

# SOUTH AFRICAN PONY CLUB



## Loading Achievement Badge

### WORKBOOK



**Objectives:**

To know how to load/unload a pony, with assistance, safely into and out of a trailer or horsebox.

**Key points:**

- Correct clothing for the handler
- Stability of ramp of trailer or horsebox
- Preparation of pony for loading: travelling bandages, boots, tail bandage, need for a travelling rug, and any other equipment the member may be familiar with
- Act of loading with assistance from older/physically bigger person

**Additional reading:**

The Manual of Horsemanship – Chapter 24 pages 258-266

*The additional reading contains more information than is required for the badge, but it provides good background knowledge.*

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**BRANCH** \_\_\_\_\_



## The horsebox and tow vehicle

The horsebox and tow vehicle are the first things that you need to look at when you want to transport a horse/pony.



There are a number of things that you need to look at:

- Does the car have enough petrol?
- Are the car and horse box licence disks up to date?
- Are the tyres at the correct pressure?
- Is the horsebox big enough for the horse?
- Is there rubber on the floor of the horse box, or shavings to prevent the horse from slipping?
- Once the horse box is hitched, you need to make sure that the lights and indicators work. This is the easiest way to do it:
  - Get an adult to sit in the car
  - You stand behind the box (with the ramp up)
  - The driver of the car indicates left & right, applies brakes and turns on the lights – you need to make sure that as they turn each of these on, you see the light showing





## What do you wear?

Protective clothing for yourself is very important. Gloves should be worn at all times to prevent you from getting rope burns. Closed shoes are always a must when working around horses – broken toes are not fun. And lastly, it is always a good idea to wear a riding hat.



## What does your pony/horse wear?

The pony/horse must wear certain items of protective clothing on its head, legs and tail.

<p><b>Poll guard</b></p> <p>A poll guard is attached to the halter to protect the horses' poll or top of the head between the ears as its head will be close to the roof of the horse box.</p>	
<p><b>Boots &amp; bandages</b></p> <p>Your pony needs to have boxing boots or bandages on its legs for protection against injury from itself or travelling companion.</p> <p>These boots come in many varieties. Competent riders can also use bandages but there <b>MUST</b> be special pads or even cotton wool underneath the bandages.</p> <p>For this badge, the special boots are best.</p>	
<p><b>Tail bandage/guard</b></p> <p>A tail bandage or special guard should be put on to stop the pony rubbing its tail on the ramp. Some horses love to lean against the ramp! The tail guard/bandage must be put on very carefully. The bandage is also used to keep the tail clean.</p>	
<p><b>Rugs</b></p> <p>Your horse/pony does not need to have a rug to travel in – it depends very much on the weather. Horses get very hot in a small space, so you may want to put a sweat rug on – but it could be dangerous by itself. You will need to put a day rug on top so that the sweat sheet can't get caught on anything, or fall down. Sweat sheets should have straps under the tummy or between the back legs as well as across the chest.</p>	
<p><b>Halter / bridle</b></p> <p>The horse needs to have either a halter or a bridle on.</p>	



## How to load

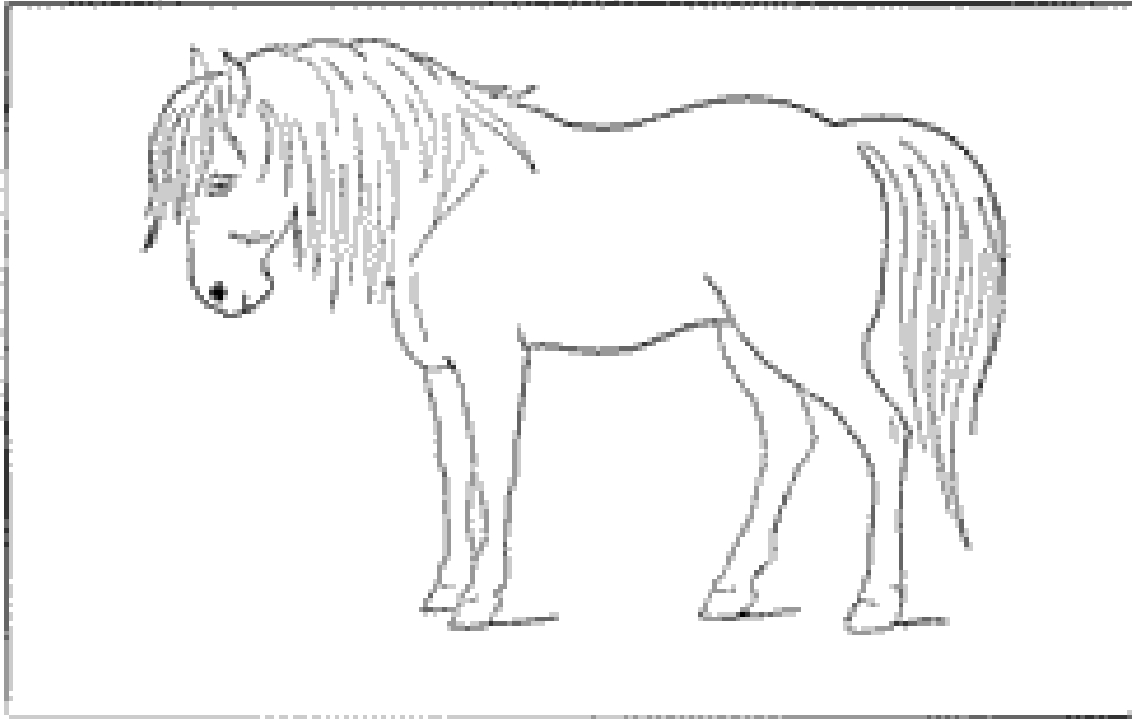
- Get the driver to put the box on a flat piece of ground. If possible put the box next to a fence or a wall so that the pony cannot run out. Put the ramp down and open the partitions.
- Get the pony ready – put on the halter & poll guard, the bandages / travelling boots and the day sheet or sweat sheet if necessary.
- Make sure that you are dressed! (remember, always wear gloves and a hard hat, and closed shoes)
- Walk positively to the centre of the ramp – do not look at the pony, and don't pull
- If there is only one pony being transported, put them on the RIGHT of the box
- Walk into the box and the pony will follow.
- Duck under the chain/bar in front
- Your helper then needs to close the chain / bar / breeching strap at the box, and close the ramp
- Tie the pony up with a quick release knot

## How to unload

- Get into the box by the side door – remember to put your gloves and hat back on! Untie the pony.
- Your helper will then let down the ramp and undo the chain / bar at the back. The helper must then make sure that they are out of the way, and standing to the side of the pony.
- Gently push the pony's chest and say "back". Slow is good – don't rush the pony out. Make sure that the pony goes out straight
- Ask someone to hold your pony while you take off the boots and tail bandage.



**DRAW THE NECESSARY PROTECTIVE CLOTHING THAT A HORSE SHOULD HAVE ON WHEN IT TRAVELS:**



**DRAW THE NECESSARY PROTECTIVE CLOTHING THAT A RIDER SHOULD WEAR WHILST LOADING A PONY/HORSE INTO A HORSEBOX**