of a horse

## **DOWN**

2. A line fastened to a bit
3. A male foal
4. A slow, natural, flat-footed, four-beat gait
7. Another name for a chestnut-colored horse
10. A two-beat gait in which the legs move in diagonal pairs
11. Breed that originated by infusing thoroughbred and Arabian blood
12. A white stripe down the face of a horse to the lips
13. A metal plate or rim to protect hoof of animal
15. Breed that originated on Eastern seaboard of U.S. as race horse
17. One of the five basic coat colors of a horse
18. A female foal up to 3 years old
19. Breed of horse that was developed by Nez Perce Indians
22. A mature female horse
23. A white strip or band right above the hoof of a horse
26. Part of the bridle inserted in the mouth of a horse
28. A group of animals related by descent from common ancestors

## **Your Project Story**

Write a story about your experiences with your project

## 4-H Club Pledge

*I Pledge:*

My Head to clearer thinking

My Heart to greater loyalty,

My Hands to larger service, and

My Health to better living for

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

*Prepared by Larry W. Hudson, Extension Animal Scientist*

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