

SOUTH AFRICAN PONY CLUB



Shoeing Achievement Badge

WORKBOOK



Objectives:

To recognise the indications of when a pony needs the farrier/blacksmith, what to look for in a newly shod foot and to know the farrier's/blacksmith's tools.

Key points:

- Describe the factors which indicate that new shoes are required: e.g. long toes; thin/smooth shoes, raised clenches; loose shoe(s).
- Know what they would expect to see in a newly shod foot; e.g. no over rasping of toe, type of shoe suitable for size and work of pony, frog in contact with soft ground, no daylight between shoe and foot, nails in symmetrical curve, shoe fitting the hoof, (not hoof cut to fit shoe). Open heels, correct length. Clenches turned over and rasped smooth, and sound when trotted up.
- To be able to identify blacksmith tools: e.g. anvil, rasp, hammer, drawing knife, hoof cutter, buffer and pincers.

Additional reading:

Manual of Horsemanship - Chapter 21 Page 221 - 231

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

NAME _____

BRANCH _____



Factors which indicate that new shoes are required

Why do some horses wear shoes?

Many horses have to be shod because their owners need them to work on tar roads or stony ground. Ponies tend to have tougher feet and can withstand wear and tear better. Shoeing protects the wall of the foot from wear, but because the hoof wall continues to grow all the time, it needs to be trimmed. Farriers need to visit your horse every 4- 6 weeks, since growth in the toe area will cause your horse to stumble. At times a slightly worn shoe is taken off, the hooves trimmed and the same shoes re-fitted.



Figure 1: Hunter shoes (fore & hind) are the most commonly used shoes, designed to meet needs of a horse moving at high speed

Indications that a horse needs re-shoeing

- The clenches have risen and stand out from the wall
- The foot is overlong and out of shape
- Some part of the shoe has worn thin
- The shoe is loose and the heel may be pressing on the seat of corn
- The shoe has been cast (fallen off)

Identify what to look for in a newly shod hoof

The shoeing process

There two systems of shoeing; 'hot' shoeing and 'cold' shoeing. In hot shoeing the shoe is specially made to fit the foot. It is tried on hot, and adjustments are made before it is finally nailed on. In cold shoeing a shoe which has already been made is fitted. Minor adjustments to the shape are possible, in which case a forge is not required. Traditionally hot shoeing is preferred.

Hot shoeing

The procedure for re-shoeing a horse by this method falls into 6 stages; removal, preparation, forging, fitting, nailing and finishing.

Removal

To remove an old shoe, the farrier cuts away the clenches, using a buffer and driving hammer. He then levers the shoe off using pincers. If the clenches have been cleanly cut away, there should be no breaking or tearing of the wall as the shoe is released.

Preparation

The farrier cleans out, and carefully cuts away ragged parts of the sole and the frog, and cuts away the overgrowth of the wall with a drawing knife, to prepare the foot for the fitting of the shoe. A rasp is then used to give a level bearing surface.

Forgeing

This is the making of a new shoe. The weight and type of iron selected depends on the type of work the horse does. Once the iron has been shaped on the anvil, the nail holes are stamped and the clips are drawn. Most farriers use manufactured shoes which already have nail holes stamped. They then adjust these shoes to fit individual horses.

Fitting

This is carried out while the shoe is still hot, the shoe being taken to the horse with a pritchel. The searing (burning) of the the horn which occurs when the shoe is fitted on the foot indicates the extent to which the foot and shoe are in contact. After searing, any adjustments necessary to the shape of the shoe or the length of the heel are made.

Nailing on

The shoe is cooled by being dropped in a bucket of cold water, and then nailed on using special horse shoe nails. The head of the nail, where it penetrates the wall, should be turned over and twisted off, leaving a small piece called a clench. Clips (usually one per fore shoe and two per hind shoe) help to keep the shoe in place.

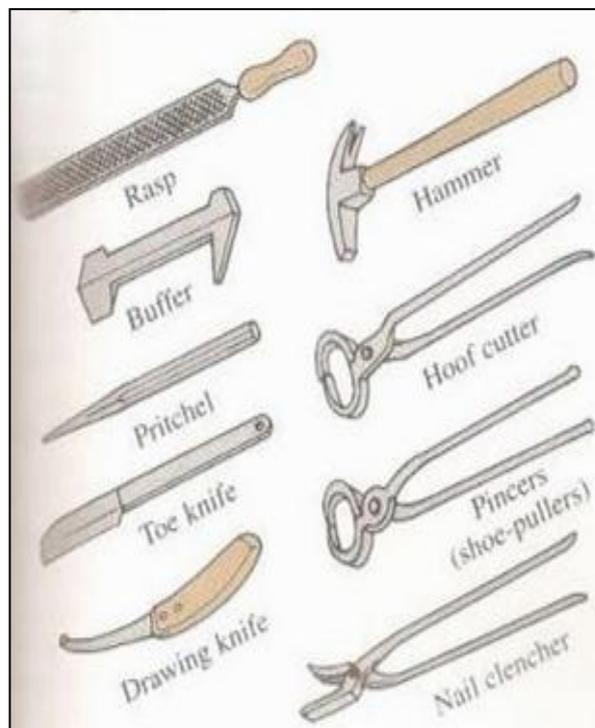
Finishing

The clenches are tidied up with a rasp and a small indentation made in the wall beneath, after which they are embedded with the driving hammer. The toe clip is tapped lightly back into position, and a rasp run over the edge of the wall where the horn and shoe meet to reduce the risk of cracking.

The newly shod foot

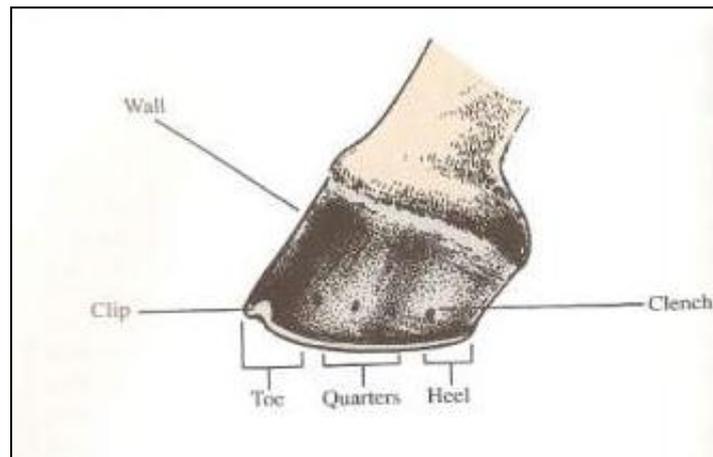
When a well shaped and balanced foot is newly shod, the points to check are:

- That the shoe has been made to fit the foot, and not the foot to fit the shoe i.e. the wall should not be rasped away to meet the iron and the toe should not be 'dumped' (over rasped)
- That the type of shoe is suitable for the work required of the horse
- That the weight of the iron is chosen in correct relation to the horses size
- That the foot has been suitably reduced in length at both the toe and the heel, and also on each side, so that it has a level bearing surface
- That there has been no misuse of the knife on either the sole or the frog
- That on soft surfaces the frog is in contact with the ground





- That the correct number of nails has been used (3 on the inside & 4 on the outside, except in special cases)
- That the size of the nails is correct i.e. that they fit & fill the nail holes
- That the nails have been driven home (knocked in fully)
- That the clenches are in line, the right distance up the wall, correctly turned down and embedded
- That there is no daylight between the shoe and the foot, particularly at the heel region
- That the clips fit well
- That the horse is sound when trotted up in hand, due to the heels being open but supported and the feet being the right length



Revision questions

Examine each picture and decide whether the horse / pony needs a visit from the farrier, then explain why you say so.



Label the farrier's tools on the following page:

1		4		7	
2		5		8	
3		6		9	

