



# Maryland 4-H Equine Showmanship and Equitation Standards Guide to Knowledge Exam Topics



The information outlined in this guide is to prepare youth for the Maryland 4-H Equine Showmanship and Equitation Standards knowledge exams. The information may be found from many different resources including breed association literature, local trainers, veterinarians, feed stores and tack dealers. The best way for members to prepare is to consult a variety of sources in addition to obtaining hands on experience. Below are a list of suggested recourses.

## **SUGGESTED RESOURCES:**

*The Normal Animal (NA)* - Veterinary Science Unit 1, University of NE

*Animal Diseases (AD)* - Veterinary Science Unit 2, University of NE

*Horse Industry Handbook (HIH)*, *The American Youth Horse Council*

4093 Iron Works Pike, Lexington, KY 40511-8434 Phone

*Feeding And Care Of The Horse*, 2nd edition (**LEWIS**), by Lon D. Lewis Williams and Wilkens, P. O. Box 1496, Baltimore MD 21298-9724

*Horse Anatomy – A Coloring Atlas*, by Robert Rainer and Thomas O. McCracken.

Order from Alpine Blue Ribbon Books, P.O. Box 7027, Loveland, CO 80537-0027

*Equine Science: Basic Knowledge for Horse People of All Ages*, by Jean T. Griffiths  
order from Horse Books etc. com at:

<<http://horsebooksetc.com/index.php?p=product&id=750&parent=41>>

*Horse and Horsemanship*, 2001 edition. National 4-H Council (<https://shop4-h.org/>)

*Horse Smarts* The American Youth Horse Council

*Horse Science*, 2001 edition. National 4-H Council (<https://shop4-h.org/>)

*Horse 1-Giddy Up and Go*, 2015 edition. National 4-H Council (<https://shop4-h.org/>)

*Horse 2-Head, Heart & Hooves*, 2015 edition. National 4-H Council (<https://shop4-h.org/>)

*Horse 3-Stable Relationships*, 2015 edition. National 4-H Council (<https://shop4-h.org/>)

*Horse 4-Riding the Range*, 2015 edition. National 4-H Council (<https://shop4-h.org/>)

*Horse 5-Jumping to New Heights*, 2015 edition. National 4-H Council (<https://shop4-h.org/>)

**SUGGESTED RESOURCES (continued):**

*Illustrated Dictionary of Equine Terms (ID)*, New Horizons Education Center, Inc. Alpine Publications, PO BOX 7027, Loveland, CO 80537

*USPC Manual of Horsemanship: The Basics for Beginners through D Level*, by Susan E. Harris. United States Pony Club 4041 Ironworks Parkway Lexington KY 40511

*USPC Manual of Horsemanship: The Intermediate Horsemanship through C Level*, by Susan E. Harris. United States Pony Club 4041 Ironworks Parkway, Lexington KY 40511

*USPC Manual of Horsemanship: The Advanced Horsemanship Through A Level*, by Susan E. Harris. United States Pony Club 4041 Ironworks Parkway Lexington KY 40511

*Junior Master Horseman: Level One*, by AQHA and AYHC. American Quarter Horse Association. PO Box 200, Amarillo, TX 79168

*Junior Master Horseman: Level Two*, by AQHA and AYHC. American Quarter Horse Association. PO Box 200, Amarillo, TX 79168

*CHA Composite Horsemanship Manual*, by Certified Horsemanship Association. CHA, 5318 Old Bullard Road, Tyler, TX 75703

*The Horse Learning Lab Kit*, by The Ohio State University (<https://ohio4h.org/books-and-resources/learning-lab-kits/horse>)

## **Tier One Knowledge and Horsemanship**

### **Horse Handling/Halter**

- Know how to safely approach a horse that is turned out in a pasture and in a stall
- Know how to place a halter on correctly
- Know where the horse's blinds spots are located
- Know safe places to tie a horse
- Know how to tie a quick release knot
- Know what you should consider when safely leading a horse

### **Horse Breeds, Conformation, and Movement**

- Recognize the following colors: Bay, black, chestnut, grey, palomino, appaloosa, buckskin, and pinto
- Know the difference between a filly, colt, mare, stallion, and gelding
- Name and locate at least 15 parts of the horse from the following list: Flank, barrel, jaw, poll, elbow, stifle, forearm, gaskin, cannon, pastern, coronet, loin, croup, dock, point of hip, hearth girth
- Name and describe common markings (including the head and legs) from the following list: Star, stripe, snip, sock, stocking
- Identify the following breeds: Quarter Horse, Arabian, Thoroughbred, Morgan, Tennessee Walker, Halfinger, Shetland, Welsh, Percheron, Clydesdale
- Know how many beats are in a walk and trot (jog)

### **Grooming**

- Know the proper use of commonly used grooming tools from the following list: Hoof pick, curry comb, dandy brush, mane/tail comb, and body brush
- Know why daily grooming is important
- Know why you would bandage a horse legs
- Know how to pick out a horse hoof and why it is important

### **Health Care and Veterinary Knowledge**

- Know what a veterinarian does
- Know what reasons that would cause you to call the veterinarian for a horse

### **Nutrition**

- Know what roughages and concentrates are

### **Stable Management and Barn Safety**

- Know safe ways to handle a horse in the barn (Including safe attire)

### **Tack and Equipment**

- Know the purpose for cleaning tack

## **Transportation and Travel Safety**

- Know what the following are used for in the trailer: Breakaway halter, and Shipping Boots

## **Tier Two Knowledge and Horsemanship**

### **Horse Handling**

- Know rules for safely riding in a group
- Know how to safely put on a horse blanket or sheet
- Know how to safely place and tie a hay net for your horse

### **Horse Breeds, Conformation, and Movement**

- Name and locate these parts of the horse from the following list: Flank, barrel, jaw, poll, elbow, stifle, forearm, gaskin, cannon, pastern, coronet, loin, croup, dock, point of hip, hearth girth, muzzle, cheek, forelock, throatlatch, mane, neck, withers, back, shoulder, tail, knee, hock, fetlock, hoof
- Recognize and describe the following conformation faults: Ewe neck, sway back, cow hocked, and base narrow
- Know the difference between a light breed and a draft breed, and characteristics of each
- Identify the following breeds: Quarter Horse, Arabian, Thoroughbred, Morgan, Tennessee Walker, Halflinger, Shetland, Welsh, Percheron, Clydesdale, Shire, Belgian
- Know the proper way and units for measuring a horse
- Name and describe common markings (including the head and legs) from the following list: Star, stripe, snip, pie bald, skew bald, blaze, sock, stocking, coronet, ermine spots
- Be able to recognize the following colors and patterns: Grey, palomino, appaloosa, buckskin, and pinto
- Know at least 2 different variations of grey coat color
- Know the footfall pattern for a walk, trot (jog), canter (lope)

### **Grooming and Bandaging**

- Know reasons for clipping a horse
- Know safety measures to use when bathing a horse
- Know reasons for wrapping a horse leg
- Know the difference between a shipping, galloping, and skid boot

### **Health Care and Veterinary Knowledge**

- Know ways you can tell if a horse is properly cooled out after work
- Know reasons why a wound should be treated by a veterinarian
- Explain why a regular vaccination program is important to your horse and be able to identify the following diseases that you should regularly vaccinate a horse against every year in Maryland: Rabies, Influenza, Tetanus
- Know reasons for daily hoof care
- Know reasons why farrier (blacksmith) visits are necessary
- Know the signs that a hoof needs trimming or shoeing

- Name and locate the following parts of the horse's hoof: bulb of heel, frog, central groove, collateral groove, heel, bar, wall, white line, apex of frog, toe, coronary band, and quarter

### **Nutrition**

- Know ways to tell if hay or grain is safe to feed
- Know ways to store hay or grain safely
- Know how feeds should be measured (include units)

### **Stable Management and Barn Safety**

- Know the following common stable vices: cribbing, weaving, stall walking, wood chewing
- Know types of fencing that are not safe for horses: Barbed wire, mesh with openings greater than 2 inches

### **Tack and Equipment**

- Identify the parts of both the saddle and bridle (English or Western)

### **Transportation and Travel Safety**

- Describe the purpose of the following things used to make your horse safe while traveling in a trailer: Breakaway halter, head bumper, blanket, tail guard/wrap, shipping boots or shipping bandages

## **Tier Three Knowledge and Horsemanship**

### **Horse Breeds, Conformation, and Movement**

- Recognize and describe the following types of conformation faults: Toed in, toed out, back at the knee, sickle hock, parrot mouth, and goose rump
- Identify the following blemishes and unsoundness: Splints, bowed tendon, capped hock, toe crack, quarter crack and fistula
- Know the footfall patterns of a walk, trot (jog), canter (lope), gallop, and pace
- Know the difference between a tobiano and overo color pattern

### **Grooming and Bandaging**

- Know different ways a horse mane may be presented in specific disciplines or breeds from the following list: Hunter, Western Pleasure, Polo
- Know how to bandage a wound located on the cannon bone and what materials would be needed
- Name the areas of the leg protected by a stable bandage

### **Health Care and Veterinary Knowledge**

- Know the cause, transmission, and symptoms of the following diseases that may affect a horse in Maryland: Potomac Horse Fever, Rabies, Strangles, Tetanus, Equine Encephalomyelitis
- Know why routine dental care is important
- Know how you can prevent internal parasites
- Know the normal temperature, pulse, and respiration values for a resting, healthy horse
- Explain what Equine Infectious Anemia is and what a Coggins test is used for. Be sure to indicate how often this test must be done and why you must have documentation of it.
- Identify the body condition scoring system used for a horse
- Know what should be included in a horse first aid kit: Thermometer, stethoscope, gauze, vet wrap, cloth (diapers), knife, antiseptic, tape, scissors

### **Nutrition**

- Describe the difference between legume and grass hay
- Know how to read a feed tag

### **Stable Management and Barn Safety**

- Know good and bad characteristics of each of the following: Feed, water, pasture, and hay
- Know stable vices, possible causes, and at least 1 way to try to correct each of them: Cribbing, wood chewing, stall weaving
- Name ways to help prevent external parasites

**Tack and Equipment**

- Describe the different actions/mechanisms of a curb and a snaffle bit
- Identify and describe the following types of horse shoes and their uses: Keg shoe, bar shoe

**Transportation and Travel Safety**

- Know things to check each time before using a trailer: Hitch, lights, tires, fuel, gate latch
- Know items that should be included in a trailer safety kit: Flares, fire extinguisher, jack, spare tire, safety triangles, correct lug wrench, wheel chalk



## **Tier Four Knowledge and Horsemanship**

### **Horse Breeds, Conformation, and Movement**

- Know these conformation faults and how each may affect movement: Toed in, toed out
- Know these signs that a horse may exhibit when they are lame: Uneven stride, head bobbing, unwillingness to preform, shorten stride
- Know different variations of roans and chestnuts
- Know the anatomy of the leg and hoof, including bones, principal tendons and ligaments, including superficial digital flexor tendon, deep digital flexor tendon, long pastern, short pastern, coffin bone, navicular bone, laminae, plantar cushion, and suspensory ligament

### **Grooming and Bandaging**

- Know how to apply the stable bandage

### **Health Care and Veterinary Knowledge**

- Know the recommended vaccination schedule and health requirements for a horse in Maryland
- Explain what a parasite is, why a parasite management program is important for horse health, and how you would select and administer deworming medications to your horse
- Know the life cycle and damage caused by the following internal parasites: Bots, ascarids, small and large strongyles, pinworms, and tapeworms
- Explain how to take the temperature, pulse, respiration, and capillary refill time of a horse and how to tell if the resulting vital signs represent a problem
- Explain how to recognize and respond to dehydration
- Know causes and signs of the following: Tying up/azoturia, laminitis/founder, heaves/COPD, choke, colic, proud flesh
- Know symptoms, preventative measures, and transmission for 4 of the following diseases: Equine Encephalomyelitis, Strangles, Rhinopneumonitis, West Nile Virus, Potomac Horse Fever, and Equine Protozoal Myeloencephalitis (EPM)
- Know how horse teeth grow, how baby teeth are replaced by permanent teeth, and how a horse can be aged by examining the teeth
- Know reasons for using a poultice and how it is applied

### **Nutrition**

- Describe the feeding management decision you would make in regards to a horse's ration when doing the following: Developing fitness, maintaining fitness, or if the horse is lame and out of work.
- Name and describe the following toxic plants found in Maryland horse pastures: Black Walnut, Red Maple, Nightshade, Water Hemlock

- Identify the following types of feed ingredients: Molasses, sweet feed, pelleted feed, salt, wheat bran, rice bran, cracked corn, whole corn, beet pulp, barley, oats, and alfalfa meal
- Explain how points, waves, and hooks develop and how they affect your horse's ability to chew
- Name different types of grasses and/or legumes commonly found in Maryland pastures: Alfalfa, Orchard Grass, Kentucky Blue Grass, Timothy
- Name the parts of the horse's gastrointestinal tract and describe each part's basic function
- Name the 6 classes of nutrients and a common source for each

### **Stable Management and Barn Safety**

- Name characteristics of an unsafe pasture
- Name ways to prevent barn fires
- Name at least 3 management decisions that would help to maintain a healthy pasture
- Know the importance of soil testing and why it is used in pasture management
- Know proper manure management practices

### **Tack and Equipment**

- Know the basic action of a snaffle, curb, Pelham, bosal, and hackamore
- Identify and describe the following types of horse shoes and their uses: Keg shoe, bar shoe, slider, aluminum, toe clip
- Know at least 2 methods and/or tools used for restraint and their purpose

### **Transportation and Travel Safety**

- Know precautions that should be taken when trailering horses long distances