

Cohutta Highlanders Pony Club
Unmounted Rating Prep – C2

Candidate _____

Date: _____

[In barn]

Conditioning

Standard: Measure and record pulse, temperature and respiration of own pony at rest in front of Examiner

Part 1: Q & A

1. What is conditioning? [Manual, p. 233]

It is the process of getting a pony fit, so he can work harder without tiring

2. Why is it important to know your pony's vital signs (heart rate, temperature and respiration?)

Vital signs are an important indicator of a pony's health, fitness and condition. You need to know your pony's average pulse, temperature and respiration to evaluate his condition and to spot signs of distress. [Manual, p. 234]

3. Describe how to take: [Manual, p. 234-237]

- a. Pulse: *Rest your fingertip under the pony's jaw bone, on the facial artery. Count how many beats you feel in ten seconds (using a watch). Multiply by 6 to get the heart rate.*
- b. Temperature: *Shake the thermometer until the mercury is below 97 degrees, and grease with petroleum jelly. Stand to one side and lift the tail. Push the thermometer 2/3 of the way into the rectum and clip the string to the pony's tail. Wait two minutes, take it out, wipe clean and read.*
- c. Respiration: *Watch the pony's flanks and count the number of breaths for fifteen seconds. Multiply by four.*

Part II: Candidates should demonstrate measuring and recording pulse, temperature and respiration on a pony at rest.

Pony Parts, Conformation and Lameness

Standards: Name five basic conformation qualities that you want in a mount for your own use, and how they affect the basic movement and soundness (i.e., sloping shoulder means longer stride).

Name and locate on a mount the following unsoundnesses: ringbone, curb, bowed tendons, sidebone, spavin, navicular, splint, thoroughpin, sprains

Part I: Q & A

1. What is conformation and why is good conformation desirable? [Manual, p. 313]

It is the way a horse is built. Good conformation helps the horse to be stronger and stay sounder, and certain conformation characteristics aid or benefit a horse's performance.

2. Name five conformation qualities you would look for in a pony, and list the reasons why.

Answers will vary, but must include a strong supporting reason for each choice. [Manual, p. 313]

Part II: Have candidates name all unsoundnesses and identify location on cross-tied pony.

Unsoundnesses to include ringbone (pastern), curb (back of hock), bowed tendons (along back of lower leg), sidebone (heels), spavin (inside of hock), navicular (within hoof), splint (inside of leg, near cannon bone), thoroughpin (upper hock) and sprains (any muscle). [Manual, p. 325-331]

Travel Safety

Standard: Be able to load and unload, with assistance, an experienced, cooperative mount

Q & A:

1. What are the steps to safely loading an experienced pony into a trailer? [D Manual, p. 225-227]
Lead the pony straight forward into the trailer, praise him while your helper closes the tail bar, and then tie the pony with a quick-release knot or trailer tie. You may also load a well-trained horse by putting the lead rope over the neck and standing to the side while the horse walks up, fastening the tail bar before tying the head.

2. What are the steps to safely unloading a pony? [D Manual, p. 227]
Untie the pony. Have the helper unfasten the tail bar, and then back the pony out slowly in a straight line.

Bandaging

Standard: Apply a shipping and a stable bandage, under supervision of examiner, and give reasons for use.

Part I: Q & A

1. What is the purpose of a shipping bandage, and what critical areas must it cover? [Manual, p. 266]
A shipping bandage is used to protect the pony's legs from blows and stress during trailering. It must cover the leg from just below the knee or hock to the ground, covering the coronary band and heels.

2. What is the purpose of a stable bandage, and what areas must it cover? [Manual, p. 270]
A stable bandage is used for warmth and protection in the stall, to prevent swelling, and to hold dressings in place. It extends from just below the knee or hock to just below the fetlock joint.

3. Name five important points for safe bandaging. [Manual, p. 272-273]
Squat, never sit or kneel; clean the legs before bandaging; make sure there is sufficient padding and that the padding is smooth and distributed evenly; wrap snugly enough to just fit two fingers underneath the bandage; don't bind bandages over joints; bandage evenly, without loose folds or extra pressure from fasteners.

Part II: Candidates demonstrate applying a shipping and stable bandage, under supervision of Examiner

[In house]

Turn Out/Tack

Standards: Attire to be correctly formal or informal, as designated by the DC.

Mount to show thorough grooming, with attention to mane and tail, reflecting regular care.

Tack to be safe, clean, with metal polished, and well adjusted, reflecting regular care.

Explain reasons for equipment used on own mount for flat work and over fences.

□ Q & A:

1. List and explain the reasons for equipment used on your pony for flatwork and over fences.

Answer to include bridle with noseband, bit and reins; saddle, stirrups, any special pads; martingale or breastplate; and boots or bandages. [Manual, p. 180]

Nutrition

Standard: Describe own mount's ration when developing fitness, maintaining fitness, taking a day off, sick, roughed out.

□ Q & A:

1. Describe your pony's ration for these situations and explain why. [Manual, p. 201-208]

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|------------------------|--|
| a. Developing fitness | <i>Increase in concentrates for more energy</i> |
| b. Maintaining fitness | <i>Basic ration for maintaining present fitness</i> |
| c. Taking a day off | <i>Cut back on grain to prevent azoturia, or tying up</i> |
| d. Sick | <i>Consult vet before feeding anything</i> |
| e. Roughed out | <i>Decrease grain gradually to maintenance level</i> |

Stable Management

Standards: Describe caring efficiently and economically when:

Stabled - feed and water schedule, minerals needed, clothing, exercise, grooming

At grass - safety check of pasture, fencing, water, mineral supply, shelter, feed and grooming

Discuss knowledge of safety measures, preparation and care of mount and equipment on day of strenuous work, including feeding schedule, consideration of mount's condition, consideration of climate and terrain; cooling out, treatment of any injuries, and making mount comfortable.

Discuss pasture safety and fencing

Name three toxic plants in your area and describe appearance

□ Q & A

1. Describe how to care for a pony efficiently and economically when stabled as to:

- Feed, water and minerals - ***Stabled ponies should be fed two or three times a day, with grain in the morning and evening, and should receive hay at least twice a day. They should always have fresh, clean water available, and free access to salt.***
- Clothing - ***A pony may need a blanket or sheet to keep warm, but must always be changed to the appropriate one for the temperature. They must be kept smooth and properly adjusted, and a turnout rug is necessary for outdoors.***
- Exercise - ***A stabled pony must have exercise daily, at least an hour of turnout or riding time.***
- Grooming - ***A stabled pony needs daily grooming to stimulate circulation as well as to clean the grease and scurf from his coat, and to spread the skin oil to make the coat shine.*** [Manual, p. 155-163]

2. Describe a safety check of the pasture:

[Manual, p. 164]

Fence must be safe, strong and easy to see. Pasture must be free of dangerous trash such as nails, bottles and other hazards, and poisonous plants. Pastures should not have sharp corners where a pony could be trapped by another pony. Telephone guy wires should be fenced off.

3. List the advantages and disadvantages of these fencing materials: [Manual, p. 164 – 165]

	<u>Advantages</u>	<u>Disadvantages</u>
a. Wooden	<i>Safe, easy to see</i>	<i>Expensive, chewable</i>
b. Plastic	<i>Safe, easy to see, not chewable</i>	<i>Expensive</i>
c. Metal pipe	<i>Safe, not chewable, long-lasting</i>	<i>Expensive</i>
d. Wire mesh	<i>Safe if not hog wire</i>	<i>Needs a wooden rail to keep from sagging when ponies lean on it</i>
e. Electric fence	<i>Inexpensive</i>	<i>Less secure, must be checked daily</i>
f. Barbed wire	<i>Inexpensive</i>	<i>Not suitable for horses</i>

4. Discuss the daily care of a pony at grass in regard to: [Manual, p. 164-172]

- Water, feed and minerals – *Fresh water must be available at all times from a flowing stream or a clean horse tank, not a stagnant pond. Pony will need supplementary feeding when there is not sufficient nutrition in the grass and when being ridden regularly; hay may be fed from a feeder off the ground or in stations 30' apart, but grain should be fed separately if possible. A salt block should always be available.*
- Shelter – *Ponies need a safe run-in shed or a wind break of trees or bushes.*
- Grooming – *Pasture ponies do not need as much grooming as stabled ponies because they need the natural oils in their coat to keep warm, but should be checked daily for injuries, ticks and bot eggs, and should have their feet picked out. They should be brushed before riding.*

5. Discuss the care of a pony on a day of strenuous work in regard to: [Manual, p. 245-249]

- Safety – *Be sure the pony is in condition for the event. Wrap legs for trailering, and follow safe stable management procedures at the show grounds (check for nails and hazards in a stall, etc). Warm up gradually, check over tack carefully, and keep a safe distance from other ponies. Keep the pony's welfare first and foremost in mind and pull out if he shows any signs of distress. Cool him out properly and check for injuries when finished.*
- Preparation – *Begin conditioning and training for the event 2-3 months ahead of time. Have all tack repairs done well in advance, and plan for your horse to receive any necessary farrier care/immunizations taken care of. The day before the event, exercise pony lightly, and devote the rest of the day to grooming, cleaning and checking tack, packing equipment and readying the trailer.*
- Care of equipment – *Take good care of tack and arrange for any repairs at least a week before the event. Clean thoroughly the day before. Make up an equipment checklist to be sure you remember to pack everything, and keep everything organized during the event. Check your tack throughout, and clean tack at the end of the day.*
- Feeding schedule – *Plan a long range feeding schedule to go with the conditioning schedule. On the day of the event, feed early so pony can digest his meal before exercise. Have hay and water available at the event, but limit water intake to a few sips every few minutes while cooling out. Wait to feed grain until pony is completely cooled out.*
- Consideration of pony's condition – *Don't work longer or faster than he is used to. Watch for signs of tiring or distress, and ease up on him if needed.*
- Consideration of climate and terrain – *In hot or humid weather, deep footing or on hilly terrain, slow down and rest your pony whenever possible. Be prepared to pull up if he gets too tired. In cold, wet or windy weather, keep moving and cover the pony whenever possible.*

g. Cooling out – *Ease up slowly, dismount as soon as possible, loosen girth and noseband and walk pony until his breathing returns to normal. Untack, and sponge/rub down your pony, depending on the weather. Continue walking and offering a few sips of water at a time until pony is completely cooled out. Do not cover a pony in hot weather!*

h. Treatment of injuries – *Check pony carefully for injuries, especially hooves and legs, and treat immediately. Check right after the event, before leaving for the night and again the next day.*

i. Making pony comfortable – *Make sure the pony is properly cooled out and let him loose in a stall to roll and to urinate. If he is still damp and the weather is cool, cover with an anti-sweat sheet. Offer hay and water. Pony can be turned out when completely cool and dry.*

6. Name three toxic plants in your area and describe appearance. [C Manual, p. 168-170]

Answers will vary, but will likely be found in the list of most common toxic plants for horses: Yew, Oleander, Rhododendron, Azalea, Ragwort, Poison Hemlock, Horsetail, Wild Black Cherry, Red Maple, Black Nightshade or Horse Nettle, Yellow Star or Thistle and Bracken Fern.

Health Care and Veterinary Knowledge

Standards: List annual immunizations and health requirements appropriate for your area

List prevalent internal parasites in your area.

Describe routine parasite prevention for your mount.

Describe how tetanus and strangles are transmitted.

Explain the need for the regular care of teeth.

□ Q & A

1. List the immunizations and health requirements for your area. [C Manual, p. 206]
Answers will vary – ask your vet.

2. List the most prevalent internal parasites for your area. [C Manual, p. 209-210]
Answers will vary – ask your vet.

3. Describe the routine parasite prevention for your pony, and why. [C Manual, p. 210-211]
Individual answers will vary; check against Health & Maintenance book for accuracy

4. Describe these diseases and how they are transmitted: [C Manual, p. 216-217]

- Tetanus – is caused by clostridium tetani, a bacteria that grows where there is no oxygen. In a puncture wound, tetanus is carried deep into the body where there is no oxygen and the bacteria reproduces, giving off “Tetanus toxin” which attacks the nerves and causes spasms of the jaw and other muscles.*
- Strangles – respiratory infection caused by streptococcus equi bacteria. It is spread by mucus from one horse to another. A pony is at highest risk for strangles in an area where there are lots of other ponies, such as a sale or horse show. A pony with strangles will not eat, cough, have a fever and runny nose, and the lymph nodes will swell and drain.*

5. Explain the need for regular care of teeth. [C Manual, p. 211 – 212]
Teeth are essential for proper chewing so a pony can get the nutrition from the food he needs to stay in condition and to be comfortable with his bit. As the teeth grind together, they wear down

the surface of the tooth and form sharp hooks on the edges. These will cause a pony discomfort when chewing and when being bridled, and he may lose weight. Your pony's teeth should be checked by the vet every six months for sharp edges that need floating.

Shoeing

Standard: Recognize and describe good and bad shoeing.

□ Q & A

1. Describe the signs of good shoeing. [C Manual, p. 255-257]
The angle of the hoof matches the angle of the pastern; clinches are smooth and even; the shoe is made to fit the hoof and is the right size; hoof is not rasped exceedingly; frog touches the ground
2. Describe the signs of poor shoeing. [C Manual, p. 255-257]
The angle of the hoof and pastern do not match; shoe is too small; toe is dumped (rasped to fit the shoe); clinches rough and uneven, excessive rasping which removes the hoof wall; frog does not touch the ground

Longeing

Standards: Longe own mount for exercise in an enclosed area with assistance.

Discuss methods, equipment, and safety precautions for longeing.

□ Q & A

1. What is longeing and what are its uses? [C Manual, p. 279]
Longeing is a form of controlled exercise for the pony carried out on the ground. It is useful for exercising a pony when he can't be ridden, settling an energetic pony before riding and in training a pony to be attentive to voice commands and body language.
2. List the longeing equipment needed for pony: [C Manual, p. 281-285]
Longe line, longe whip, longe cavesson and/or snaffle bridle, leg protection, saddle or surcingle, side reins (optional; only for those with experience in longeing)
3. List the longeing equipment needed for the rider: [Manual, p. 281]
Gloves, boots, safety helmet, and watch.
4. List the safety rules for longeing: [Manual, p. 287]
Longe in an enclosed area; use proper dress and equipment; get training and practice before trying to longe a pony; hold the excess line in folds; stay out of kicking range; longe on a full 30' circle; handle the whip correctly and quietly.
5. Explain the following voice commands for longeing: [Manual, p. 288]
 - a. Upward transition – *“Walk ON” or “wa-a-LK,” raising voice on last syllable.*
 - b. Downward transition – *“Aaand walk,” dropping voice at end.*
 - c. To move pony out on circle – *“Ouut,” spoken firmly.*
 - d. To praise pony – *“Goood,” praise immediately when a command is performed.*
 - e. To reprimand pony – *“NO,” spoken sharply and instantly when required.*
6. What are two ways of holding the longe line, and how should you hold the excess?

You can hold the longe line in a driving hold, with the rein coming out of the top of the hand, or a riding hold, with the rein coming out between the ring and pinky as in riding. Extra longe line should be folded, never looped, in the other hand. [Manual, p. 289]

7. Where should you longe?

[Manual, p. 281]

In a 60' round longeing ring, or at the end or the corner of an arena, where the footing is good and no one is riding.

8. Explain how to use the whip:

[Manual, p. 292-293]

Hold the whip close to the ground, rotating in a forward motion. Flick towards the hocks for a stronger forward motion, flick forward and up at belly landing in area of rider's leg for more emphasis, and crack the whip to call for immediate forward motion only when necessary. Point towards the shoulder to ask to move out on circle. Move in front of the longe line to ask to slow down or stop. Tuck the whip under your arm with lash caught up when approaching pony.

9. Explain where to position your body when longeing:

[Manual, p. 294-295]

You should form a triangle of control with the longe line, the pony and the whip, with you standing at the apex of the triangle just behind the pony's shoulder. Moving back towards the pony's hip causes him to go faster, and moving forward towards his head will cause him to slow down.

10. Explain how to longe a trained pony:

[Manual, p. 296-297]

- a. To start – *Stand by left shoulder with whip pointing backwards and say "Walk On," feed out the longe and say "Ouut," until he is out on the circle in the triangle of control.*
- b. To stop – *Give a low and quiet "and Whoa," and step towards his shoulder.*
- c. To trot – *Say "TrrROT" or "Trot ON," and point whip at hindquarters. Tap ground or flick at his hocks if he does not trot.*
- d. To change direction – *Stop the pony and tuck the whip under your arm with point behind you. Go out to pony and lead him in a reverse, change the longe line if necessary and switch your longe line and whip. Start over.*
- e. To canter – *Use voice command for "CanTER," and use whip by tapping on ground or flicking at hock. Only canter on the longe if the pony is responsive and obedient at a walk and trot, well-balanced and fit, and only canter for short periods of time.*

Teaching

Standards: Assist a D1 and/or D2 to prepare for turnout.

Candidate must bring a letter from DC stating that they are assisting in simple unmounted instructional programs for D-level Pony Club members with supervision.

□ Q & A:

1. What are some pointers to helping younger Pony Clubbers to prepare for turnout inspection?
Set a good example and be positive and encouraging. Demonstrate skills and assist in carrying things that are too heavy and grooming places they can't reach, but let them do their own work. Tell them what is expected at an inspection, and explain why it is important. Encourage them to ask questions and give praise. Keep safety foremost in mind, and don't expect them to present a C2 level turnout.

2. What are some ways in which you might be asked to help during an unmounted lesson?

A C2 is an assistance to the instructor, and might be asked to demonstrate a skill, gather equipment, hold a pony, help those who need assistance, take part in discussion or teach part of the lesson.

Conditioning, cont.

Standard: Present a written outline of a six-to-eight week conditioning and feeding program in preparation of a specific competition of candidate's choice.

- Have candidate present outline, and check against Record Book.**

Record Book

Standard: Health & Maintenance book must be kept up to date and brought to test. Must have records for at least 9 months prior to test. Records should reflect appropriate depth of knowledge for this level.

- Check over Record Book to make sure it is complete and up-to-date, with attention given to health and conditioning records.**