

Online HorseCollege



Student Workbook

3.R.01 Grooming & Equipment

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Grooming and Equipment 3.R.01 Assessment Information

Students are to complete Riding 2.R online assessments prior to attempting Riding 3.R and to follow all recommended safety considerations.

Practical assessments for Riding 3.R are as follows:

- A) Grooming and Equipment
- B) Riding Preparation
- C) Aids and Gaits
- D) Riding

These assessments incorporate the following unit from the SIS30710 Sport Industry Training Package which include the listed elements

SISOEQO202A Demonstrate basic horse riding skills

- Plan a horse riding activity
- Select and prepare tack, horse and personal equipment
- Mount, ride and dismount the horse
- Cool down and release horse
- Evaluate the ride

Further information about this assessment is available at www.training.gov.au

Grooming Introduction

Grooming entails preparing the horse for riding. Not only will this ensure the horse is clean prior to saddling but provides the handler with the opportunity to check the horse thoroughly for injury, will promote circulation and allows bonding time between horse & handler.

Grooming Equipment

Curry comb

Used in a circular motion to lift and loosen mud, dirt and hair from the coat. Not used on the head or bony/delicate areas of the legs. Usually made out of rubber or plastic



A metal curry comb is used to clean brushes, such as the dandy and body brush.



Dandy brush

A brush with firm bristles. Used to remove mud, dirt and scurf from the coat. Often used after the curry comb. This type of brush can be used on the legs but not the head.



Body brush

Is the softest of the brushes and is used to remove dust, hair and scurf that has been lifted from the curry comb/dandy brush. It is suitable for use on the legs and head, use in long strokes following the direction of the hair.



Grooming Equipment (cont.)

Bot knife

This object is used to scrape bot eggs from the hair. Bot eggs are small, yellow and difficult to remove with fingers/fingernails. Bot knives have a serrated edge along one side but are not sharp enough to cut the skin.



Grooming block

This tool has numerous names but all do the same thing. Made from fibreglass this tool removes loose hair, dust and dirt effectively. Whilst they are low in cost, they need to be replaced because to clean the block you scrape or tap it on a solid surface which reduces the size of the block.



Hoof pick

Used to clean mud, dirt, stones etc from hooves.



Comb/brush

Used on the mane and tail to detangle knots. Come in metal and plastic. Metal combs last longer. Tail combs are very similar to a hair brush.



Grooming Equipment (cont.)

Sponge

Use dampened to clean around the eyes, nose and around the dock. Different sponges should be used to do the head and dock.



Towel

A cloth (also referred to as stable rubber) use to dry the horse, in particular the legs.



Picking out Hooves

Regularly cleaning the horses' feet is important as often stones or small sticks will become wedged in them, particularly if the horse is wearing shoes. It's also important as cleaning the hooves will allow you to check for any injury or conditions in this area.

Front legs

When picking a front hoof stand beside the horses' shoulder, facing the hindquarters. Pat the shoulder and run your hand down the back of the horses' leg. As you reach the fetlock slide your hand to the inside of the leg and apply a gentle but firm pressure to the back of the fetlock in an upwards, pulling motion. Alternatively you can gently squeeze the tendons at the back of the leg. Whilst doing this use your shoulder to help push the horses' weight off the leg.

Once the hoof is off the ground support it by holding around the pastern/coronet region of the leg. With the hoof pick in your other hand, clean the hoof starting at the heel and picking away from you to the toe. Then place the hoof gently onto the ground, do not merely drop the hoof when you're finished.



Back legs

The procedure is the same for hind legs but once the hoof is off the ground it is necessary to bring the hoof/leg back a little behind the horse so you can see what you are doing. Be careful not to bring the leg so far back that it the horse has trouble keeping its balance. Because the hind legs are much heavier than the front (and many horse will tend to lean on you when a hind leg is picked up.) it may be easier to rest the cannon bone on your knee, still supporting the hoof with a hand, whilst you pick out the hoof.

When finished bring the leg back under the horses' body and place the hoof gently on the ground.



Leading a horse

When leading or handling a horse is important to do so in a safe manner, not only for your safety but the horses' as well.

When leading a horse you should be on the near side (which is the left when your facing the same direction as the horse). Your right hand holds onto the lead rope under the horses' jaw and the left hand hold the rest of the rope, in a tidy fashion, up off the ground. Never wrap the lead rope around your hand.



Rugging

Horses are flight animals which means their first instinct when frightened is to run away. We need to take this into consideration when rugging and un-rugging horses.

The procedure for taking off a rug is:-

- Undo the buckles starting from the front working your way to the back. Doing so will mean that if the horse goes galloping off the rug will be flicked back off the horse rather than sliding forward and getting caught up in the front legs.
- Once the leg straps have been unbuckled, re-buckle them back to the rug to that when you put the rug back on, they won't flick around and hit the horse.
- Then fold the rug back, so it's neat and organised for when you put it on again and slide it off the back of the horse.

The procedure for putting a rug on is:-

- Place the rug over the horses' back & unfold. Its better to have the rug sitting slightly forward of where it needs to be then you can slide it back in the direction of the hair.
- Start doing up the buckles from the back & work your way to the front. Doing so will mean if your horse go galloping off the rug will be flicked back off the horse rather than sliding forward and getting caught up in the front legs.
- When you reach the leg straps they should be attached so that they pass through each other. To do this pass the near side strap around the horses' hind leg and attach it to the ring on the same side, then with the off side strap pass it through the first strap and attach it to the off side ring.



Boots

Boots (and bandages) help to protect and support the horses' leg from injury. Different boots will be suited for different disciplines. When fitting boots the leg should be clean, the boot needs to be firm enough so that it won't slip around but not so tight that it will do damage to tendons etc. As a guide you should be able to fit a finger between the boot and leg. If applying boots you should put all the boots on. The reason for this is that if someone else helps you they will adjust the boots to a different tension.



Bell boots

These can be made from either rubber or neoprene and protect the coronet and heel from the other hooves. They either attach with Velcro or pull on over the hoof.



Open front jump boots

Made with a hard plastic or leather exterior these boots protect the tendons on the front legs from the hooves of the hind legs when jumping.



Brushing boots

Usually made from neoprene these protect the inside of the leg if knocked or brushed by the opposite leg



Knee boots

Protect the knee from jumps and falls. These boots can have a neoprene or hard plastic exterior.



Fetlock boots

Similar structure to brushing boots but only protect the fetlock

Boots (cont.)



Hock boots

Similar structure to brushing boots but only protect the hock. Can be used during travel.



Tendon boots

Made from neoprene these wrap around the cannon and fetlock to support the tendons.

Other Equipment

At times you will need additional equipment other than a saddle and bridle. This extra equipment can be used to improve how other equipment, such as, saddles and bridles function or perform.

Equipment which is in good working order is should be fairly clean and in good repair for example no broken buckles, torn or broken stitching, or dangerously worn leather.

Martingales

Restrict the upwards movement of the horses head. The horse will still be able to move its head up and down but won't be able to lift it so high that it can avoid the rein action on the bit.

Standing Martingale



One end attaches to the girth and the other to the noseband, a strap around the horses neck helps keep it close to the horse so if the horse brings its head down it cant stand on it. When fitted correctly you should fit one hand between the neck strap and the strap to the nose band should reach the horses' gullet before being attached.

Running Martingale



Like the standing martingale one end attaches to the girth between the horses front legs, the other end splits into 2 pieces of leather with a ring on each end. The reins pass thru these rings, so that when the horse lifts its head up too high, the rings put downward pressure on the reins. This also has an attachment around the neck which you should be able to fit one hand between and the rings should reach halfway up the horses' neck.

Irish Martingale



There are 2 variations of this martingale. The first is a strap of leather with rings at either end. Fitted, it should be the width of the horses' nose.

The second is in the shape of a 'Y'. Both act in the same fashion, when the head comes up the piece comes against the neck, putting downwards pressure on the reins.

Other Equipment (cont.)

Breastplates

This item of gear attaches to the saddle around the shoulders and neck of the horse and helps prevent the saddle sliding backwards. Often used when riding on undulating country, jumping or on racehorses. They can be made out of leather, elastic or pvc. When adjusting breastplates to a horse you should be able to fit approx. one hand between the chest and strap and between the neck/wither strap.

Stockmans/Hunting breastplate



Attaches to 'D' rings on either side of the saddle, comes around the neck and between the front legs attaching to the girth.

Racing breastplate



Attaches to the girth on either side of the saddle, just below the saddle flap and fits around the chest. A strap over the neck/wither prevents the breastplate from sliding down towards the legs.

Jumping breastplate



A strap that attaches to either side of the pommel of the saddle under the neck.

Other Equipment (cont.)

Crupper

This equipment helps prevent the saddle sliding too far forward. Cruppers involves a strap that attaches to the back of the saddle which then loops around the dock (top of the tail).



Here is some other gear you may encounter in riding.

Cavaletti



A jumping pole that is attached to 2 'X' (crosses) at either end. By rolling it over you get 3-4 different heights to work over.

Markers



Available in differing styles, they usually consist of numbers or letters and help to guide riders through jumping courses or dressage tests.

Barrels



A very versatile object in the arena barrels are often used as jumps, jump wings and turning exercises.

Extension Lesson

Using a suitable horse practise the following:

- leading
- grooming
- picking out hooves
- removing rugs
- putting on rugs
- fitting boots

Using the table below, fill in the gear horses and riders at your establishment use.

Horse Name/Description	Boots	Other Riding Equipment

Which of the following pieces of equipment do you have at your establishment/riding area?

Y/N

Markers/Cones/Witches hats
Barrels
Arena letters
Cavaletti

Recommended Reading

The Course Companion (BHS stages I&II)- Maxine Cave

Footsteps- Sally Hinton and Joan Eccleshare

References

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