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Comments or suggestions for changes to the **requirements** for the **merit badge** should be sent to: [Merit.Badge@Scouting.Org](mailto:merit.badge@scouting.org)

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1. Do the following:

a. Describe the safety precautions you should take when handling and caring for a horse.

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b. Describe the fire safety precautions you should take in a barn and around horses.

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2. Name the 15 main parts of a horse.



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3. Name four breeds of horses. Explain the special features for which each breed is known.

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4. Describe the symptoms of colic.

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Name and describe four other horse health problems.

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5. Explain what conformation is and why it is important.

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Explain the difference between lameness and unsoundness.

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6. Explain the importance of hoof care and why a horse might need to wear shoes.

Importance of hoof care

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Why a horse might need to wear shoes

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7. Demonstrate how to groom a horse, including picking hooves and caring for a horse after a ride.

⬜ How to groom a horse

⬜ Picking hooves

⬜ Caring for a horse after a ride

8. Explain how to determine what and how much to feed a horse and why the amount and kind of feed are changed according to the activity level and the breed of horse.

What to feed a horse:

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How much to feed a horse:

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Why the amount and kind of feed are changed according to the activity level and the breed of horse.

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9. Do the following:

a. Name 10 parts of the saddle and bridle that you will use, and explain how to care for this equipment.

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How to care for this equipment.

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⬜ b. Show how to properly saddle and bridle a horse.

⬜ c. Demonstrate how to safely mount and dismount a horse.

10. Explain and demonstrate how to approach and lead a horse safely from a stall, corral, or field and how to tie the horse securely.

How to approach and lead a horse safely from a stall, corral, or field:

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How to tie the horse securely:

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11. On level ground, continuously do the following movements after safely mounting the horse. Do them correctly, at ease, and in harmony with the horse.

⬜ a. Walk the horse in a straight line for 60 feet.

⬜ b. Walk the horse in a half-circle of not more than 16 feet in radius.

⬜ c. Trot or jog the horse in a straight line for 60 feet.

⬜ d. Trot or jog the horse in a half-circle of not more than 30 feet in radius.

⬜ e. Halt straight.

⬜ f. Back up straight four paces.

⬜ g. Halt and dismount.

**When working on merit badges, Scouts and Scouters should be aware of some vital information in the current edition of the *Guide to Advancement* (BSA publication 33088). Important excerpts from that publication can be downloaded from** [**http://usscouts.org/advance/docs/GTA-Excerpts-meritbadges.pdf**](http://usscouts.org/advance/docs/GTA-Excerpts-meritbadges.pdf)**.**

**You can download a complete copy of the *Guide to Advancement* from** [**http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/33088.pdf**](http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/33088.pdf)**.**