



## The Blue Cross Horse and Pony Care Senior Championship 2023

Team:	
Assessor:	

### Round 1 – Travelling and Competing

	Marks Available	Marks Given	Comments
1 - What would be on your checklist of things to do and prepare the day before travelling to a competition?	5		
2 - Where should the horse's passport be when a horse is travelling? You are looking after a new horse. Which details on the passport do you check to make sure it is the correct passport for the horse that you are about to travel?	5		
3 - Why is it important to protect the horse's legs when travelling? Discuss the equipment here and give some advantages and disadvantages to each item.	5		
4 - How might the weather affect your decision to use a rug or not? What type of rugs would you want to take with you for a three hour journey?	5		
5 - Outline a care routine for the horse from completion of a Pony Club Area one day event up until travelling home. Give reasons why you think each step is important.	10		
6 - What care should the horse receive upon arriving home from the event after the three-hour journey? Give reasons why you think each step is important.	5		
7 - What checks would you make to the horse accommodation in this vehicle? What preparations would you make before loading a horse?	5		
8 - What equipment and methods could you use when loading a strong horse who is reluctant to load? How will you instruct your helper/s?	5		
9 - Teamwork	5		
Total	50		
Best Individual			



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### Round 7 – Tack - Section A

	Marks Available	Marks Given	Comments
1 - Discuss the styles and features of these saddles and girths. Say when and why they might be chosen.	10		
2 - What would you look for when checking a saddle for soundness?	5		
3 - Why and when might you use these numnahs and pads?	5		
4 - Select the equipment you would need to lunge a horse for exercise.	5		
5 - Look at the cavesson on this horse. Comment on how it fits, why it is used and how it should act.	5		
6 - Why would you use this bridle as well as a cavesson? What will you do with the noseband and the reins?	5		
7 - Look at these different types of side reins and rank them in order of preference. Give your reasons.	5		
8 - Why would you use side reins?	5		
9 - Teamwork	5		
Total	50		
Best Individual			



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### Round 3 – Tack - Section B

	Marks Available	Marks Given	Comments
1 - Put these bits into their families and say what these families are called.	10		
2 - Name these bits and put them in order from mildest to most severe. Give reasons.	5		
3 - What are the seven points of control on the horse's head?	5		
4 - Two team members put this double bridle together. One team member explains the action of the double bridle and names and discusses different combinations of bridoon and weymouth.	15		
5 - One team member to take the double bridle apart. Two team members to divide the snaffle bits into those that can be used in dressage and those that cannot.	5		
6 - What is this bridle called and what are the principles behind its design?	5		
7 - Teamwork	5		
Total	50		
Best Individual			



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### Round 4 – Maintaining Good Health and Hygiene

	Marks available	Marks Given	Comments
1 - What does TPR stand for? What are the normal parameters for each? How are they taken? How would you establish the normal temperature for an individual horse and why is a good idea to do this?	10		
2 - Give three examples of infectious or contagious diseases. Give the symptoms of each. How is each one typically spread?	10		
3 - Several horses on a yard compete regularly at different venues. What checks could you put in place to ensure good bio security and prevent the spread of diseases? What precautions should be taken if a horse or horses are visiting and being stabled for one or two nights only? What should you do to the stables they have used once they have left?	10		
4 - Why is it recommended to use worm egg counts? State how you would use them for effective helminth management. If the count suggests that the horse needs worming, how should you proceed?	10		
5 - What is choke and why does it happen? What should you do upon discovering a horse choking? What treatment may be given by the vet?	5		
6 - Teamwork	5		
Total	50		
Best Individual			



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### Round 8– Shoeing and Lameness

	Marks Available	Marks Given	Comments
1 - Show where you would locate the following: Splint Bog Spavin Windgall Ringbone Sidebone Damaged fore limb suspensory ligament.  What are each of the above?  How do they affect the horse when they are acquired and in the longer term?	15		
2 - Where are the Laminae? What do they do? What happens in a case of Acute Laminitis?	5		
3 - How could the shape and condition of this horse / pony's feet affect its soundness?	5		
4 - When no obvious causes for lameness are present, a "lameness work up" may be recommended by the vet. What does this typically involve?	5		
5 - Describe the process of removing and fitting a shoe. Identify and name the tools used.	5		
6 - Identify these shoes and say why the farrier might use them.	10		
7 - Teamwork	5		
Total	50		
Best Individual			



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### Round 6 – Feeding, Fitness and Exercise Routines

	Marks Available	Marks Given	Comments
1 - Identify these feed samples. Discuss their nutritional values.	10		
2 - Why is fibre essential in the diet of a horse or pony? Where in the digestive system is fibre broken down and utilised? How is this done?	5		
3 - How do you calculate the total amount of food required by a horse or pony per day? How does the condition score of the horse or pony affect the calculation? How do you decide what you will feed?	10		
4 - Outline a fitness programme to get a horse that has been out of work for 3 months fit for a Pony Club Intermediate Area One Day Event. The horse was out of work as the rider was unable to ride.	10		
5 - Suggest some weekly work routines to use to maintain the level of fitness once achieved. How could you alter these routines if you wanted to reduce from competition fitness to a medium work load?	10		
6 - Teamwork	5		
Total	50		
Best Individual			



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### Round 2 – Equine First Aid, Wounds and Bandaging

	Marks Available	Marks Given	Comments
1 - Select items that you consider to be essential to have in an equine first aid cupboard. Give reasons for these choices.	10		
2 - One team member selects items that they would use to poultice a foot and describes how they would use them.  One team member puts a stable bandage on the right front leg.  One team member puts a stable bandage on the left hind leg.	15		
3 - Name six instances when a wound would require veterinary attention as quickly as possible.	5		
4 - How would you assess a wound on a muddy hind leg acquired whilst the horse was turned out?  If the wound did not require veterinary attention, how would you treat it? Select suitable items from the first aid kit.	10		
5 - What is meant by “tubbing a foot “? Select items you might need to do this. How would you tub a foot? Why would you tub a foot?	5		
6 - Teamwork	5		
Total	50		
Best Individual			



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### Round 5 – Horse and Pony Behaviour and Learning Theory

	Marks Available	Marks Given	Comments
1 - How might the following affect a horse or pony's behaviour: Being overfed Being underfed Having no turn out or free space?	10		
2 - Why is it important for a horse or pony to be able to socialise with others?	5		
3 - What behavioural problems can occur in a group of horses? How could these be managed?	10		
4 - What do you understand by "Positive Reinforcement" ? Give some examples.	10		
5 - What do you understand by the term "Desensitisation"? Give some examples.	10		
6 - Teamwork	5		
Total	50		
Best Individual			





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## Round 9 – Conformation

	Marks Available	Marks Given	Comments
1 - Give a basic description of this horse / pony ie: height, colour, markings, type.	5		
2 - Describe what is considered to be correct with the following: The size of the head How the head is set onto the neck How the neck is set onto the body The shape of the neck The angle of the shoulder The width of the chest	10		
3 - How and where do you assess the length and shape of this horse / pony's back? What problems can be caused by: A short back A long back A sway back	5		
4 - Show what you are looking for when assessing the conformation of the front legs and feet.	10		
5 - What do the following look like: Back at the knee Over at the knee Tied in at the knee?	5		
6 - Name three examples of incorrect or poor conformation and say how these might affect the way of going.	10		
7 - Teamwork	5		
Total	50		
Best Individual			



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### Round 10 – General Knowledge, Field and Yard Safety

	Marks Available	Marks Given	Comments
What do the following stand for: PPE, COSHH, RIDDOR	5		
If you had to use an electrical extension cable on a yard, e.g. for clippers or veterinary equipment, what precautions would you take and why?	5		
List precautions that should be taken to avoid Fire on the yard. What equipment should be provided in case of Fire? How should it be maintained?	5		
What information should be displayed on the yard for use in the event of an emergency?	5		
If using electric fencing to temporarily divide a field for grazing how would you make sure it is safe and effective? What could be the consequences of the power failing?	5		
What is the track system for turn out? Give some advantages and disadvantages.	5		
What problems might you encounter if you have to turn out a young, strong horse into a field that has other horses already out in it and you have to lead along a track to get there? What precautions will you take to keep yourself and the horse safe?	5		
Select the High Viz equipment you would use to ride out. Why should you use this when riding off road and across open country?	5		
What do the following stand for: MRCVS DipWCF EDT	5		
Teamwork	5		
Total	50		
Best Individual			