

STANISLAUS COUNTY 4-H HORSE PROJECT STUDY GUIDE

LEVEL 4

March 2010

Use this study guide with the

**CERTIFIED HORSEMANSHIP ASSOCIATION
Composite Horsemanship Manual**

HORSE PROJECT STUDY GUIDE

LEVEL 4

HORSE BEHAVIOR PROBLEMS:

Two common problems that can be caused by teasing a horse with food, feeding too many treats or playing with their lips and nose are _____ and _____. To correct this, you should _____ the horse's _____ hard immediately. Do not correct him by _____ his head or you may make him _____.

Kicking is a _____ and hard to correct. You should always have _____ for a horse's rear end. Correcting this problem should most likely be handled by a professional trainer.

If a horse tries to buck while you are riding you should _____ and drive your _____ into the saddle. Lift his _____ up and drive him strongly _____.

Horses _____ from things that scare or startle them. The best way to handle this is to put him _____, as soon as possible, without any fuss by _____ near the spooky object to let him _____. You can also _____ his head slightly away from it as he passes it and support him with your leg at the girth. If he is very frightened, let him _____, but do not let him _____. Encourage him to _____ up to it and _____ it, but not too quickly.

Most horses that run away are simply _____. Don't panic. Do sit _____ and _____. Shorten your _____ and use several hard _____. If there is room, pull _____ and turn _____ or turn _____ to tire him quickly. A horse may be hard to stop because his bit is too _____, too _____ or he has been _____ by a bit and may need careful biting and retraining.

A horse that stops and refuses to move is _____. When you feel him starting to hesitate, send him directly _____ or _____ him to the side. _____ him usually doesn't work. You can also make him _____ and _____ until he is bored and you decide to let him move.

If a horse rears with you by accident _____ and hold onto the mane or neck and when he comes down drive him _____. This problem can be caused by an _____ severe use of the bit.

A nervous habit of a stalled horse is _____. _____ the horse out more may help. _____ is an addiction horses may get, much like some people who bite their nails. This is not good for his _____ and may hurt his _____. _____ don't suck in air. This condition may be due to a lack of _____ or some essential _____ in their diet.

HOOF CARE:

Horse's feet grow an average of _____ inch or _____ cm per month. They should be trimmed or have their shoes reset every _____. The need for shoes depends on the kind of _____, how _____ he works, and the _____ the horse works on.

Every rider should know how to tell if a horse is _____. _____ indicates pain in a leg or foot. If a front leg hurts, the horse will lift his _____ up as the sore leg hits the ground and will _____ his head as the good leg hits. If a hind leg hurts, he may hitch the _____ higher on the hurt side or he may drop his _____ lower to pull more weight to his shoulders.

An inflammation of the sensitive laminae under the wall of the hoof is called _____ or _____. It is very painful and can be caused by _____ grain or concentrates, grazing lush spring pasture or concussion to the _____.

Progressive degeneration of the navicular bone, navicular bursa and deep digital tendon is called _____ disease.

A hoof _____ is often shown by sudden lameness with no obvious signs.

A degenerative condition of inflammation of a joint and the surrounding tissues is called _____. It can be caused by excessive wear, _____, age and/or poor conformation.

A _____ is an injury to soft tissue and can be caused by _____ a horse beyond his training or from an _____.

An infection found in the frog of the hoof is called _____. It can be caused by standing in _____ stalls or being housed in _____ environments. It is recognized by a _____, grayish or _____ discharge and a very _____. If you find signs of thrush, pack the _____ with clean cotton and saturate it with diluted _____ or a commercial _____.

Horses that stand in _____ conditions may get a chapped, cracked, oozing condition called _____ or _____. To cure it, keep them out of _____ and _____ conditions, gently soak off the scabs, pat dry and treat with a _____.

SIGNS OF HEALTH AND SICKNESS:

The major vital signs of a horse are appearance and _____. If your horse is unusually nervous and jumpy, his coat is dull or he is unwilling or unable to get up, he might be _____.

A change in your horse's _____, like losing the desire to eat or eating unusual things like dirt or hair can also be signs of an illness or a _____ in his diet.

The normal rectal temperature for a horse is _____, but can vary depending on the time of _____ and exercise.

A normal horse breathes evenly about _____ to _____ respirations per minute when he is not exercising. Breathing _____, rapid _____ breaths or _____ can signify an illness. Counting the rise and fall of the _____ would be a good way to check the respiration.

The normal pulse rate for a horse is _____ to _____ beats per minute. The pulse might go very high with _____ or _____. A high pulse can also indicate _____ and _____. The pulse can be taken several places such as the artery underneath the _____, inside the left elbow against the chest wall, or on the digital artery either behind the knee or at the back of the _____.

A horse normally defecates _____ to _____ per day and _____ 4-6 times per day. A change in _____ or consistency in excretions can be a sign of illness.

Often a sick horse just doesn't look right. Standing stiffly, not wanting to _____ or _____ can

If there is a rubbed place on your horse, _____ it and change the equipment right away. If the area is already _____, it should be treated as an _____ wound and allowed to heal completely.

BASIC FIRST AID:

Having a first aid kit in the barn, and a portable version to take with you when traveling, is an excellent idea. Please refer to the CHA manual for a suggested list of items to have on hand. You might also want to check with your veterinarian for other suggestions, and perhaps some emergency medications, if you will be traveling a long distance or away from veterinary care such as out on a long trail ride.

Most nicks, cuts and scrapes do not require veterinary care. They should be thoroughly cleaned and gently _____. Use only a mild or _____ ointment on the wound. Lower leg wounds may need to be bandaged, but a bandage must be _____ and _____ applied or they will do more harm than good.

Puncture wounds are dangerous because they can easily become _____ and carry the danger of _____, also known as _____. A puncture wound should be allowed to _____ freely for cleaning and must heal from the _____. Horses should have yearly _____ shots, but a puncture wound may require a booster shot.

Serious wounds require the horse to be kept _____. Control serious bleeding by applying _____ directly on the wound with a _____ cloth or _____. Keep _____ on the wound and add more padding if it becomes soaked. A _____ bandage may be used over the pad to hold it in place and keep _____ on it until the veterinarian arrives, but do NOT apply a tourniquet. If a wound needs stitching, this should be done _____ for the best chance of healing. It is important not to apply any _____ or _____ to the area, use only _____ until the veterinarian arrives.

Lameness can have many causes. Most bruises, sprains and strains benefit from _____ or _____ with cold water for the first few days or until the leg is no longer _____ and _____. Cold packs can be alternated with _____ packs. To make a _____ pack, dip a _____ in a bucket of _____, wring it out and wrap it around the leg. Cover it with a _____ to hold in the heat. If the lameness is severe or last after a day or so of cold and hot packing you should _____.

As part of your Level 4 assessment you will demonstrate basic first aid for horses. A copy of the judge's checklist is included to assist you.

SELECTING A GOOD HORSE:

A horse is suitable for his _____ and _____. He has the temperament, _____ and movement to be good at his job. He also has the _____ and durability to hold up under _____ work without breaking down.

Some horses, because of their _____ or _____, will specialize in one field or another. A horse that would make a good _____ horse would not have what it takes to be a high stepping _____ horse or vice versa.

The three main types of riding horses are _____, _____ and _____. _____ horses are built for _____ stops and _____. This type of horse can "_____." They have _____, well-developed _____ and _____ muscles and are _____, short coupled, and _____. Usually, stock horses are NOT very _____ or _____ legged. _____ type horses are _____, showy and _____. They should have excellent gaits and a refined, _____ appearance. They often have small _____, a _____ back and croup and a high-set _____.

_____ type horses have long _____ and _____ that allow them to move with long, _____ strides for _____, smoothness and _____. They are _____ and _____ than most stock horses. They also need a deep _____ for endurance, a good _____ and _____ for galloping and strong _____ for jumping.

_____ is the way a horse is _____. It makes a horse able to _____ well and stay _____ even with _____ work. No horse is perfect. _____ defects can make a horse _____ in a part or just make him less _____.

When looking at conformation, you should judge from the _____, at a distance. Then look at him from the _____, _____ and both _____ up close. This was you will _____ nothing.

An _____ is a serious condition that affects a horse's _____. A _____ is a defect that hurts his _____, but doesn't hurt his _____ ability, like a scar.

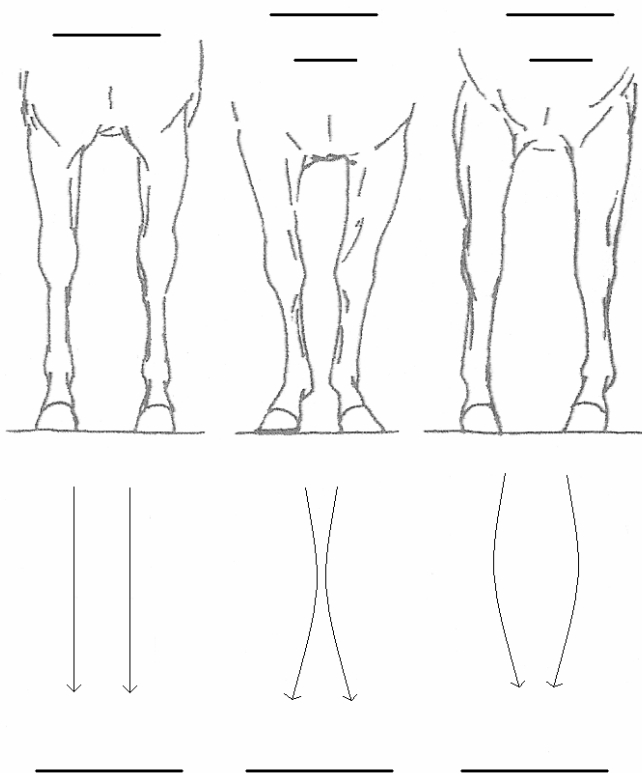
A horse is only as good as his _____. Poor _____ conformation means _____ that could break down with hard work.

It is important to notice whether a horse moves _____. If he has _____ legs, he may interfere or strike one leg with the _____ foot and hurt his _____. Straight legs with _____ proportions and leg bone _____ will mean smoother, more powerful _____.

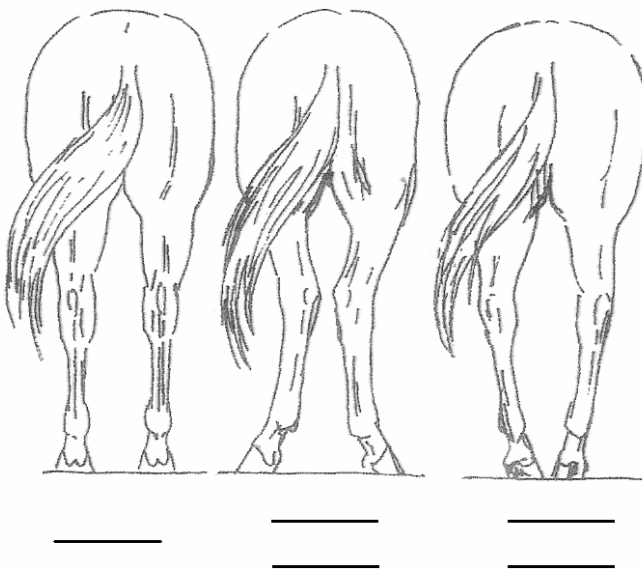
**STUDY THE PICTURES OF FORE LEG AND HIND LEG CONFORMATION ON THE NEXT PAGE.
BE PREPARED TO IDENTIFY THE DIFFERENT TYPES.**

**STUDY THE PICTURES OF GOOD AND POOR CONFORMATION AND BE ABLE TO IDENTIFY AND
ANSWER QUESTIONS ABOUT CONFORMATION.**

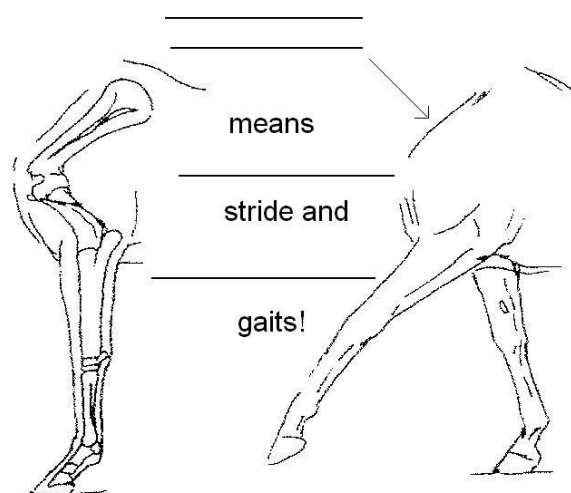
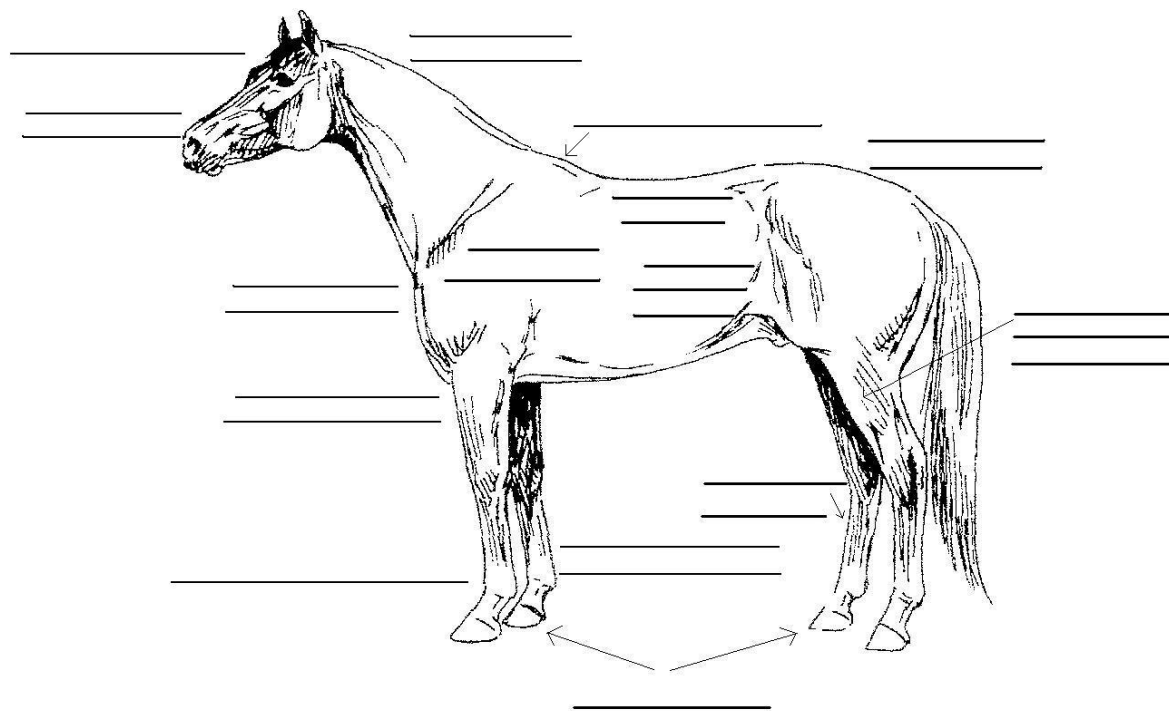
FORE LEG CONFORMATION



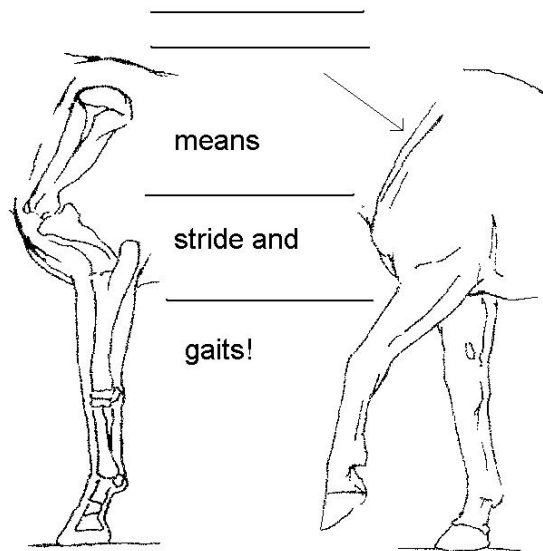
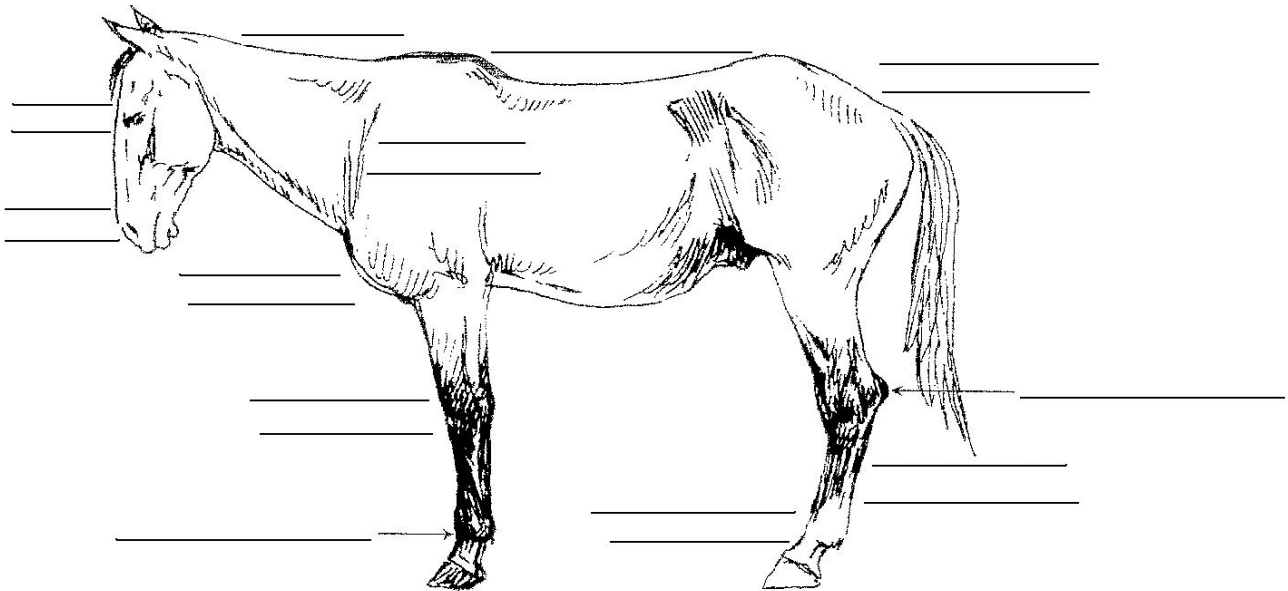
HIND LEG CONFORMATION



GOOD CONFORMATION POINTS



POOR CONFORMATION POINTS



UNSOUNDNESS AND BLEMISHES:

As you learned earlier, an unsoundness is a serious condition that affects a horse's _____.

A blemish hurts his appearance, but does not hurt his _____ ability.

Some of the more common unsound conditions are:

_____: Caused by an injury to the flexor _____. It is usually found in the _____ legs. Some horses with this condition may return to _____ work.

_____: Arthritis in the _____ of the hock.

_____: Pinched, narrow _____ and a shrunken _____. It is an unsoundness, but can be treated by good _____ work.

_____: The _____ has irregular growth _____. The feet are often _____ or the horse is _____.

_____: A deep infection in the _____. It is often caused by pressure from the _____ and a _____ sore that has been neglected.

_____: An infection beneath the _____ line. It can cause severe _____ until it has healed.

_____: Callouses or small _____ on the inside of the _____. They may not cause immediate _____, but are a sign of faulty movement and potential unsoundness.

_____: A crippling change in the _____. It is incurable.

_____: A _____ in the side of the _____. If it is deep, it can cause _____ and unsoundness.

_____: A form of arthritis in the _____ bones. It causes progressive _____.

_____: A condition in which the _____ joint locks.

Some common blemishes are:

_____: Swelling on the front of the _____ caused by an _____. It may cause soreness at first and later become a _____.

_____: Permanent swelling on the point of the _____.

_____: Permanent swelling on the point of the _____.

_____: Firm, fluid _____ on or near the _____. They are a sign of stress and hard _____, but they do not cause _____.

Conditions that may be both an unsoundness or a blemish are:

_____: A filling of the depression on the inside of the _____.

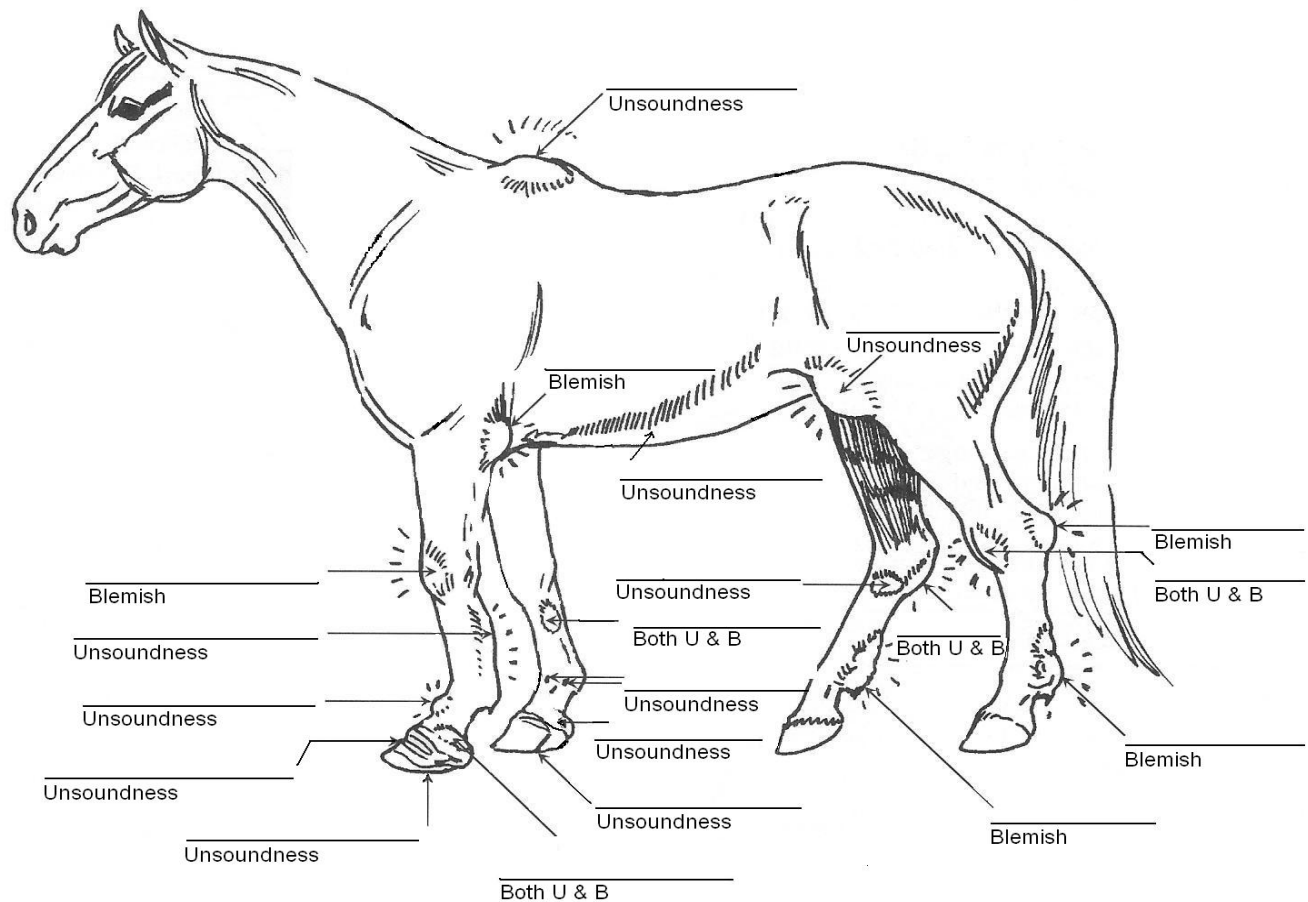
_____: A thickening of the ligament that runs along the back of the _____. It is caused by _____ and may be a blemish or an unsoundness depending on the severity.

_____: The collateral cartilage of the _____ turns to bone. At first it causes _____ and later becomes a blemish.

_____ : A lump that joins the _____ bone to the cannon bone. They may cause _____ when they are new, but become _____ later.

The manual does not mention heaves, however it is shown on the diagram. Heaves can be caused by allergies and can interfere with the horse's breathing. The abdominal muscles become more developed in a horse with heaves as the body works harder to exhale. Frequent coughing may also be a sign of heaves.

UNSOUNDNESS AND BLEMISHES



HORSEMANSHIP:

The section on Horsemanship in the CHA Manual covers many areas that will help you improve your riding skills. Some of these areas, such as lead changes, turning on the forehand and pivots, will be part of your Level 4 Riding Assessment. You should have a parent or leader review this section with you.

LEVEL 4 DEMONSTRATION

HEALTH, SICKNESS AND BASIC FIRST AID

RESPIRATION:

- _____ 1. Horse tied safely with proper knot. (Approx. 18" length)
- _____ 2. Explained respiration rate. (Normal 8-16 breaths per minute, stressed 40-100)
- _____ 3. Explained factors that affect respiration rate. (exercise, weather, fever, age, etc.)
- _____ 4. Explained how to take respiration rate with rise and fall of nostrils.
- _____ 5. Explained how to take respiration rate with rise and fall of left flank.
- _____ 6. Was able to accurately determine respiration.

PULSE:

- _____ 7. Explained pulse rate (Normal 30-40 beats per minute, stressed 60-80).
- _____ 8. Explained factors that affect pulse rate (Exercise, excitement, pain, stress).
- _____ 9. Explained how to take pulse under jaw on inner surface of groove (Maxillary artery).
- _____ 10. Explained how to take pulse inside left elbow against the chest wall (heart).
- _____ 11. Explained how to take pulse behind knee (Digital artery).
- _____ 12. Was able to accurately determine pulse.

TEMPERATURE:

- _____ 13. Explained normal temperature (generally 99° to 101°).
- _____ 14. Explained what factors can affect temperature (exercise, high humidity, hot weather, infection).
- _____ 15. Explained when to take temperature (loss of appetite, not drinking, dull eyes, lethargic, diarrhea, runny nose, cough).
- _____ 16. Demonstrated how to prepare thermometer to take temperature. (Shook down if mercury type, lubricated, attached cord and/or clip)
- _____ 17. Safely and gently inserted thermometer and explained time required for accurate reading.
- _____ 18. Removed the thermometer and wiped it clean.
- _____ 19. Demonstrated how to read thermometer and gave correct reading.
- _____ 20. Disinfected thermometer before replacing in case.
- _____ Total number of items checked (20 possible)

LEVEL 4 DEMONSTRATION

HEALTH, SICKNESS AND BASIC FIRST AID

RECOGNIZING COLIC:

- _____ 1. Explained the term colic and recognized it is the number one killer of horses.
- _____ 2. Listed the signs of colic (uneasiness, sweating, lying down and getting up repeatedly, pawing, looking/kicking at belly, stretching, trying to urinate).
- _____ 3. Explained procedure while waiting for vet to arrive: remove feed, keep him from getting chilled, walk him slowly or let him stand, do not allow him to roll or hurt himself.
- _____ 4. Identified possible causes of colic: overeating grain, gulping cold water when hot, eating spoiled or unsuitable feed, change of diet, ingesting too much sand, possible parasite damage.

MINOR WOUND CARE:

- _____ 5. Explained nicks, cuts and scrapes generally do not require a veterinarian.
- _____ 6. Demonstrated cleaning and drying of minor wound.
- _____ 7. Knowledgeable that only a mild ointment (such as A&D) or an antibiotic ointment should be used, not strong remedies.
- _____ 8. Explained reason for clipping hair around wound if possible (to prevent irritating wound).
- _____ 9. Explained that some wounds heal better if left unbandaged and not over medicated.

PUNCTURE WOUNDS:

- _____ 10. Knowledgeable that they are dangerous due to tetanus (lockjaw).
- _____ 11. Explained that wound should be allowed to bleed to promote cleansing and allowed to heal from inside out.
- _____ 12. Knew horse should have yearly tetanus shot and that wound may require a booster.

SERIOUS WOUNDS:

- _____ 13. Explained horse must be kept under control.
- _____ 14. Described how to control serious bleeding: direct pressure using a clean cloth or pad, adding more padding if it becomes soaked.
- _____ 15. Knowledge that a tight bandage can be used to keep pressure on the wound, but that a tourniquet should not be used.
- _____ 16. Explained that serious wounds requiring stitching must be stitched as soon as possible and that no soap or ointment should be applied, only water.

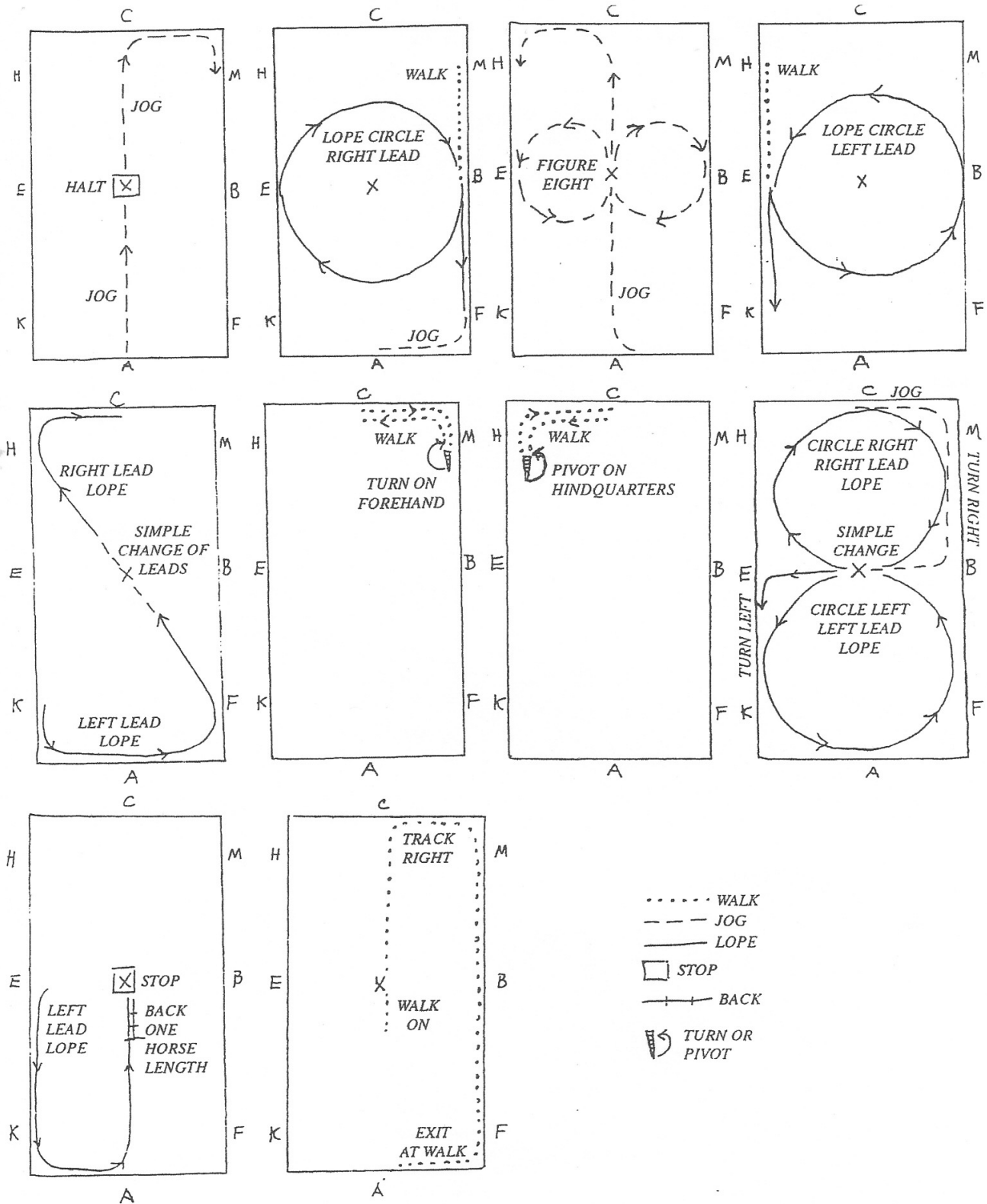
LAMENESS:

- _____ 17. Explained that most bruises, sprains and strains can be treated with soaking or hosing with cold water for 20 minutes several times a day.
- _____ 18. Explained how to apply hot pack: dip towel in warm water, wring out and wrap area.
- _____ 19. Covered with dry towel to hold in heat.
- _____ 20. Knowledge that cold packs can be alternated with hot packs and applied in same manner.
- _____ Total number of items checked (20 possible)

LEVEL 4 WESTERN PATTERN INSTRUCTIONS

Letter	Directions	You are scored on
1. A X C	Enter at jog Halt, pause 5 seconds Continue at jog Track to the right	Position, seat, aids Straightness, halt without roughness, square Transitions Accurate turn
2. M B F	Walk Right lead lope Circle right, width of arena Continue along rail Jog	Aids and transitions Position, seat Correct lead Not breaking gait Accurate circle
3. A X C	Turn down center line Figure 8 (left ½ width of arena followed by circle right same size) Track to left	Accurate turn, figure 8 Position and seat Aids and reining Steadiness and not breaking gait
4. H E	Walk Left lead lope and circle left Width of arena Continue along rail	Aids and transition Correct lead, not breaking gait Seat and position Accurate circle
5. F-X-H	Change of directions on the diagonal Simple change of leads at center	Aids and control Straightness
6. C M	Walk Stop, turn on forehand 180° Walk along rail	Seat, aids for walk, stop and turn on forehand Smoothness
7. H	Stop, pivot 180° on hindquarters (Turnback on rail allowed) Walk along rail	Seat and aids for pivot and stop Smoothness
8. C B X	Jog Turn right into center of arena Right lead lope and circle right width of arena	Seat and aids Transitions, correct lead Not breaking gait Accurate circle
9. X X E	Simple change of leads to left lead, circle left width of arena Lope straight ahead to rail Turn left along rail (at lope)	Seat and aids Smoothness of change of leads Correct lead Accurate circle and turn
10. A X C	Turn down center line Halt, pause 5 seconds Back one horse length in straight line Continue at walk Track to right along rail Walk along rail to exit at A	Seat, balance and position Halt with control and without roughness Straightness of halt and back Ability to settle horse and walk quietly on loose reins

LEVEL 4 – WESTERN RIDING PATTERN



LEVEL 4 ENGLISH PATTERN INSTRUCTIONS

Letter	Directions	You are scored on
1. A X C	Enter at working trot, sitting Halt, pause 5 seconds Continue at working trot, sitting Track to the right	Position, seat, aids Straightness, halt without roughness, square Transitions Bending in turn
2. M B F	Medium trot, posting Circle width of arena Working trot, sitting	Position and balance Correct diagonal Accurate circle, bending
3. A X C	Turn down center line Figure 8 (left ½ width of arena followed by circle right same size) Track to left	Accurate turn, figure 8 Position and seat in sitting trot Bending and change of bend
4. H E K	Medium trot, posting Circle left width of arena Working trot, sitting	Posting and correct diagonal Accurate circle, bending
5. K-F F-X-H H	Working trot, sitting Change of direction on diagonal Lengthen stride to strong trot, posting H to C working trot, sitting	Position and seat Lengthening of stride and rhythm Transitions
6. C M	Walk Turn on forehand 180°, walk on	Seat, aids for walk Turn on forehand
7. H	Turn on forehand 180° Walk on to C	Seat, aids for walk Turn on forehand
8. C M B	Working trot, sitting Canter, right lead Circle right width of arena to E Continue along rail at canter	Seat and aids for canter Transition, correct lead Not breaking gait Accurate circle
9. K-X-M M	Change directions on the diagonal between K and M, Simple or flying change of leads Left lead canter along rail	Seat and aids for change of leads Accuracy of change of direction Smoothness of change Correct leads and lead change
10. E	Circle left, width of arena Canter, left lead Continue along rail to K	Seat and aids in canter Correct lead Accurate circle
11. K A X	Working trot, sitting Turn down center line Halt, pause 5 seconds Continue at walk to end of arena Track right along rail, exit at A	Transitions and aids Straightness and accuracy Position and seat Smoothness and quietness of seat and aids

LEVEL 4 – ENGLISH RIDING PATTERN

