

# SOUTH AFRICAN PONY CLUB



## Turnout of Pony & Rider Achievement Badge Workbook



**Objectives:**

To be able to turn out the rider and pony to The Pony Club standard.  
To understand why it is necessary to be clean and tidy.

**Key points:**

- The rider should wear correct, safe clothing, badge and hat
- Be clean, and tidily dressed
- Pony must be clean and groomed, with the mane and tail detangled
- The pony's coat should be clean and shiny
- Hooves should look nourished
- The pony's eyes, nose and dock should be clean

**Additional reading:**

1. The Manual of Horsemanship (2007) Chapters 19,21,22 & 29
2. The UK Pony Club Show jumping Rulebook Appendix A 'Guidelines for Turn out judges' pg. 37 ([www.pcuk.org](http://www.pcuk.org))
3. Keeping a pony at grass

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When you attend a Pony Club rally or horse show both you and your pony should look healthy, tidy and safe.

## Pony turnout

A pony in good condition should have bright, alert eyes, and be carrying the appropriate amount of weight for the job he is expected to do. His healthy coat should be sleek, shiny and lying flat. A certain amount of work is involved in achieving this.

### Grooming

Grooming is the daily attention to the coat, skin, mane, tail and feet of your pony. If your pony is not stabled, slight adjustments are necessary, particularly in winter.

#### How to groom

Grooming is most effective when the pony is warm, since his pores are open and dirt has been brought to the surface.

Begin by picking out the feet with a **hoof pick**, working downwards from the heel towards the toe, to prevent injury to the soft part of the frog and the rider. Check for thrush and that the clenches of the shoes have not risen if the pony is shod.

The care and health of your pony's **feet** is vital. The farrier needs to visit every 4-6 weeks to encourage the correct growth and balance of the feet, and to deal with any problems.

A **dandy brush** may be used all over the body of a pony that is not stabled. This brush may be held in either hand, starting from poll on the left hand side of the pony, and then working over the whole body and legs. Take care on sensitive parts of the body. Rubber or plastic curry combs would be used on a stabled pony.

The **body brush** is the most important brush, and the **curry comb** is used to keep it clean. The short, close-set brush hairs are designed to reach right through the coat to reach the skin beneath, lifting and removing the dirt. Begin by brushing the mane, and then start at the poll region of the left hand side of the pony. Hold the body brush in the left hand and curry comb in the right. Work in short, circular strokes, ending each stroke in the direction of the lay of the coat. Every 4/5 strokes, dislodge the dirt by drawing the body brush over the curry comb. In turn tap the curry comb on the floor to take the dirt out.

When working on the right hand side of the pony it is easier to swap hands; body brush in right hand and curry comb in left. (Exceptions are when grooming the belly where the coat lies in a different direction, and down the back of the hind quarters, whilst holding the tail out of the way).



**Photograph 3: Using the body brush and curry comb**



**Photograph 1: Picking out the hooves**



**Photograph 2: Brushing the mane**

Keep two **sponges** of different colours to clean and refresh the face and dock region. Start with eyes, sponging with a damp sponge, away from the corners and around the lids, and then clean the muzzle; lips and then nostrils. Take care to stand to one side of the pony's hind quarters when sponging under the entire dock region, including the soft skin under the tail.



Use a wet **water brush** to lay the mane and tail, applying a tail bandage afterwards to keep hairs neat and tidy if you choose.

**Hoof oil** may be used for special occasions, but rather use a hoof dressing / feed supplement if hooves are brittle, since oil, used too often, may stop the absorption of moisture.

Use a **stable rubber** to remove the last traces of dust from the pony's coat, stroking in the direction of the coat.

You may choose to **wash your pony's tail** by soaking it in luke warm water, by dunking it in a bucket, or with a wet water brush. Shampoo it, rinse it through and then squeeze out the water, give it a shake and then gently brush it out with a clean body brush.



**Photograph 4: Hoof dressing for cracked feet**



**Photograph 5: Oiling the hooves**

Manes should only be washed in warm weather, where the shoulders may be dried fairly quickly, using a sweat scraper. Take care not to let shampoo go into your pony's eyes or ears.

Stable stains may be removed using the same tools /equipment.

**Unstabled ponies** should have their feet and shoes checked everyday, they should be brushed down with a dandy / water brush to get rid of

mud or sweat marks, but no body brushing as this removes too much of the oil from their coats which keep them dry and warm in winter. The mane and tail should be brushed out and eyes, nose, muzzle and dock sponged.

**Trimming** is the process of tidying up a pony and includes pulling the mane (and tail if required.) Pulling should be done gradually over several days, preferably when the pores are open and warm, so after exercise, or on a warm day. (Some pony breeds are shown untrimmed.)

The long hairs under the jaw, down the legs and at the back of the fetlock provide protection against the weather, but these may be trimmed on a stabled horse to improve his appearance. Trimming scissors and a comb, or clippers may be used. The whiskers around the eyes should not be cut. Some people clip the whiskers around the muzzle for showing classes, but they act as protection from the flies and assist with the horse's sense of touch. They should not be removed if they are unstabled.

Ears may be trimmed by gently squeezing the sides of the ears together so that the outer edges meet. Then the long hairs may be removed with blunt nosed scissors. (The hair inside the ears is removed for showing purposes, otherwise it is not necessary.)

The hair at the top of the tails may either be left long and plaited, or pulled. Long tails collect mud, look straggly and hide the hocks, so they may be 'banged' i.e. cut off square about 10cm below the hocks.

Manes are pulled to thin out thick manes, reduce a long mane to the required length, to allow the mane to lie flat or make it easier to plait. Remove the longest hairs from underneath a few at a time, using a special mane comb with a cutting blade.



## Tack

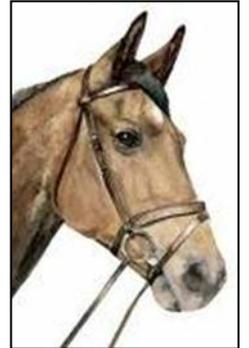
### *Cleaning, safety and fitting*

Take your tack apart to clean it with saddle soap and a little water. If the leather is a little dry, leather dressing may be applied after cleaning.

Check how safe your tack is by examining the stitching (particularly on reins, girths and stirrup leathers), roughness or wear on bits, wear on the girth straps and for brittleness of the leather.

Leather work should be clean, supple and safe. Metal work like bits and stirrups should be clean and shiny. Tack should be properly fitted.

All straps should be neatly placed in the keepers, additional equipment like boots, martingales etc should be clean and correctly and safely fitted too.



**Photograph 7: A correctly fitted bridle**



**Photograph 6: Taking tack apart to clean**

## Rider

### *Hats*

A riding hat with a three point harness, which fits properly and is not cracked. The hat should not move on the head when the head is tipped forward.

Hats must be replaced after a severe impact; subsequent protection will be significantly reduced. Hats deteriorate with age and should be replaced after three to five years depending upon the amount of use. Hats must be worn when mounted with the chinstrap fastened at all times.

**Hair** - In the interest of safety long hair should be tied up, and a hairnet worn.



**Photograph 8: A hat with a three point harness**



## Clothing

At a rally Pony Club members may wear a branch golf shirt or a white shirt, with a Pony Club tie (and possibly a riding jacket /blazer.) The official metal Pony Club membership badge should be worn on the left lapel of the rider's jacket or golf shirt. Jodhpurs or slacks of any colour, along with black or brown standard riding or jodhpur boots or school shoes with a fairly smooth, thin sole and a well-defined square cut heel may be worn. Plain black or brown half chaps (without tassels) are allowed.

No jewellery, other than a wristwatch, is allowed for safety reasons.<sup>1</sup>

Spurs may be worn at Rallies and other events with the permission of the District Commissioner or Centre Proprietor.<sup>2</sup> Whips and crops - No rider may carry, use or permit to be used a whip greater than 75 cm or less than 45 cm in length overall.

The Pony Club expects competitors to use plain saddlery. Any extra detail will be marked down in a tack and turnout competition. New equipment is not expected, but what is worn must be clean, neat and tidy.

Any unusual decoration of the horse with unnatural things, such as ribbons, flowers, glitter etc. in the mane/tail or applied to the coat is forbidden. Red bows in the tail are permitted for horses that kick.



Photograph 9: Turned out for a rally



Photograph 10: Plain tack is preferred

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<sup>1</sup> Members who are contemplating piercing their ears or any other part of their body should be aware that they will not be allowed to compete until such time as the "sleepers" can safely be removed. The reason for this is that sleepers have in the past caused injuries following falls. There are vulnerable blood vessels behind the ear and if the facial nerve is pierced partial paralysis of the face can occur.

<sup>2</sup> Members without the B Test should carry proof of this permission. Only blunt spurs, without rowels or sharp edges, may be worn. If the spurs are curved, the curve must be downwards and the shank must point straight to the back and not exceed 3cm in length. Sharp spurs may not be worn.

## Self -assessment

1. Which horse is in good condition, and which is in bad condition? Explain why.

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**A**



**B**



2. Which feet have been well looked after - C or D? Describe what should be done to improve the condition of the hooves in bad condition.

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**C**



**D**





3. Would you use or do anything differently if you were brushing this horse's tail?



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4. What is the Pony Clubber using to clean his bridle? What has he forgotten to do?



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5. What would this rider have to add to her dress in order to attend a Pony Club rally or show?

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6. Use the checklist below to check whether the pony and rider in the photograph are well turned out for a Pony Club event.

Pony/Horse	
1. Healthy appearance	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Well groomed	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Appropriately trimmed	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Tidy mane and tail	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Well shod	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Clean correctly fitted Saddlery in good repair	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. If used; correct and tidy boots and bandages	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Proper use of keepers, martingales etc	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Polished bits, stirrups and other metal ware	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Any other points which may arise	<input type="checkbox"/>



Rider	
1. Plain equipment is recommended. Any extra detail will be marked down	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Tidy hair and hat	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Clean workmanlike clothing	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Smart shirt with tidy collar	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Neatly tied stocks or ties	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Garter straps (when boots permit)	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Clean correctly fitting spurs and straps	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Clean badge	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. No gimmicks which offend the eye	<input type="checkbox"/>