



HorseSense Learning Levels

LEVEL UP QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Yellow HorseSense

QUESTIONS and ANSWERS for each page in the STUDY GUIDE

Page 1 - Horse ID

- A horse's breed is just one way we can identify him. Name six other characteristics used to identify horses.**
breed type; color; coat pattern; markings; scars; brands; size (horse or pony); gender; conformation traits
- What do we call an adult female horse?**
a mare
- What is a "gelding"?**
An adult male horse, castrated so that he can't reproduce. Most male riding horses are geldings.
- If you want to breed your mare to produce a baby horse, do you need a gelding or a stallion?**
a stallion
- What is the difference between a foal and a pony?**
A foal is a baby horse of any gender. A pony can be any age but must be under 14.2 hands tall.
- Is a miniature horse a baby?**
No, a miniature horse is a dwarf horse of any age.
- Which is a female baby horse, a filly or a colt?**
A female horse under the age of 4 is called a filly.

Page 2 - Horse ID

- Horses and ponies are measured in "hands". How many inches are in a hand?**
4 inches
- Explain how to measure a pony's height.**
in hands; from the ground to the withers with a measuring stick or tape

- What is the maximum height of a pony?**
14.1hh - any equine taller than this is considered a horse
- How tall must an equine be to be considered a horse instead of a pony?**
14.2 hands
- Your new pony is 13.1 hands. What is the correct size classification for him?**
medium pony
- What is a "cob"?**
A large pony or small horse (14-14.3hh) is sometimes called a cob.
- How tall does the average horse stand?**
15hh-16hh

Page 3 - Breeds and Breed Types

- What do we mean by "breed type"?**
Breed types are broad categories which may include many breeds of horses with a common feature.
- Name five different breed types and tell me the characteristics for which those horses are bred.**
pony breeds - small stature; sporthorses - athleticism; draft horses - large and powerful, used for warfare and pulling heavy loads; stock horses - ranch work; gaited horses - trail horses for long hours in the saddle; color breeds - to consistently reproduce color or coat patterns;
- What is a gaited horse? A draft horse?**
A horse is said to be "gaited" when its gaits vary from the normal walk, trot, and canter. Draft horses are large and powerful, capable of pulling heavy loads.
- What do we call a horse's mother and father?**
A horse's father is called a "sire" and the mother is called a "dam".
- What do we mean when we say that a horse is a "purebred"?**
The horse's sire and dam were both the same breed.
- When we don't know the breed for a horse, what word do we use to describe him?**
A horse of unknown breeding is referred to as a grade horse.

Page 4 - Breeds and Breed Types

Name ten different breeds.

Common breeds: Shetland Pony, Welsh, Arabian, Thoroughbred, Hanoverian, Dutch Warmblood, Connemara, the Pony of the Americas, Quarter Horse, Appaloosa, Paint, Tennessee Walker, Saddlebred, Standardbred, Icelandic Horse; Clydesdale, Shire, Belgian and Percheron.

Which breed is the fastest over a short distance?

Quarter Horses get their name for their impressive sprinting ability - they are the fastest horses in the world over a short distance, such as a quarter mile.

Which English breed is developed for speed and athleticism?

Thoroughbred

Which breed was developed by plantation owners for smooth riding over long days in the saddle?

Saddlebred or Tennessee Walker

What is the oldest pure breed of horse?

Arabian

Page 5 - Colors and Markings

Name five horse colors.

black, brown, bay, chestnut, gray, roan, white, dun, palomino, pinto, appaloosa, grullo, etc.

Can a chestnut horse have a black points?

NO - mane and tail must be same as body color, or lighter.

What is the difference between a palomino and a flaxen chestnut?

Palominos have a golden body and a flaxen mane and tail; chestnuts are a solid reddish brown color all over and their manes and tails can be a matching brown or flaxen.

Your horse appears white, but has dark skin. What color is he actually?

gray

What is the difference between a dun and a buckskin?

Duns have a dorsal stripe and leg barring; buckskins often lack the primitive markings on their legs and spines.

Your horse looks black, but has lighter brown areas around his flanks and muzzle? What color is he actually?

brown

Page 6 - Colors and Markings

- Your pony has white hair mixed with dark hairs throughout the coat. What do we call his coat color?**
roan
- Name three types of roan coloring.**
blue roan (black or brown); red roan (bay or chestnut); strawberry roan (light chestnut)
- Describe two different coat patterns for Appaloosas or other spotted breeds.**
blanket - solid body color with a white patch over the hindquarters; leopard - white body color with large dark spots; semi-leopard - white or spotted blanket that extends over the shoulders; snowflake - white spots on a dark body; marble - dark spots on a roan body
- If a horse has large colored patches of white and any color except black, what is he called?**
skewbald
- What is the difference between a Pinto and a Paint?**
Pinto is the color; Paint is the breed.
- Describe a piebald horse.**
a horse with large patches of black and white

Page 7 - Colors and Markings

- What is a "horse marking"?**
Markings are areas of differently colored skin and hair.
- Name four face markings.**
bald face; blaze; stripe; star; snip
- Which face marking is wider, a blaze or a stripe?**
The blaze is wider.
- Name four leg markings.**
coronet; half-pastern; sock; half-cannon; stocking
- What is the difference between a sock and a stocking?**
In a sock, the white completely covers the fetlock joint, but stops below the cannon bone; the white stocking extends all the way up to the knee or hock, in some cases running over the joint and onto the upper part of the leg.

- What are ermine spots?**
black spots along the edge of the hoof

Page 8 - Colors and Markings

- What are "primitive markings"?**
Darker stripes on specific areas of the coat, usually seen in dun or grulla colored horses.
- A dark stripe running down the back of a dun horse is called what?**
dorsal stripe
- What are three ways that we could mark a horse permanently so that he could be identified if lost or stolen?**
tattoo; microchip; brand
- What is the term for a design permanently marked on the skin or coat to identify a horse's breed?**
brand
- When writing a describing your horse for a stall card, is it correct to include any scars?**
Yes, scars are a useful way to identify your horse, particularly if he is lost or stolen.

Page 9 - Blankets and Boots

- What factors should you take into account when deciding whether your horse needs a blanket in cold weather?**
Age, breed, body condition, and living situation should all be considered when deciding to blanket your horse.
- Why is a blanket not necessary for most horses?**
The horse's coat grows thick and coarse in the autumn so it can insulate his skin and stand upright to create a barrier against cold and damp. Hardy horses that are acclimated to the cold can stay comfortable with temperatures as low as 0°F.
- What are two reasons a blanket actually could make your horse colder?**
A sheet or blanket will flatten the horse's coat and reduce its natural protection, so the blanket alone must protect from cold and wind. If the blanket is too light, it won't provide enough protection. If it's too heavy, causing him to overheat and sweat, he'll get chilled.
- Your pony's coat has been clipped so that you can show him throughout the winter. Winter temperatures often fall well below freezing in your area: does your pony need a blanket when it's cold?**
If you clip part of his protective coat, he may well need a blanket on windy or wet cold days.

Page 10 - Blankets and Boots

What is the difference between a stable blanket and a turnout rug?

A stable blanket is designed for a horse living indoors; most turnout blankets are waterproof and are made of heavy-duty materials that allow them to be worn by a horse at pasture.

Why is it important that a turnout blanket be waterproof? How is this different from a blanket that is water resistant?

A wet blanket that soaks through to the horse's skin will not allow his coat to dry and may be colder than no blanket at all. Water resistant blankets will repel some water but will eventually soak through.

When should a cooler blanket be used?

A fleece cooler covers the horse's entire body and wicks moisture from his coat, keeping him warm while he walks and dries. A cooler should only be put on the horse after his body temperature has returned to normal—never blanket a hot horse!

What is an "anti-sweat sheet"?

Anti-sweat sheets are loosely woven, with large holes that allow the horse's skin and coat to evaporate, and are thus a better choice for covering a horse in warmer weather.

What is the different between a blanket and a sheet?

A sheet is a thin blanket, usually a single layer of nylon, often used for the "in-between" days of cooler weather in the spring and fall. They are useful for layering (especially on a clipped horse), for keeping a horse dry in warm rain, and keeping a horse clean for shows, but are not beneficial in extreme cold.

Page 11 - Blankets and Boots

Why is it a good idea to fold a blanket in half or in thirds before placing it on the horse?

Many horses are frightened by the motion of a blanket being thrown on their backs. Gently placing a folded blanket over the horse's withers allows him to settle while you secure the chest straps. You can then carefully pull the top fold over his body.

When you are putting on a blanket, should you fasten the chest straps or the surcingles first?
chest straps

Why do we cross the blanket's surcingles in an X under the horse's belly?

Crossing the surcingles buckles keeps the straps away from the horse's hind legs and reduces the risk of him getting a hoof caught when he lays down.

How do we know that the surcingles on a blanket are correctly tightened?

You should just be able to put your fist between the strap and the horse's belly.

What should you do with the blanket straps that go around the horse's hind legs?

Drop the second strap through the loop created by the first before fastening. This will bring the straps slightly away from the horse's legs and keep them from chafing the skin.

Page 12 - Blankets and Boots

What is the safest way to remove a blanket from the horse's back?

Fold the blanket in half by lifting the front of the blanket and pulling it backwards over the hindquarters of the horse. Slide the whole thing off towards the horse's tail, so you don't ruffle the horse's hair in the wrong direction.

When you are removing a blanket, which straps should you unbuckle first?

leg straps, then surcingle, then chest straps

What should you do with your horse's blanket after you take it off of him?

Check to make sure that the lining is free of burrs, hay, shavings or other potential irritants to your horse's skin, then refold it before hanging it off the ground, with no dangling straps.

Why is it important to follow the safety rules when blanketing horses?

If the horse spooks, bolts or pulls away in the middle of the blanketing process, he is more likely to be scared by a blanket caught around his hind legs than he is a blanket hanging from his shoulders. A half-fastened blanket sliding over his hindquarters also might make him kick out.

Page 13 - Blankets and Boots

What part of the horse is protected by splint boots?

Splint boots protect the horse's lower leg below the knee - cannon bone and tendons.

Name two reasons why a horse might wear bell boots.

for horses that overreach; when show jumping or riding cross-country; with stable bandages when trailering

What critical areas of the horse's leg must be covered by shipping boots?

All shipping boots should cover the coronary band and the bulbs of the heel.

Page 14 - Blankets and Boots

Why should you never kneel or sit on the ground when putting boots on your horse?

If your horse were to spook, you wouldn't be able to move back out of the way.

What might happen if you don't correctly fasten a horse's protective boots?

Boots that aren't securely fastened could come loose and fail to protect your horse's leg or cause him to stumble; boots incorrectly applied or placed over dirty legs could cause pressure points or a bowed tendon.

How can you tell which splint boot goes on the right leg and on the left?

To tell which is which, make sure the Velcro is pulled towards the rear of the horse when you tighten those straps.

For most horses, are the shipping boots the same size for all four legs?

No, the hind legs usually need larger boots than do the forelegs.

Page 15 - Conditioning

Why must we make sure that a horse has cooled down after a workout?

Horses already have a higher body temperature than humans do, and they can grow quite hot when worked, especially in warm, humid weather. Horses can also get heat stroke, along with colic, laminitis and other dangerous complications from heat.

How should you cool down a hot horse?

Remove his tack and hose or sponge him with cold water, starting at the hind legs and working forward, applying water to major muscle groups. Then remove excess water with a sweat scraper. If his vitals still haven't returned to normal, repeat the process.

How can you tell if a horse has cooled down after a workout?

He feels cool to the touch, the veins on his neck are gradually disappearing, and his vital signs have returned to normal.

Why is it so important to walk your horse at the end of a workout?

Ten minutes of active walking can reduce the build-up of lactic acid in the horse's muscles, making him less sore. It allows the blood circulation in his hooves and his vital signs to drop back to normal.

Page 16 - Conditioning

Is it okay to let your hot horse drink water after a workout?

People used to believe that you could not offer water to a hot horse, but research has proven this to be a myth. Just like human athletes, sweaty horses need to rehydrate! Let him drink his fill of cool, clean water immediately after you dismount, and offer it again after you hose and/or walk.

Is it okay to let your hot horse eat grain after a workout?

If you feed a horse while he is still hot and excited, he may not digest the food properly and can even colic. Wait until the horse's vital signs are completely back to normal before giving him grain, even after a light workout. If he has performed strenuous work, wait an hour or two before giving him grain.

After your horse has completely cooled down from a workout, you should inspect him for injury. What parts of his body should you check after every ride, and what should you look for?

You should check all four of his legs for cuts or abrasions, heat, swelling, or abnormal bumps.

- You can't hose off your horse after a workout in the winter, so how should you cool him down?**

Allow extra time to keep him moving at a walk until his coat dries, covering him with a cooler if necessary. Instead of hosing sweat away, curry and brush his coat, repeating as necessary.

Page 17 - Vet and Health Care

- What is "TPR"**

TPR is an abbreviation for vital signs: temperature, pulse, and respiration.

- Why might we need to take a horse's vital signs?**

Vital signs can tell you if your horse is sick, in pain, has a fever; they indicate whether a horse is overheated or has recovered from a workout; you can evaluate the horse's fitness by seeing how long it takes him to recover from exercise.

- What is the horse's normal temperature?**

99° to 101° Fahrenheit

- Along with the horse's TPR, there are a few other indicators of a horse's health. What are they?**

Gut sounds; capillary refill; and hydration pinch test.

- What does the capillary refill test tell you about your horse?**

Capillary refill tells you if the horse is hydrated and whether his circulatory system is working properly.

Page 18 - Vet and Health Care

- Why should you take a horse's respiration before taking his temperature?**

Horses will often breathe more quickly and shallowly when excited or interested in the activity around them.

- Describe how to measure a horse's respiration.**

Your horse should be at rest, cool and standing calmly. Watch his flanks and count the number of times they move in and out (one breath) in fifteen seconds. Multiply this number by four to get the total number of breaths per minute.

- Where would you find a horse's pulse?**

The pulse can be measured under horse's left elbow with a stethoscope, or by placing your fingers on the facial artery along his jawbone.

- Describe how to measure a horse's temperature.**

Stand to the side and use a clean thermometer, greased with petroleum jelly, inserted two-thirds of the way into the horse's rectum. Attach the thermometer to his tail with a string and clip. After 2-3 minutes - or after a digital beep - remove and read before wiping down with alcohol.

Page 19 - Vet and Health Care

- How can you decide whether to call your vet or not?**
Know which minor health problems you can confidently treat yourself, and which problems require an immediate call to your vet - but check with your vet right away if you have any doubt about the severity of the problem or the best way to treat it.
- What are two ways to make sure you can quickly call a vet in an emergency?**
Keep the phone numbers of both your primary vet AND a backup vet posted in your barn. You should also keep both contacts saved in your phone.
- If you do need to call your vet for a health problem, what should you do before you place the call?**
Call the horse's owner, the barn manager or your instructor for authorization first; stay calm; take the horse's vital signs if possible; be prepared to describe exact symptoms and ask for detailed instructions.

Page 20 - Vet and Health Care

- What type of wounds have jagged edges that usually require stitches?**
lacerations
- Why should you always call the vet if your pony gets a puncture wound?**
Puncture wounds look harmless, but often have bacteria deep inside the wound. Your vet may need to give the pony a tetanus shot.
- Your horse has a laceration just above his knee. Do you need to call a vet?**
Yes; a laceration might need stitching, and injuries close to a joint can require antibiotics.
- What should you do if your pony has a swollen tendon that feels hot to the touch?**
Call your vet right away ... and cold-hose the tendon for at least 10 minutes.
- Your horse has a scrape on his shoulder. Do you need to call a vet?**
No, you can treat this yourself.
- Your horse has an incised wound - what is it, and what should you do?**
An incised wound is a minor cut with neat edges that does not require stitches. You can treat this yourself: disinfect it before applying a wound dressing such as triple antibiotic ointment. If the wound is on a leg, you can bandage it; otherwise, just keep it as clean as possible until it scabs over and heals.
- Your horse has an abscess in his hoof. Can you treat this yourself?**
Sometimes a persistent abscess will need to be lanced by a vet, but most cases clear up with diligent soaking and wrapping of the hoof.

Page 21 - Vet and Health Care

Your horse is limping; what are some possible causes of his lameness?

Lameness causes include tender soles in the hoof from a stone bruise, poor trimming, or carbohydrate overload; an abscessed hoof; an injured tendon or ligament; a muscle sprain, usually in the shoulder or hindquarters; arthritis; a sore back.

What term do we use for permanent lameness?

When a horse is permanently lame from damage to a bone, tendon or ligament, we describe it as "unsoundness".

Describe the movement of a "sound" horse.

We say a horse is sound when he moves comfortably and evenly, with no signs of pain or deviations from his normal gait.

What should you do if you are riding a horse and he seems to be "off", or limping?

End your ride immediately and dismount. Examine his legs and hooves. If you're not sure which leg he is favoring, jog him in hand. If you still don't know the cause, or it doesn't improve with rest, call your vet.

How can jogging a horse in hand help you to notice if he is lame?

Normally, the horse's head will stay in one place while he trots, but the head of a lame horse bobs up and down as he tries to keep weight off the injured limb.

Page 22 - Ground Handling

Describe six safety rules for leading a horse that are important to remember when learning to jog in hand.

Wear barn-safe boots; practice leading from the both sides of the horse; hold lead rope 6"-12" from bit or halter; fold lead rope in your hand; don't look back at horse when leading; turn horse away from you; keep horse's head level with your shoulder.

When jogging in hand, why should you keep the reins or lead rope fairly loose?

Allow enough slack in the reins or lead rope so that you don't interfere with the motion of the horse's head when he trots.

How can you encourage a lazy horse to trot when jogging in hand?

Carry a dressage whip in your outside hand. If necessary, rotate the whip behind your back to tap the horse on his barrel or hindquarters, without looking back at him or pulling on the reins.

If your horse's trot gets fast and feels out of control when jogging in hand, what should you do?

Just as when you're riding, you can practice short trots with frequent transitions down to the halt, or half-halt briefly on the lead rope or reins.

Page 23 - Vet and Health Care

- List five signs of illness that require you to call your vet.**

Fever of 102° F or higher; persistent cough; white or yellow nasal discharge; diarrhea lasting longer than a day; symptoms of choking; horse is unusually reluctant to move; symptoms of colic.
- Your horse is leaning back to shift his weight away from his front feet, which feel hot, and he doesn't want to move. What might be happening? Should you call your vet?**

The horse might have a painful and potentially crippling inflammation in the hoof called laminitis. You should call your vet immediately.
- Your horse's muscles are hard and quivering, and he is sweating and breathing hard. What might be happening? Should you call your vet?**

The horse might be experiencing a form of severe muscle cramping called tying up. You should call your vet immediately.
- Your horse seems to have a large lump near his throat that is causing him to cough repeatedly, and he seems very upset. What might be happening? Should you call the vet?**

The horse might be choking, with a blockage in his esophagus so that he can't swallow. You should call your vet immediately.
- After a long ride in the trailer, your horse's lower legs are swollen, but cool to the touch. What might be happening? Should you call your vet?**

Your horse might have a circulation problem called stocking up that is caused by staying still for too long a time. You can handle this yourself - but do call your vet if his legs are warm or you can't explain why they are swollen.
- Your horse has a waxy, scaly skin condition that is causing small patches of his hair to fall off. What might be happening? Should you call your vet?**

Your horse might have a bacterial infection called rain rot. You can treat this yourself - but do call your vet if it doesn't respond to treatment.
- Your pony is rolling in his stall and biting at his belly. He seems very uncomfortable. What might be happening? Should you call your vet?**

It could be colic; call the vet immediately.

Page 24 - Vet and Health Care

- What is the most common cause of a gas or spasmodic colic?**

Gas colic is a buildup of gas inside the horse's intestines, often caused by eating moldy or spoiled feed.
- What is an impaction colic, and could cause it?**

Impaction colic is a blockage of the intestines caused by dehydration, parasites, or poor digestion.

What is a torsion colic?

Torsion colic occurs when a section of the horse's intestine loops or twists.

Your horse is showing signs of colic. What three things should you do?

First, assess the situation by taking the horse's pulse and respiration, listening to gut sounds, and checking his capillary refill. Next, call your vet and report all of this information along with your horse's symptoms. Then remove all grain and hay from the area and try to keep your horse comfortable until the vet arrives; walk him only if he repeatedly tries to roll.

Name six signs of a horse experiencing colic pain.

loss of appetite; little or no manure; fewer or more gut sounds than normal; standing outstretched; repeated yawning/lip curling; looking at or nipping at stomach; rolling

Page 25 - Feeding and Nutrition

What must grazing animals like horses have available continuously?

Clean water, forage such as grass or hay, salt and/or minerals

How many gallons of water will a horse drink per day in warm weather?

A horse will drink up to 12 gallons a day.

What are some of the factors you must consider when planning your horse's diet?

His weight; his body condition; his workload; his breed; his living situation; his age; and his health.

Page 26 - Feeding and Nutrition

Changes in feed must be made gradually over 10 days or more. What is the reason for this feeding principle?

Bacteria in the gut help digest certain nutrients. They become specialized and need time to adjust to a new kind of food.

Why shouldn't you feed your horse one big meal a day?

Horses have small stomachs designed for frequent small portions; you should divide his grain into at least two meals.

What might happen if you don't feed your horse at approximately the same time every day?

Horses are creatures of habit and quickly learn when to expect meals. A late meal will make a horse anxious - sometimes to the point where he cannot digest his meal properly.

If you have to change the type of food your horse eats, what is the safe way to make that change?

If you have to change the type of food your horse eats, do it gradually over a period of at least ten days, so the "friendly" bacteria in his digestive tract have time to adapt to the change.

- Why is it important to wait at least an hour after your horse eats grain before you ride him?**

Allow an hour for your horse to digest concentrates before riding him because exercise can upset his stomach and prevent him from digesting the food properly.
- Why should grain always be stored in an airtight bin where horses and other animals can't access it? What about hay?**

Grain should be secured to make it inaccessible to disease-carrying insects and rodents, and to horses, who will literally eat themselves to death. Free access to hay is fine, but both hay and grain must be stored in a dry place to prevent mold.
- Why is it important to inspect your hay and grain every single time before you feed it to your horse?**

Not only is feeding poor-quality hay and grain a waste of money, since it is low in nutrition, but dusty, moldy, or spoiled feed can make your horse seriously sick.
- What could happen if you leave candy wrappers, hay strings, food and drink containers, etc. in places where a horse could have access to them?**

Horses could accidentally eat any wrapper or container that has food residue, including hay strings along with their hay. All of these things could cause colic. So anything a horse might ingest should be placed in a trash bin with a secure lid.
- Describe four rules for safely feeding a horse treats.**

Feed only healthy, horse-safe treats; feed in small pieces; feed from the flat palm of your hand or from a feed bucket; always ask permission first.

Page 27 - Feeding and Nutrition

- What is roughage?**

Roughage is plant-based foods that are high in fiber and relatively low in energy.
- What are concentrates?**

Concentrates are high-energy food usually made from grain.
- Should a horse's diet contain more roughage or more concentrates?**

A horse's diet should be mostly roughage, with concentrates or supplements only as needed.
- Is hay a concentrate or a roughage?**

Hay is dried grass, with lots of fiber, so it's roughage.
- One type of roughage for a horse is grass; name another type of roughage.**

grass hay, beet pulp, alfalfa or other legume hay

What are three concentrates used in horse feed?

Oats, corn, barley, wheat, soybean meal, rice bran are all common ingredients in horse feed.

What is a supplement, and why might you feed it to your horse?

Supplements are a powder, pellet or liquid added to a horse's food to provide a specific nutrient. Horses sometimes need additional vitamins or minerals to balance their diet or for special health conditions.

Is it important to make sure your horse gets some grain with every meal?

No - many horses are fine with quality grass and hay and need no additional grain.

How do you know if your horse needs concentrates in his diet?

Use your horse's workload to determine if your horse needs concentrates for extra energy in his diet.

Page 28 - Feeding and Nutrition

If I get hit by a chicken truck, what information would you need to feed my horse correctly and safely?

chart of feeding schedule; type and brand of feed/supplements; amounts of feed by weight (and volume)

Why is a written feed chart a smart idea?

Any confusion leading to a feeding mistake could endanger your horse's health - especially necessary for someone who doesn't usually feed.

Page 29 - Tack

List four reasons your should regularly clean your tack.

Expensive tack will last a long time if you take care of it; dirty tack can cause sores on the horse's skin; neglected tack can break, putting you in danger; neglected tack is stiff, making it difficult to buckle and uncomfortable for you and the horse.

What are the three steps in taking good care of your leather tack?

Leather must be cleaned, conditioned, and protected.

What metal piece of tack should never be polished?

the bit

Your horse's bit is NASTY! Should you scrub it with soap?

No soap! Soak the bit in hot water and rinse until clean - use toothpaste or baking soda on an old toothbrush on encrusted bits.

- How can you clean saddle pads and synthetic girths or halters?**
Wash these by hand or in a washing machine on gentle cycle with a very small amount of hypoallergenic detergent, then hang to dry.
- How often should you wipe down your tack?**
after every ride
- How often should you THOROUGHLY clean your tack?**
Tack should be disassembled and thoroughly cleaned every week or two when it is used regularly.

Page 30 - Tack

- What supplies do you need to thoroughly clean tack?**
clean rags; a pail of clean, warm water; mild, pH balanced leather cleaner; tack sponges
- Describe all of the steps in thoroughly cleaning tack.**
Take everything apart; use damp rag to wipe sweat and dirt; use leather cleaner on stubborn sweat or dirt; clean and polish metal pieces; inspect to make sure you haven't missed anything before conditioning or protecting the leather.
- Why should you be careful to not use too much water or soap when cleaning your tack?**
Too much water or soap will dry out and ruin the leather. Wring wet rags and sponges until almost dry before using.

Page 31 - Tack

- What supplies do you need to condition and protect your cleaned tack?**
Tack sponges; leather conditioner or oil (olive, mink, or neatsfoot); glycerine saddle soap; clean rag.
- Where should you apply conditioner to your tack? What parts of your tack should you avoid when applying conditioner?**
Apply oil to the underside, or rough side of the leather, on clean, slightly damp tack. Avoid all stitching, suede knee rolls, and the seat of your saddle.
- True or False? You should ALWAYS condition your tack after every cleaning.**
False - you should only oil leather that is dry or stiff. Too much oil can weaken the leather.
- When cleaning tack, should you use conditioner or glycerine saddle soap first?**
Conditioner adds moisture and softens leather, so it should be applied before glycerine, which seals and protects.

- What happens when you apply saddle soap or conditioner to dirty tack?**

It could seal the dirt into the leather, making it very difficult to clean.

Page 32 - Tack

- Why should you inspect each piece of tack before reassembling your saddle or bridle after cleaning?**

Last chance to check carefully for any signs of cracking, loose stitching, or powdery dry rot before you use the tack.

- Demonstrate or describe all of the steps in reassembling your clean English saddle.**

Run stirrup leathers through irons, then up and under the stirrup bar before buckling (check peacock stirrups to make sure rubber band faces front of saddle); thread billet straps through buckle guard and position it to cover billets where they will be buckled to girth.

Page 33 - Tack

- When reassembling a bridle, should you attach the browband or the cheekpieces first?**

Thread the browband onto the crownpiece first.

- Demonstrate or describe the correct way learn how to thread the browband onto the throatlatch.**

Place crownpiece over your own head so long throatlatch strap hangs on the RIGHT side; slide browband over two short straps, across the flat crownpiece, and down to the top of the throatlatch; drop the two short straps through the other end of the browband.

- Demonstrate or describe how to attach the cheekpieces to to the crownpiece.**

Buckle cheekpieces onto the top two straps hanging from the crownpiece, below the browband.

- Demonstrate or describe how to attach a noseband to the bridle.**

Run the long strap of the noseband through the loop of the browband and under the crownpiece, starting on the right side next to the throatlatch strap, and finish by pulling it down through the left loop of the browband, then buckling the noseband to itself - NOT the throatlatch.

- What is the important first step in correctly attaching a bit to a bridle?**

Hold up the bit to determine which direction the mouthpiece curves, so you can attach it with the bit wrapped over the horse's tongue, not digging into it.

- If your bridle has studs, should you fasten the cheekpieces with the studs to the inside or to the outside?**

Studs should be fastened to the inside so they are not visible when the bridle is on the horse.

- If your bridle has buckles, should you fasten the cheekpieces with the buckles to the inside or the outside?**

Buckles should be fastened to the outside so they don't irritate the horse's skin.

- If your horse wears a full-cheek snaffle bit, what extra pieces of tack should you apply to your bridle? How should these pieces be attached?**

Use bit loops, also called bit keepers, to control a full-cheek snaffle. Keepers attach with one loop fastened over the top bar of the bit's cheek and the cheekpiece wrapped around the bit ring so that the keeper lies to the inside, against the horse's face.

- When buckling the reins onto the bridle's bit, should the reins sit above or below the cheekpieces?**

The reins should be buckled on below the cheekpieces.

- Why is it important to look for creases in the leather that indicate which hole each buckle was in previously - especially for cheekpieces?**

The bridle must be reassembled so that it correctly fits the horse, or it will be uncomfortable for him; the cheekpieces control the placement of the bit in the horse's mouth, so it's critical to buckle them in the correct place.