



Pony Club Efficiency Test

D Standard



These are work manuals only



THE PONY CLUB STANDARDS OF EFFICIENCY 'D' STANDARD

OBJECTIVE

- To have a basic understanding of ponies.
- To achieve confidence in handling and riding a pony.
- To improve and enjoy learning about ponies.

RIDING

- Mount and dismount.
- A reasonably correct position in the saddle.
- How to hold the reins.
- To be able to ride a quiet pony safely, in an enclosed area without the leading rein, in walk and trot.

ROAD SENSE

- To know on which side of the road you should ride.
- To understand a simple 'green cross' code.
- How to ride along a road, cross a road and say 'thank you'
- To know it is safer to ride on the road with adults or parents.

HORSEMASTERSHIP

- Approach and handle a pony correctly.
- Know basic needs of a pony in summer and winter.
- Catch a pony and put on a headcollar or halter.
- Proper way to give a pony an apple or carrot.
- Lead a pony in hand.
- Name simple points of the pony.
- Name different parts of saddle and bridle.

READ

- 'The Manual of Horsemanship'
- Points of the Horse.
- Mount and dismount (Omit 'to dismount using the stirrup).
- The correct length of stirrup.
- The position of the rider in the saddle.
- Holding single reins.
- Handling a horse.
- Fitting a headcollar or halter.
- To lead in hand.
- The parts of a saddle,
- The parts of a snaffle bridle.
- Putting on a saddle and bridle
- Pony Club Booklet 'Riding on the Road'

SOUTH AFRICAN PONY CLUB D TEST INFORMATION SHEET

General:

1. All general rules apply
2. Felt colour is yellow
3. Pass mark is 50% on each section. Both sections must be passed
4. Both sections of the test must be passed independently and both must be retaken should a candidate be unsuccessful
5. The examiner can choose to examine in groups of up to 6 riders for the ridden section of the test. The candidates should be examined individually for the horsemastership section
6. In the D test riding section, the examiner is looking for a basic knowledge of the correct position and the aids to start, stop and guide the pony. In the horsemastership section the candidate is expected to show an interest in their pony's welfare

Venue and Equipment

1. An enclosed arena
2. A mounting block e.g. Hay bale
3. A small upright (maximum height 50 cm)
4. A quiet pony in the paddock
5. Examination sheets, clipboards, pens, note paper, chair and table for examiner (and umbrella if outside)
6. a Saddle, bridle and head collar
7. Carrots cut up as tidbits
8. Someone to act as secretary if the examiner requires it
9. A loo with loo paper

Candidate:

1. Must be a member in good standing
2. Must have been a member of the pony club for at least 3 months
3. Must have attended at least two rallies prior to the test
4. Must supply his or her own food and drink and food for the pony
5. May be any age up to 21

Examiners:

1. Examiners may be from the same branch as the candidates
2. All examiners must sign the test sheet for each candidate
3. small gift and letter of thanks is always appreciated



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D STANDARD

A. OBJECTIVE

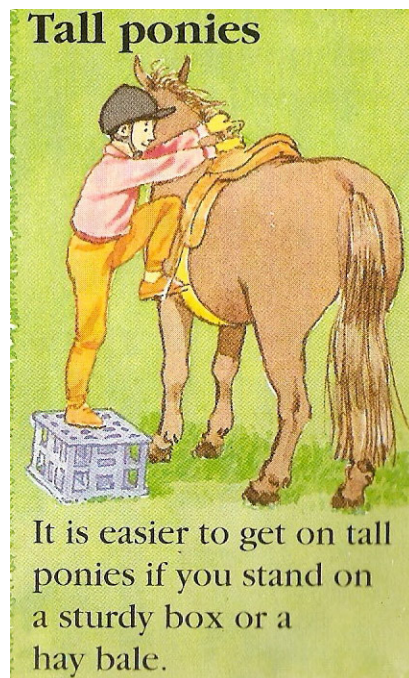
- To have a basic understanding of ponies.
- To achieve confidence in handling and riding a pony.
- To improve and enjoy learning about ponies.

B. RIDING

1. Know how to a) mount and b) dismount

a) Mount

1. Check girth
2. Pull stirrups down, right one first, make sure they are the right length
3. Take both reins in left hand
4. Stand facing pony's tail at shoulder
5. Right hand hold back of stirrup. Foot in deep. Toe down
6. Right hand grab waist/ far side of saddle, never cantle
7. Jump up to stand in stirrups for a moment
8. Swing right leg over, lean slightly forward, don't kick the pony
9. Sit down quietly and gently
10. Find right side stirrup
11. Reins in both hands

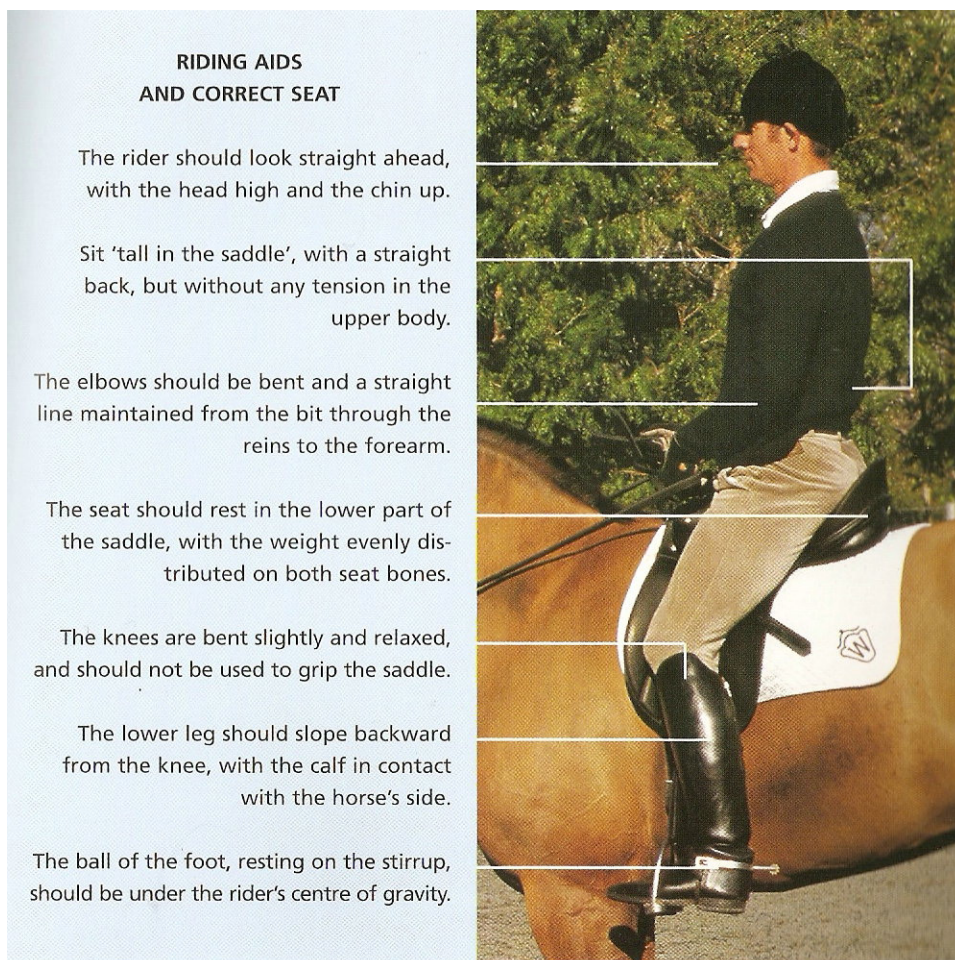


It is easier to get on tall ponies if you stand on a sturdy box or a hay bale.

b) Dismount

1. Reins and whip in left hand
2. Both feet out of the stirrups
3. Right hand on pommel or pony's right shoulder
4. Lean forward and swing right leg clear over rump, vault off facing forward and land at pony's left shoulder
5. Take reins over pony's head Run stirrups up
6. Slacken girth

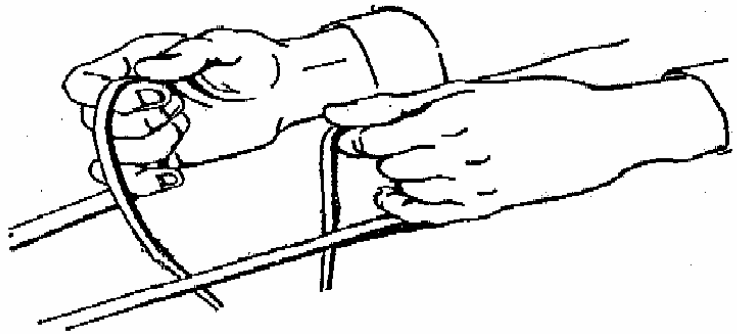
2. A reasonably good position in the saddle



3. How to hold the reins

1. Always hold reins running through the hand from bottom to top.
2. Little finger may be inside or outside the rein if your hands are small
3. Thumb flat on rein coming out of the top of your hand over your first finger
4. Hold reins with closed hands but not tightly clenched
5. Never hold reins down or in the tips of your fingers
6. When carrying a whip hold it close to the knob at the top and let the length of the whip lie in the middle of your thigh

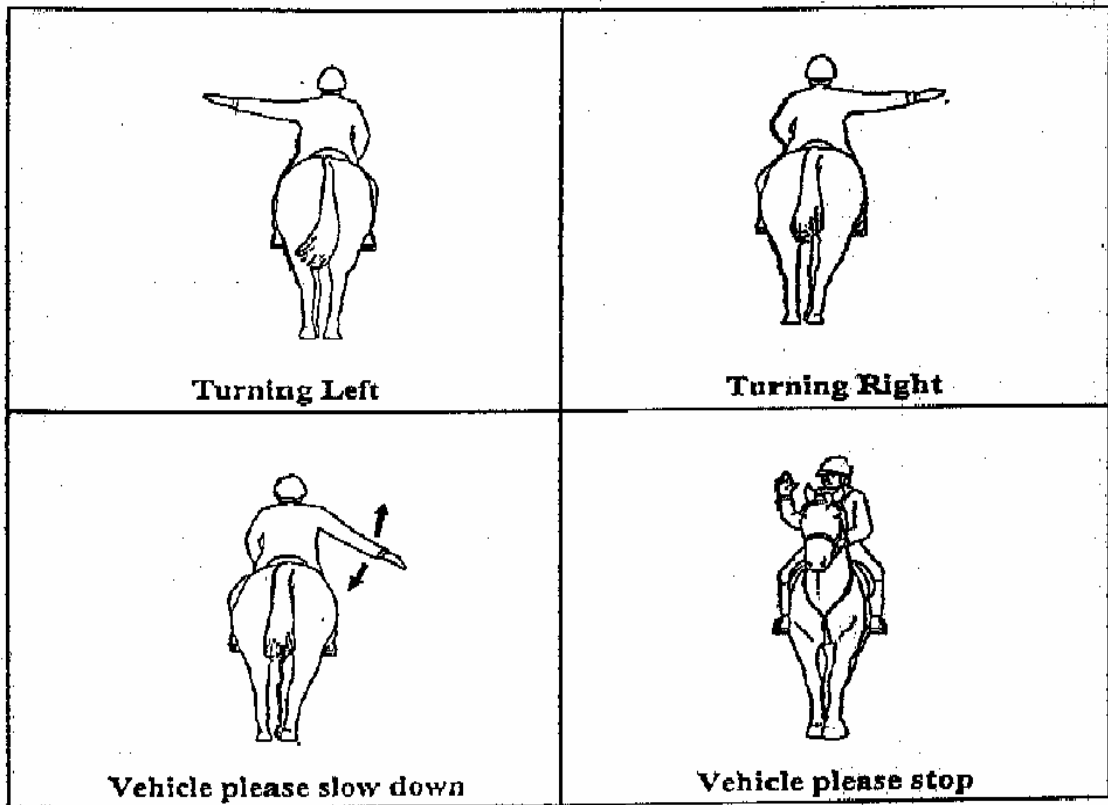
A good way to hold the reins especially if your hands are small. Little finger inside the rein



4. To be able to ride a quiet pony safely, in an enclosed area without the leading rein, in walk and trot

C. ROAD SENSE

1. To know which side of the road you should ride
 - a. Left. Horses in South Africa are a form of transport and therefore follow the same rules as other vehicles
2. To understand a simple “green cross” code



3.
 - a) How to ride along the road
 - b) cross the road
 - c) say “thank you” and
 - d) how to signal to turn right or left
- a. How to ride along the road
 - i. Ride on the left
 - ii. Be aware of the surroundings, front, back and sides
 - iii. Ride at a steady pace
 1. Busy roads in town – walk only
 2. quiet side streets – trot
 3. off road only – canter
 - b. Crossing a road
 - i. Shoulder to shoulder everyone across the road at once, only if impossible use option 2
 - ii. Place one or two riders in the centre of the road, rest of the ride, march over road smartly at a brisk walk
 - c. How to say “thank you”

- i. Big smile
- ii. Touch your hat
- iii. Shout "THANK YOU" if possible

- d. How to signal to turn right and left
 - i. See pictures on previous page

REMEMBER – ALERTNESS ANTICIPATION COURTESY

- 4. To know it is safer to ride on the road with adults or parents
 If you have to go on a busy road or in town or even just an outride, it is always better to have an adult with you even if they are following in a car, walking or cycling with you if they cannot ride.

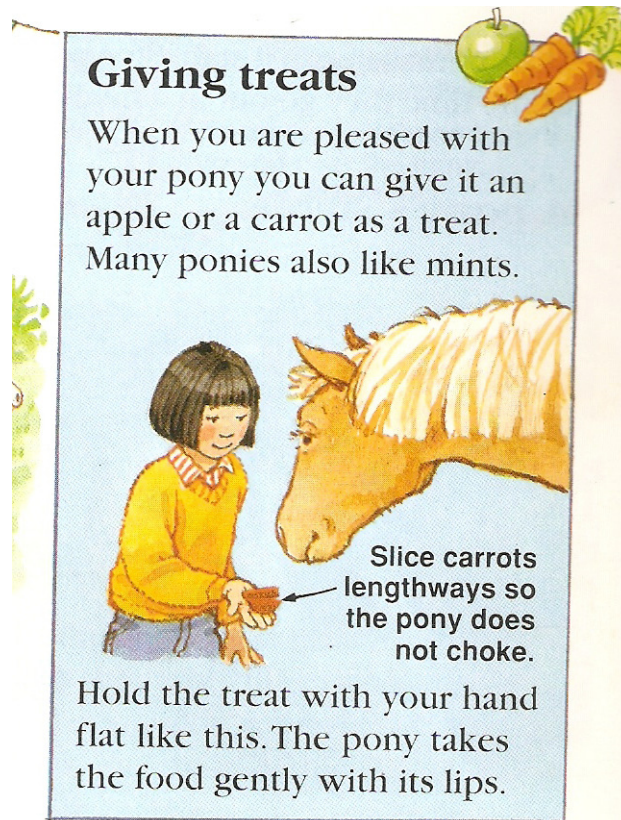
D HORSEMASTERSHIP

- 1. Approach and handle a pony correctly
 - a. Ponies are nervous animals
 - b. Speak to him
 - c. Approach from one side
 - d. Towards his shoulder
 - e. Never from the back
 - f. Always be firm and sure
 - g. No sudden moves
 - h. You may be mistaken for an enemy or a fly – causing him to bite or kick
- 2. Know the basic needs of the pony in summer and winter
 Basic needs will vary in summer and winter

	Summer	Winter
Water	Clean, fresh and cool	Clean fresh, no layer of ice
Shelter and shade	Shade from flies Windbreak – wind Roof against the rain	Stable if old or clipped Wind and rain
Vaccinations and farrier attention	Need to be done regularly	Need to be done regularly
Protection from flies	Fly fringe / fly spray	Not a major problem

- a. Catching
 - i. Have a tidbit
 - ii. Halter and lead rope over shoulder
 - iii. Walk to within calling distance and "call"
 - iv. Walk up to his left shoulder
 - v. Give him a bite of tidbit
 - vi. Slide lead rope over his neck
 - vii. Put the halter on while standing next to the pony's neck

- viii. Do up strap behind the ears
- ix. Give the rest of the tidbit

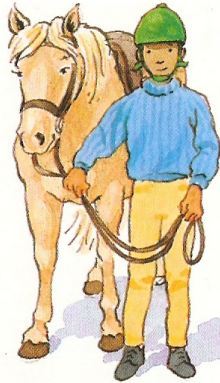


2. Lead a pony in hand

- a. Usually from the left (practice right side as well)
- b. Right hand – lead rein \pm 30 cm from head, knuckles on top
- c. Left hand – rest of lead rein. Never wrap lead rein around hand or slip hand into loop
- d. Face forward
- e. Standing next to his left shoulder say "WALK ON"
- f. Don't turn and face the pony
- g. When turning – walk around him – push him over
- h. Never pull him around you, he could easily stand on your toes

Leading the pony

Stand on the pony's left side and pull the reins over its head. This makes it easier to lead the pony.

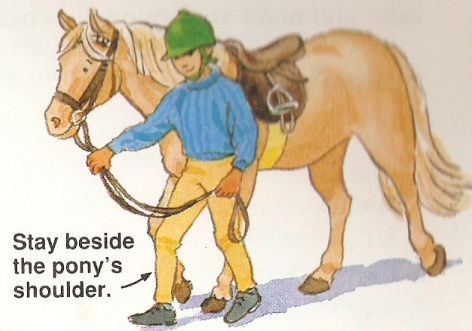


Hold both reins close to the pony's mouth with your right hand. Pick up the ends with your left hand so you do not trip over them

Never wind the reins around your hand as you cannot let go quickly if you need to.



This is wrong.



Stay beside the pony's shoulder.

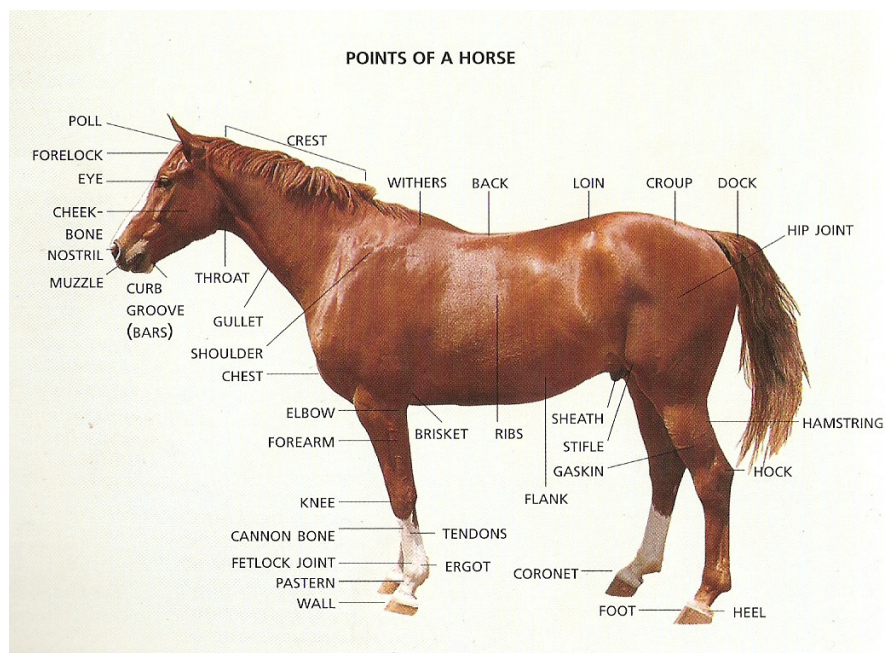
Say "walk on" to the pony. Begin to walk and the pony should walk beside you. Say "ha-aalt" calmly and stand still when you want it to stop.

3. Circles left and right at the walk

a. Circles left and right in walk

- i. Turn left – look left
- ii. Use both legs to keep the pony going
- iii. Open left rein to the side – don't pull back
- iv. Use right leg behind the girth – to control the pony's hindquarters
- v. This all works the opposite way to turn right
- vi. Remember – right leg with left rein and left leg with right rein

4. Knowledge of a) points of the pony, b) colours



a. Colours

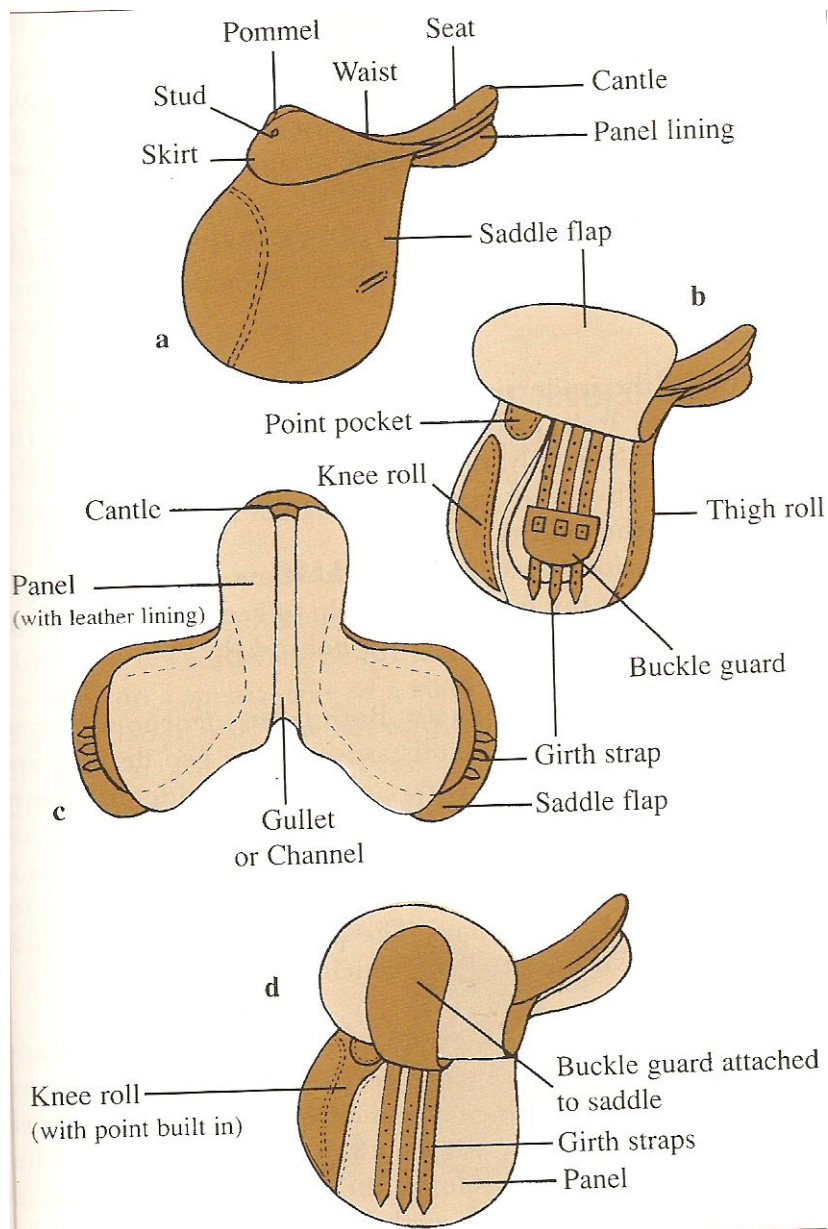
Points are the deciding factor if there is any doubt regarding a pony's colour. Points are muzzle, tips of ears, mane, tail and lower parts of legs

- i. Black – black all over including the muzzle and other points (may have white markings on face and legs)
- ii. Brown – Dark brown body with dark brown or nearly black points
- iii. Bay – a lighter reddish shade of brown body with black points. Light, dark, red bay
- iv. Chestnut – a yellowish or reddish colour, body points of the same colour or lighter (flaxen). Light, dark, liver or golden chestnut
- v. Grey – mixture of black and white hairs
 1. Iron grey – predominantly black hair
 2. Light grey – predominantly white hair
 3. Flea bitten grey – tufts of dark hair occurring on a white coat
 4. Never describe a pony as white
- vi. Dun – a yellow to mousy golden colour body with black points and a dark stripe along the back “List” and sometimes zebra marks on the limbs
- vii. Blue Roan – basic coat colour is black or dark brown with a sprinkling of white hairs and black points
- viii. Strawberry roan – basic colour is chestnut with a sprinkling of white hairs. Generally a chestnut mane and tail
- ix. Red or Bay Roan – basic colour is bay with a sprinkling of white hairs and black points
- x. Cream coloured coat on unpigmented skin – eyes often appear pinkish due to lack of pigment
- xi. Palomino – golden colour with flaxen or white mane and tail
- xii. Appaloosa – spotted – snowflake and blanket spotted
- xiii. Piebald – large irregular patches of black and white
- xiv. Skewbald – large irregular patches of white and any other colours
- xv. Whole coloured – same colour all over with no white markings

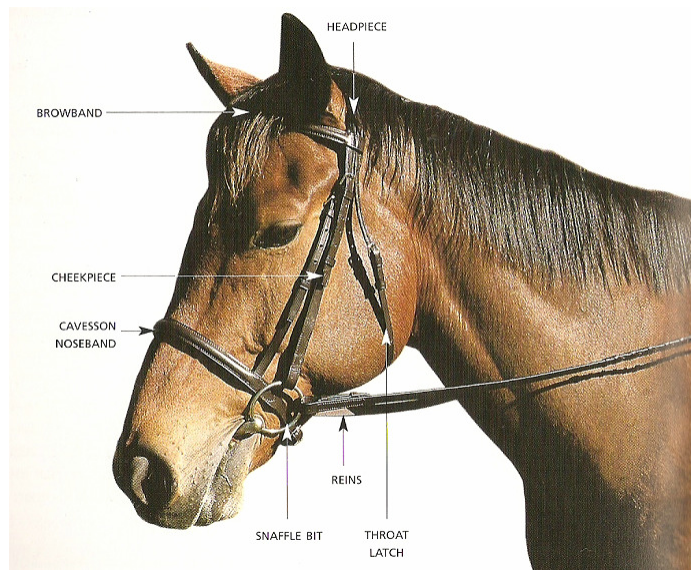


Above: Horses come in many colours. Seen here are (from left) black, roan, chestnut, brown, grey and bay.

Parts of the Saddle



Parts of the Bridle



F READ

“The Manual of Horsemanship”

1. Points of the Pony	Front page
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Recommended age 8-9 years

Felt colour – yellow

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