

FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS



Volunteer PowerPoint Training:

Horse Basics



RIDING CENTER
CARRIAGE HILL METROPARK



CATEGORIES

- Section 1: Grooming
- Section 2: Haltering & Leading
- Section 3: Saddles & Tacking
- Section 4: Safety Check
- Section 5: Terminology
- Section 6: Horse Colors



SECTION 1

Grooming

- You must have staff permission to groom the horses.
- All horses are groomed in the crosstie areas. There are crossties in the stall barn and the arena barn.
- Lead the horse to the cross-ties and secure them to the square rings on either side of the horse's halter. Remove the lead rope and hang it up, so the horse does not step on it.
- Each horse has their own grooming bag. The bags are in the tack room.



➤ Curry Combs



➤ Brushes



➤ Hoof Pick



➤ Hair Brush/Comb



Grooming

The first step in grooming is to use the curry comb to break the dirt on your horse's coat. The hard curry comb is to be used in a circular pattern with pressure over the horse's neck and body only. Some horses can be sensitive to this pressure. If so, use lighter pressure. The soft curry comb is to be used in the same manner. It can be used anywhere on the horse but is mainly used on the face and legs.

➤ Soft Curry Comb



➤ Hard Curry Comb



Grooming

➤ Hard Brush



Once you have used both curry combs, use the hard brush next. Make short, flicking motions over the neck and body of the horse. Make sure to go with the direction of the horse's hair growth. This sweeps off all the large dirt particles you broke up while using the curry comb. The hard brush is also only used on the neck and body like the hard curry. After the hard brush comes the soft brush. You can use the soft brush anywhere on the horse, including the face and legs. Use longer, sweeping motions to finish removing the dirt and make the coat shine.



➤ Soft Brush



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Grooming

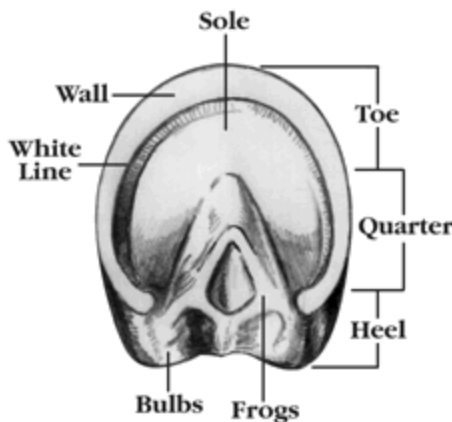
Hoof Pick



The horse's feet are very important. Horses stay on their feet for up to 24 hours a day, so injury to the foot can affect their quality of life. Make sure to clean thoroughly around the frog and clear debris from the sole. To clean the hooves, stand facing the hindquarters against the horse's side. Run your hand down the back of your horse's leg starting at the top. Gently squeeze the backside of the cannon bone near the tendons and pick up the horse's foot. Make sure to support the horse's hoof. Gently place the hoof down when finished. Remember to keep your feet clear of the horse's feet, so as not to get stepped on. If you get your foot stepped on, calmly push the horse's body over to take your foot out of the way. If you pull your foot out, without adjusting the horse's weight, the injury to your foot can be more severe.



To clean the front hooves, stand at the shoulder.



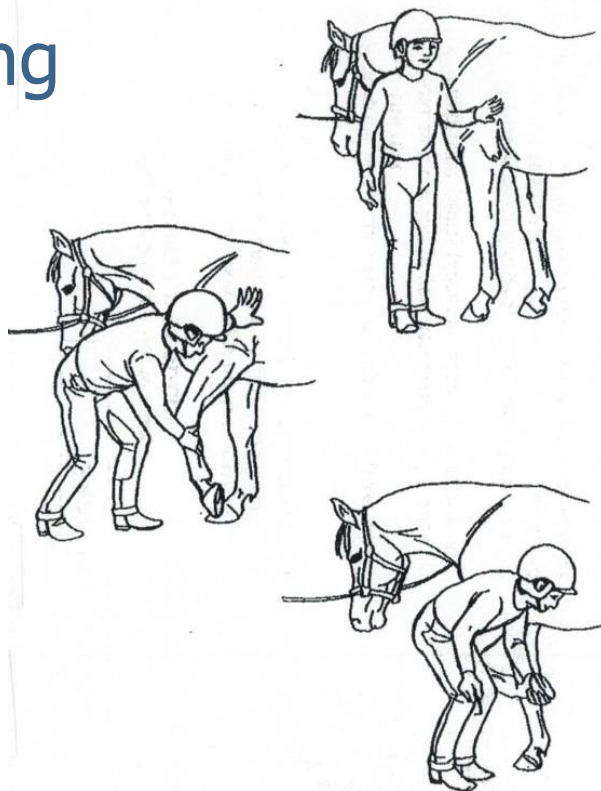
Hold the hoof pick facing downward and scrape away from your body.



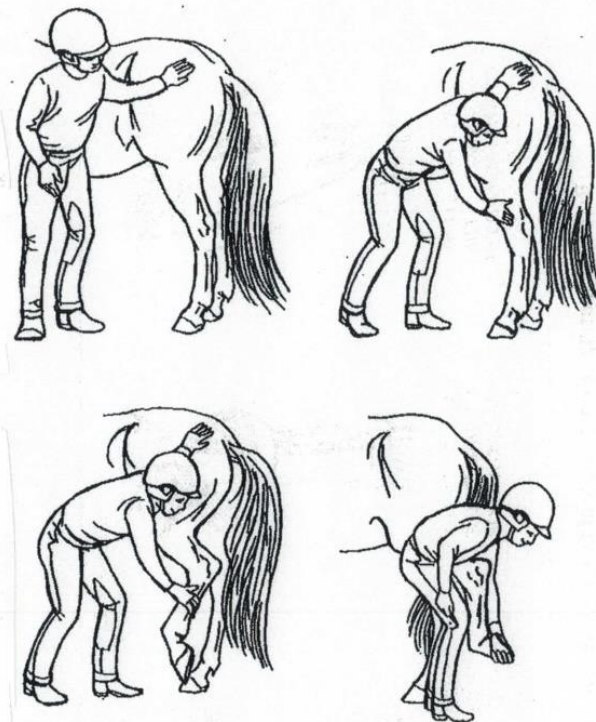
To clean the back hooves, stand at the hip.

Grooming

Picking out a Hoof



How to pick up a front foot safely



How to pick up a hind foot safely



How to pick out a hoof

Grooming

✦ Hair Brush/Comb



When brushing the horse's mane and tail, make sure to get all the knots and debris out. If you brush a horse's hair too often, you can pull too much hair out. Only brush them when necessary. Brush the mane just as you would someone's hair – start at the ends of the stands to get snarls out then work your way up closer to the crest of the mane. When brushing the tail, make sure you stand to the side of the horse (near the hip) and pull the tail to the side to brush. **DO NOT** stand behind the horse to brush the tail.



SECTION 2

Haltering & Leading a Horse

- For safety, please get staff permission to get each horse out of the stall or the pasture.
- The horses' halters and lead ropes are hanging on the front of their stall door.
- Before retrieving a horse from the pasture, make sure you have a second person to assist with the gate.
- Place the halter on the horse with the attached the lead rope. A halter goes on exactly like a bridle. (See bridling a horse section.)
- When leading you **MUST** use the lead rope; do not use just a halter.
- Do not wrap the lead rope around your hand/arm. If the horse pulls away, you may be injured.
- If you're leading with a bridle, bring the reins over the horse's head, and use them as a lead rope as shown in the picture.



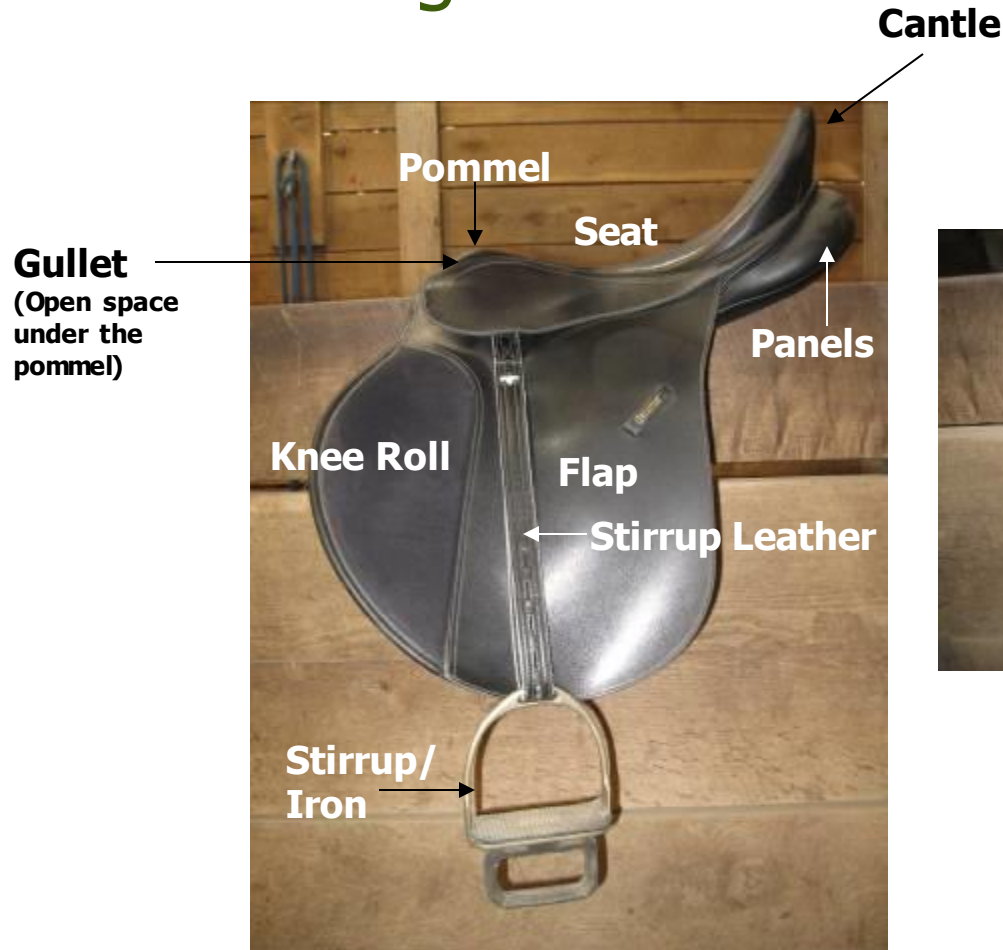
Always stand on the horse's left side at the shoulder.

Carry the lead rope in your right hand under the snap on lead and right below the horse's chin.

Carry the excess lead rope in your left hand. Make sure the lead rope does not fall below your knees.

SECTION 3: Saddles & Tacking

Parts of an English Saddle



How to Tack English

ENGLISH SADDLE

Place the saddle pad high on the withers, then slide it backward onto the back to smooth the horse's hair.

Pick up the saddle, making sure the stirrups are run up the leathers and secured. Lay the girth across the saddle. Holding the pommel with the left hand and the cantle with the right, gently place the saddle on the middle of the pad. Pull the pad up into the gullet to allow the air to circulate between the horse's back and the pad. There should be about 2" clearance between withers and the gullet.

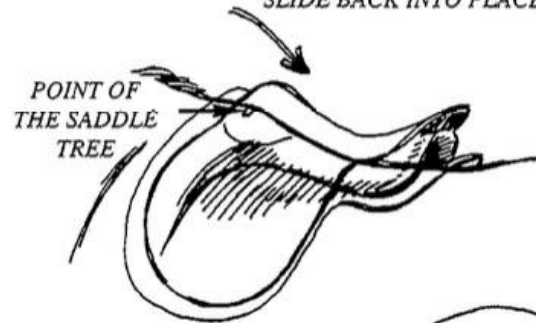
As a general guideline, the front edge of the saddle will often just touch an imaginary line down the center of the shoulder. (This will depend on the type of saddle and the shape of the individual horse). The points of the saddle tree should be 1" or more behind the upper end of the horse's shoulder blade (scapula).

From the right (off side), take the girth off the saddle and check to be sure the pad is smooth. Attach the girth to the right side of the saddle. (The folded edge of a leather girth should be to the front. If there is an elastic end of the girth, it should attach on the near side.)

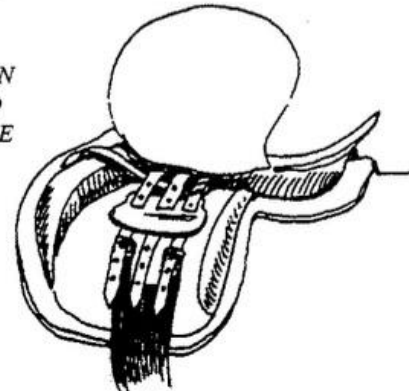
From the left (near side), pull the girth under the horse and buckle the girth.

Before mounting, a final check of the girth should be made by you and your instructor.

*PLACE THE SADDLE AND PAD
FORWARD ON THE NECK THEN
SLIDE BACK INTO PLACE*



*THE SEAT (BETWEEN
THE POMMEL AND
THE CANTLE) IS THE
CENTER OF THE
SADDLE AND
SHOULD BE THE
DEEPEST POINT*



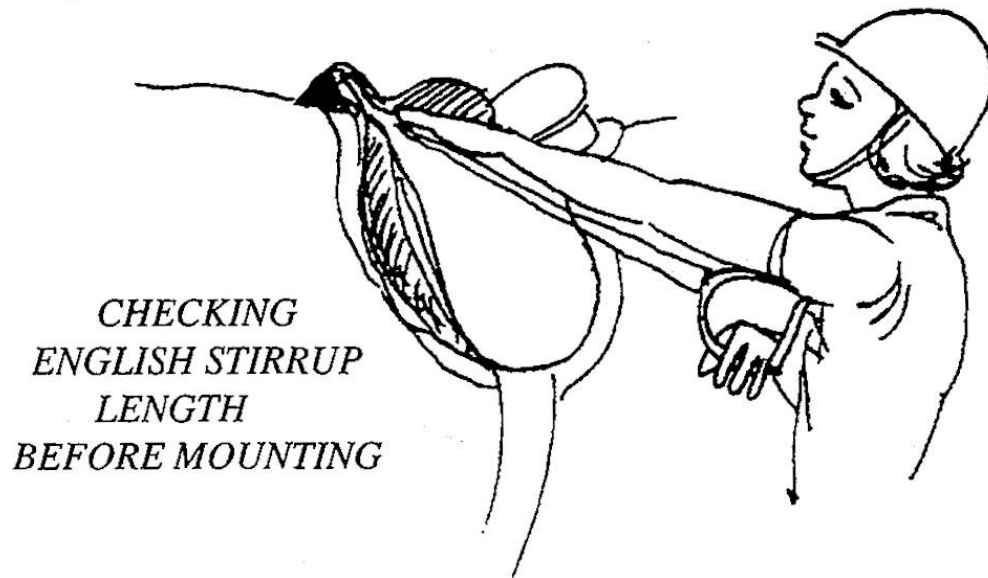
*THE SADDLE PAD LOOP ATTACHES
TO THE BILLET STRAPS
ABOVE THE BILLET/BUCKLE COVER*

*THE ENGLISH GIRTH USUALLY BUCKLES ON THE FIRST AND
THIRD BILLET STRAPS, BUT MAY FASTEN ON THE FIRST AND
SECOND BILLETS FOR BETTER FIT OF THE SADDLE*

Checking English Stirrup Length

You can check the approximate length of the stirrup leathers before you mount.

- Pull the stirrup iron all the way down to the end of the leather loop.
- Place your fingertips on the stirrup bar. The stirrup iron should reach to your armpit. This will give you approximately the right length of your stirrups when you mount.



*CHECKING
ENGLISH STIRRUP
LENGTH
BEFORE MOUNTING*

Adjusting English Stirrup Length

To adjust your stirrups to the proper length, pull on the end of the stirrup leather until the buckle slides out where you can reach it. Hold the outside of the buckle and pull up on the strap.

- To shorten the leathers, pull the buckle higher on the leather, closer to the saddle.
- To make them longer, slide the buckle down farther from the saddle.

When you have adjusted the stirrups, check the length again and be sure that they are even.

Pull the buckle back up under the skirt until it touches the stirrup bar so that it will not rub your leg and cause discomfort. The spare end of the stirrup leather can be tucked back into the keeper on the saddle.

When adjusting stirrups for a mounted student ask them to hook their leg over the knee roll on the horse's shoulder.

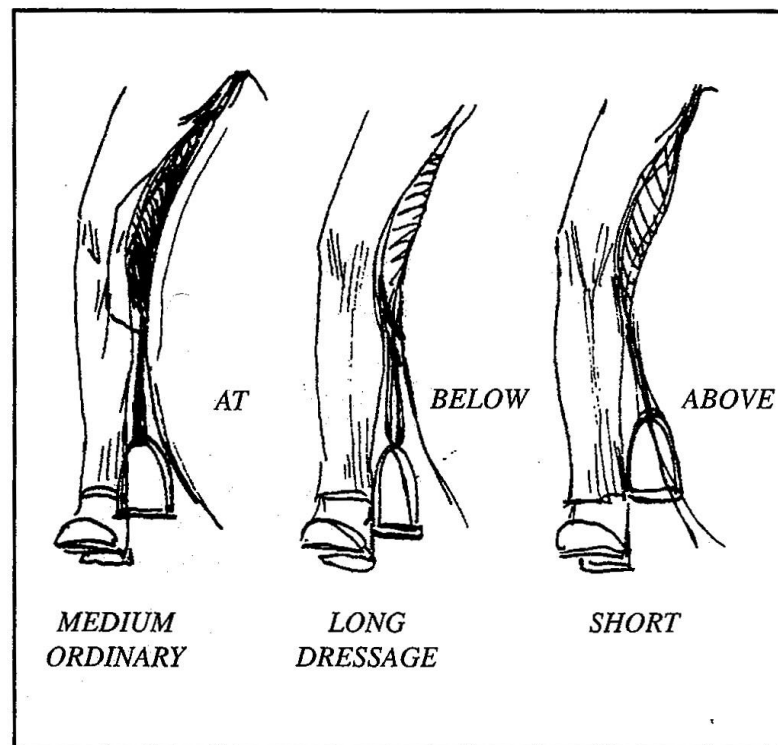


Checking English Stirrup Length When Mounted

To check the stirrups when you are mounted.

- Sit in the middle of the saddle with your feet hanging straight down. The bottom of the irons should tap your feet at just about the ankle bone.
- For riding the sitting trot and canter, the stirrups should be just below the ankle bone.
- For jumping or a more forward seat, the stirrups should be just above the ankle.
- Right at the ankle bone is a good all around length.

Never slip your feet into the stirrup straps instead of the stirrups if the stirrups won't go short enough for your legs. You could get a foot caught in the strap, which is very dangerous.



✦ **When checking stirrups for a mounted rider, you will also use the same ankle position as a guide.**

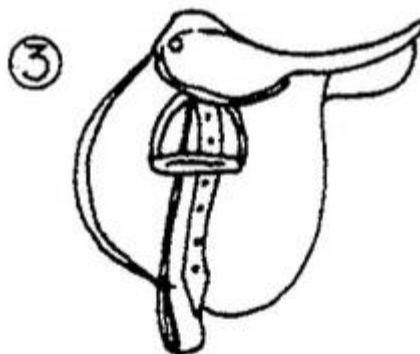
Running up English Stirrups



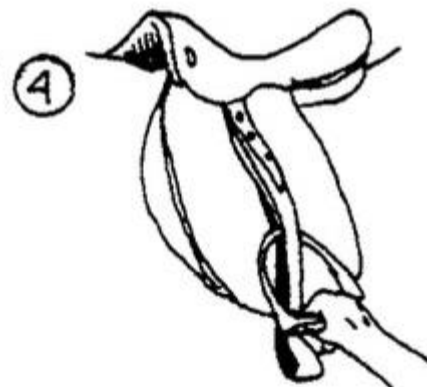
THE STIRRUP IRON
IS SLID UP UNDER
THE SKIRT ON THE
UNDERNEATH PART OF
THE STIRRUP LEATHER



THE STIRRUP LEATHERS
ARE THEN PULLED
THROUGH THE IRON



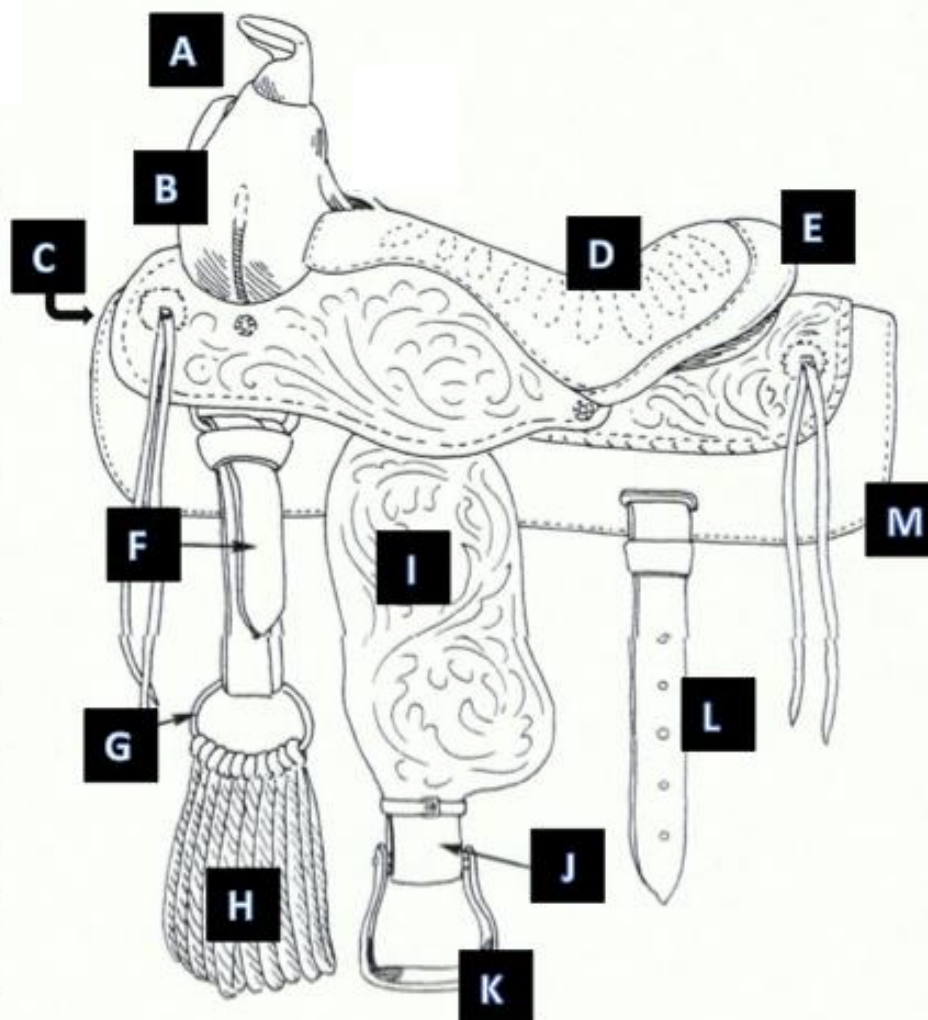
BE SURE THAT THE
STIRRUP IRON IS RUN
UP SO THAT IT IS SNUG
UNDER THE SKIRT AND
WILL NOT COME DOWN



STIRRUPS IRONS ARE
PULLED DOWN
QUIETLY FOR RIDING

Parts of a Western Saddle

- A Horn
- B Pommel
- C Gullet
- D Seat
- E Cantle
- F Long Latigo
- G Cinch Buckle
- H Cinch
- I Fender
- J Stirrup Leather
- K Stirrup
- L Rear Cinch Strap
- M Skirt



How to Tack Western

Place the pad or blanket high on the withers, then slide it backward onto the withers and back. If a blanket is used, always place the folded edge toward the horse's withers. The front folded edge should align with the middle of the horse's shoulder.

Pick up the saddle and bring the right stirrup and cinch over the seat. Holding the gullet in your left hand and the cantle in your right hand, gently place the saddle on the horse's back.

The front edge of the pad should be in line with the center of the shoulder. The saddle should be centered and placed about three inches behind the front edge of the pad. Place your hand under the blanket, pulling the blanket into the gullet of the saddle so it does not wear on the withers and back.

Go to the right (off side) of the horse and gently lift the stirrup and cinch down. Check the saddle and pad to be sure the pad is smooth and the cinch is not twisted.

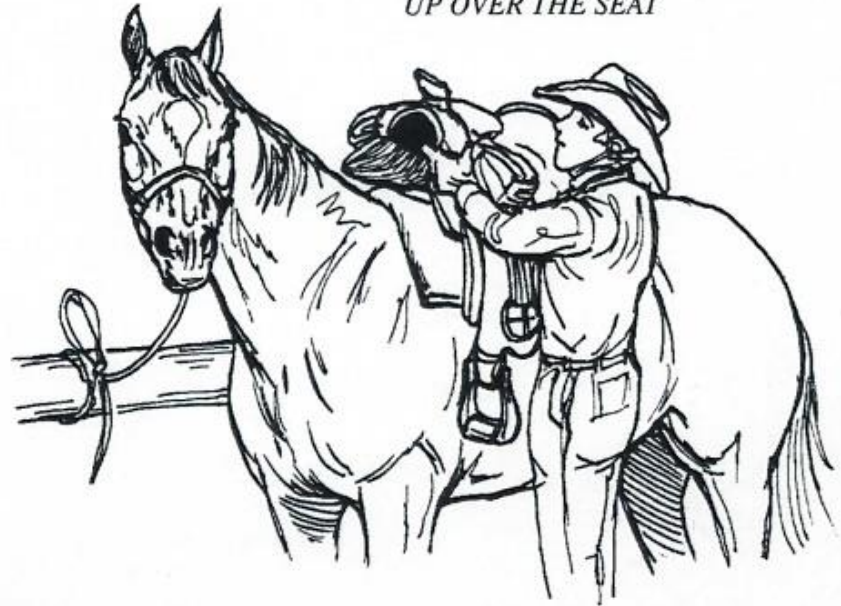
Then from the left (near side), hook the stirrup over the horn and pull the cinch under the horse. The cinch is tied with a special knot (latigo knot).

Before mounting, a final check of the cinch and your tack should be made by you and your instructor.

FIVE RIVERS
METROPARKS



*FOLD THE STIRRUP
UP OVER THE SEAT*



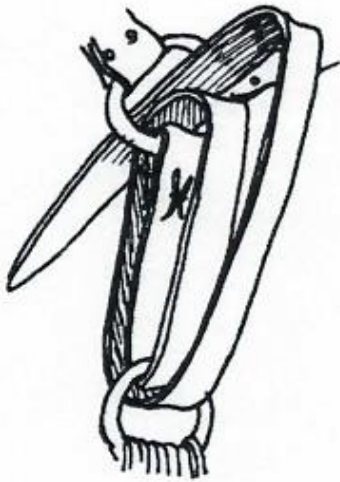
*THE FRONT FOLD OF THE BLANKET
COMES TO THE CENTER OF THE SHOULDER*

SET THE SADDLE GENTLY IN PLACE

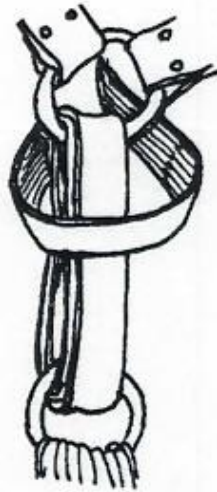
How to Tack Western

Tying the Latigo Knot

THE LATIGO KNOT



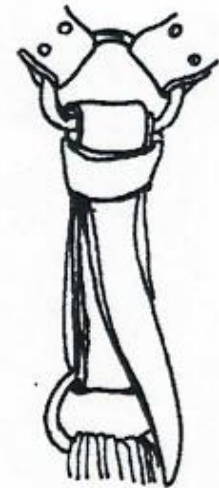
THE LONG LATIGO
GOES AROUND THE
CINCH RING AND THE
SADDLE RING TWICE



WRAP THE LATIGO
AROUND ITSELF
MAKING A LOOP



PULL THE END (TONGUE)
THROUGH THE BACK
OF THE SADDLE RING
AND THEN DOWN
THROUGH THE LOOP



TIGHTEN BY
PULLING THE END
OR TONGUE DOWN

Checking Western Stirrup Length

Western stirrup length is difficult to check from the ground. You may have to mount to check the length.

- Stand straight up with both feet in the stirrups. Keep your heels lower than your toes and your knees bent. When standing up, there should be a space about 2 1/2" to 3" (a hand's width) between your seat and the seat of the saddle.
- If you can't fit any fingers between you and the saddle, or if you can't stand up with your heels down, your stirrups may be too long.
- If you can fit a whole fist between your seat and the saddle, your stirrups are too short.

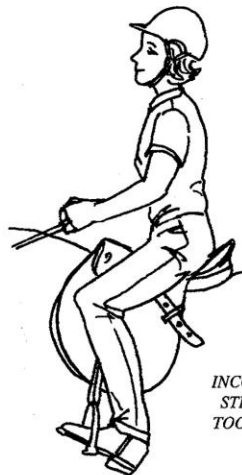
Western stirrups are best adjusted from the ground. You may have to dismount to fix the stirrup length if it is too long or short or ask someone to help you. The stirrup leathers may have buckles or a slide fastener.

- To shorten the stirrups, slide the fastener or buckle up closer to the saddle. To make them longer, slide it down. Be sure to get both stirrups even.

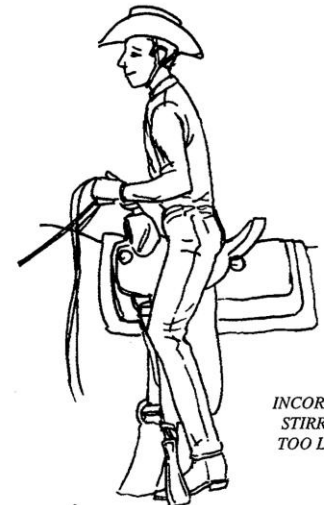
Never slip your feet into the stirrup straps instead of the stirrups if the stirrups won't go short enough for your legs. You could get a foot caught in the strap, which is very dangerous.



CHECKING
WESTERN STIRRUP LENGTH
AFTER MOUNTING



INCORRECT
STIRRUPS
TOO SHORT

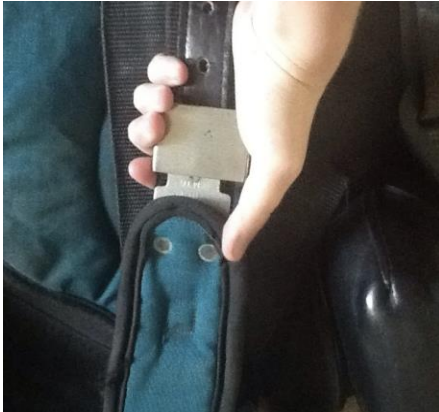


INCORRECT
STIRRUPS
TOO LONG

Adjusting Western Stirrup Length

Note: Most of the saddles at CHRC have this style of buckle adjustment.

1



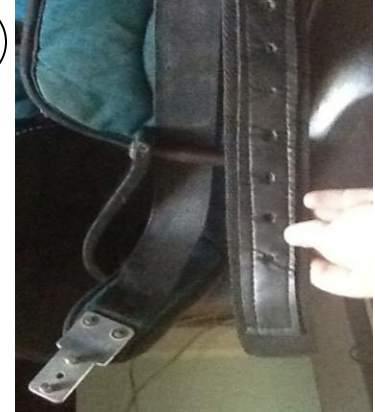
Take stirrup in your hand at the quick slide.

2



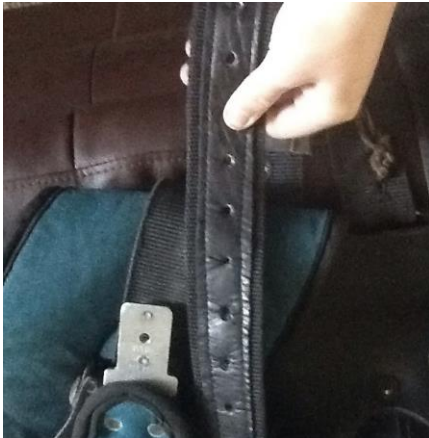
Slide the quick slide up (it may take some work to make it move).

3



Count the number of holes it needs to move.

4



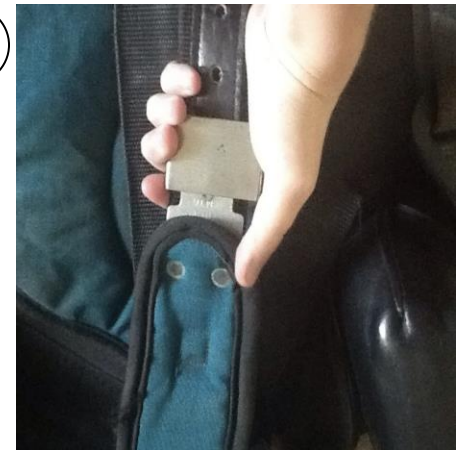
Place your thumb on the hole above where you need to put the buckle (silver part in image above).

5



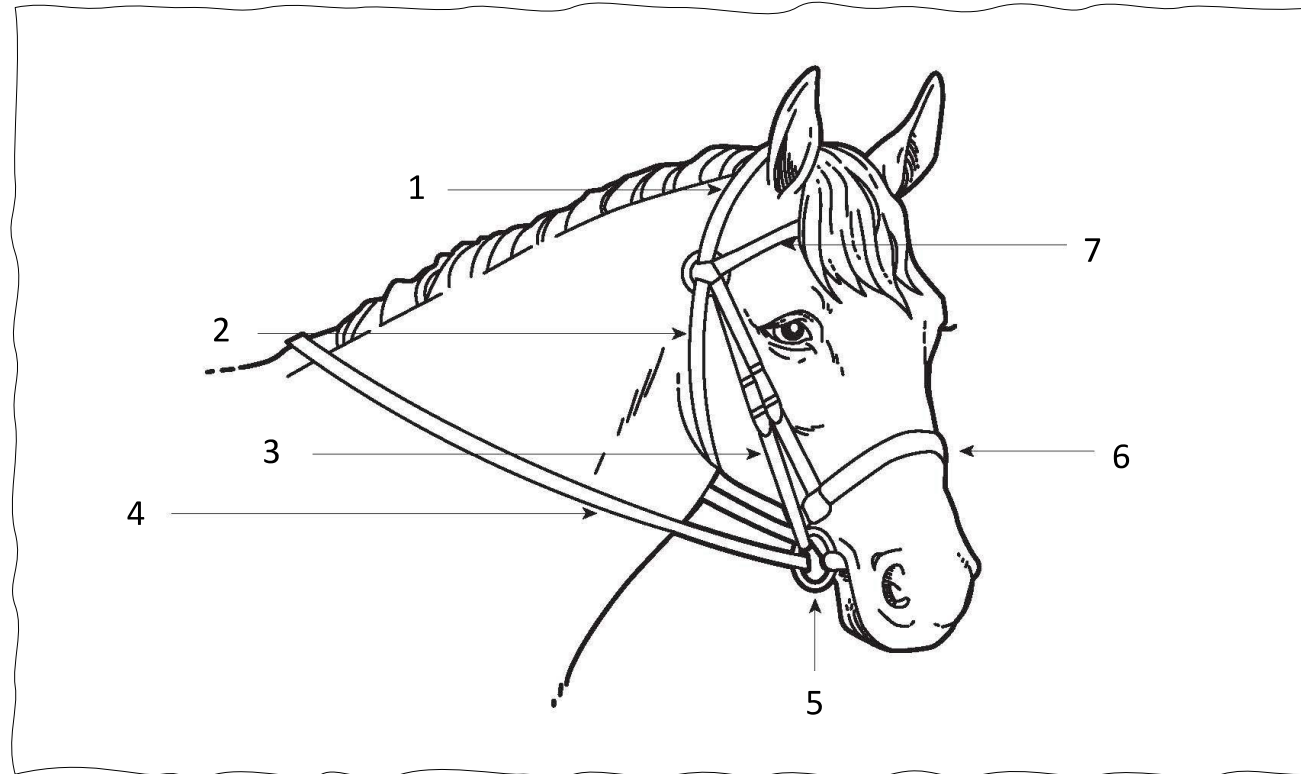
Slide the quick slide down over the buckle.

6



Make sure the quick slide is fully seated.

Parts of the Bridle



1: Headpiece / Crown Piece

2: Throatlatch

3: Cheek Piece

4: Reins

5: Bit

6: Noseband / Cavesson

7: Browband

Bridling a horse

Stand on the horse's left side and place the reins over the head around his neck in order to keep the reins from falling to the ground and for control of the horse. The horse should always be untied before bridling.



Method 1

- Hold the crown piece in the right hand and the bit in the left.
- Reach over the horse's head and bring the crown piece up toward the horse's ears.
- Place the bit between the horse's lips. If the horse fails to open his mouth, put your thumb in the side of his mouth and press down on the horse's bars (the area where the bit lies where there are no teeth).
- Raise the crown piece and guide the bit carefully into the horse's mouth.
- Slip the crown piece gently over one ear and then the other, bringing the ears forward, trying not to bend them.
- Straighten the browband and the forelock. Your instructor may suggest an alternate method.

When using one-eared bridles, place the right ear in the earpiece and slide the rest of the crown piece over the left ear.

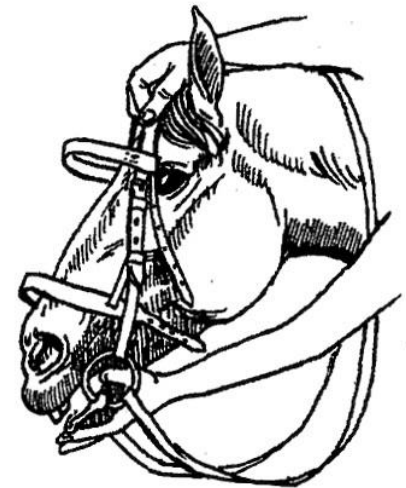
Buckle the throatlatch loosely enough so that your hand can be inserted breadth wise between the throatlatch and the throat of the horse.

Fasten the cavesson or noseband on an English bridle so that one or two fingers can be inserted between the cavesson and the horse's jaw bone.

Adjust the curb chain or strap so that it is not twisted and so that two fingers can be inserted between the strap and the horse's jaw.



*HOLD THE CROWN
PIECE IN THE RIGHT
HAND AND THE BIT
IN THE LEFT*



*PLACE THE BIT BETWEEN THE HORSE'S LIPS
BE CAREFUL NOT TO HIT THE HORSE'S TEETH
WITH THE BIT*

NO FINGERS IN FRONT OF TEETH

Bridling a horse

Stand on the horse's left side and place the reins over the head around his neck in order to keep the reins from falling to the ground and for control of the horse. The horse should always be untied before bridling.



Method 2

- Hold the bridle below the browband in the right hand and the bit in the left.
- Bring the crown piece up toward the horse's ears.
- Place the bit between the horse's lips. If the horse fails to open his mouth, put your thumb in the side of his mouth and press down on the horse's bars (the area in which the bit lies where there are no teeth).
- Raise the crown piece and guide the bit carefully into the horse's mouth.
- Slip the crown piece gently over one ear and then the other, bringing the ears forward, trying not to bend them.
- Straighten the browband and the forelock. Your instructor may suggest an alternate method.

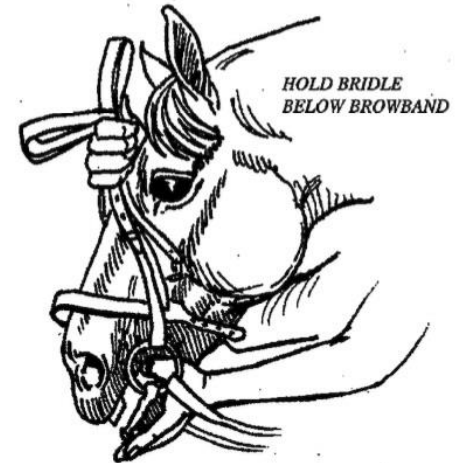
Buckle the throatlatch loosely enough so that your hand can be inserted breadth wise between the throatlatch and the throat of the horse.

Fasten the cavesson or noseband on an English bridle so that one or two fingers can be inserted between the cavesson and the horse's jaw bone.

Adjust the curb chain or strap so that it is not twisted and so that two fingers can be inserted between the strap and the horse's jaw.



WRONG WAY TO PUT
THE BIT IN HIS MOUTH



HOLD BRIDLE
BELOW BROWBAND

PRESS THUMB INTO LIPS TO
MAKE HIM OPEN HIS MOUTH
BE CAREFUL NOT TO HIT HIS TEETH WITH THE BIT

FINGERS GUIDE THE CURB STRAP



BUCKLE THROATLATCH
(NOT TOO TIGHT)

ENGLISH CAVESSON BUCKLES INSIDE
THE BRIDLE'S CHEEK PIECES

SECTION 4

Safety Check

✦ Even though this Safety Check is written for the lesson student, you can also use it as a guide when you are assisting with the mounting of Trail Ride customers and students.

Prior to mounting, students are asked to perform a safety check consisting of:

1. Helmet – the helmet should fit on the head without wobbling; the chin strap should be tight enough that it cannot be pulled over the student's chin; there should be a two-finger width between helmet and the rider's eyebrows.
2. Girth – In the crossies, girths should be just tight enough to fit four fingers underneath at center between the horse's front legs (this will give them some breathing room, but if they shake or when they are led to the arena the saddle will not shift. BEFORE assisting a rider onto the saddle, the girth should be checked one more time and be tightened so just two fingertips can slide in at the center of the girth. Instructors or assistants will check the girth one final time after the rider has walked a lap or two.
3. Stirrups (English) – Students will run down the English stirrups in preparation for mounting.
4. Reins – The reins are drawn over the horse's head and on to their necks from the leading position to the riding position.

SECTION 5

Terminology

General Terms:

- Mare: A female horse 4 years and older.
- Gelding: A castrated male horse.
- Stallion: A male horse that has not been castrated.
- Foal: A baby horse (or pony) still with its mother.
- Weanling: A horse under one year old that has been weaned (taken away) from its mother.
- Filly: A female horse under 4 years old.
- Colt: A male horse under 4 years old (that has not been castrated).
- Hand: The most common way to measure a horse. One hand = 4 inches.
- Tack: The bridle, saddle, bit, girths, saddle pads, lead ropes, halters and any other equipment used in handling/working the horse.



Terminology

Gaits:

- Walk: The slowest pace a horse moves. A walk is four beats.
- Trot: The trot is the next fastest gait a horse moves at. It is a two-beat gait that feels similar to an up and down bounce.
- Canter: The canter is the next fastest gait, commonly referred to as a lope in western disciplines. It is a three-beat gait that feels similar to a smooth rolling motion.
- Gallop: The fastest gait. A gallop looks very similar to a canter.



Buckeye walking



Jorge trotting



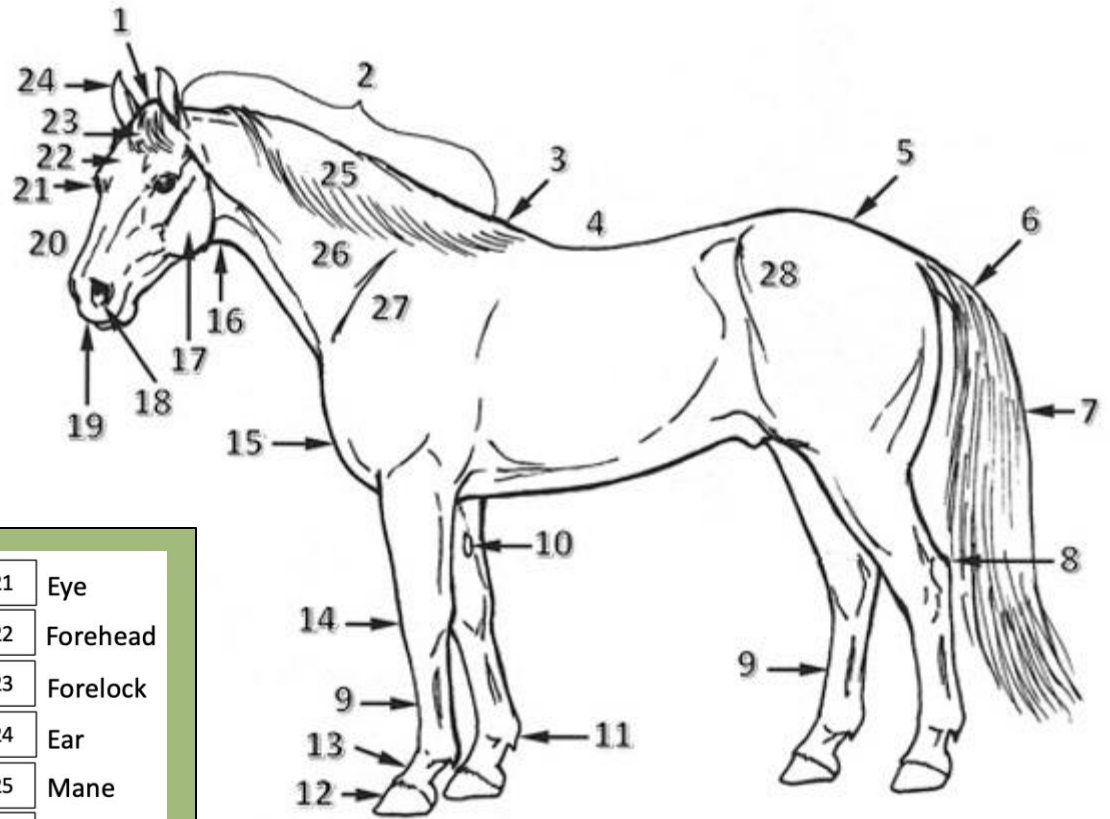
Lena galloping



Duncan cantering

Terminology

Parts of the Horse



1	Poll	11	Fetlock	21	Eye
2	Crest	12	Hoof	22	Forehead
3	Withers	13	Pastern	23	Forelock
4	Back	14	Knee	24	Ear
5	Croup	15	Chest	25	Mane
6	Dock	16	Throat	26	Neck
7	Tail	17	Cheek	27	Shoulder
8	Hock	18	Nostril	28	Hip
9	Cannon	19	Muzzle		
10	Chestnut	20	Face		

Section 6

Colors

[Click on the name of the color to learn more](#)

Bay



Buckskin



Chestnut/Sorrel



Brown



Black



Gray



Dun



Palomino



Roan



Pinto and Appaloosa



Colors

Bay

➤ Bay- A bay has a brown body color varying from a light golden brown to a dark almost black color. They always have dark points (usually black) including the mane, tail, muzzle, tips of ears and legs.

➤ Examples of bay horses at CHRC (approximately lightest to darkest) : Sassy, Legacy, Eclipse, Monday, Biscuit, Buckeye



Biscuit



Sassy

Colors

Gray

➤ Gray- Gray horses are unique in their color. When they are born they are black or dark gray and lighten with age. They can have a variety of patterns such as rose gray, dapple gray or flea bitten. No matter what color pattern they have, all gray horses will get lighter and lighter as they age until they look almost white in color.

➤ Examples of gray horses at CHRC: Lena

➤ All of the horses at the CH Historical Farm are grays



Lena's color in 2008 vs 2020



Lena

Colors

Buckskin

➤ Buckskin- A buckskin has the same dark points as a bay. Their body color ranges from a light shade of tan to a dark golden color.

➤ Examples of buckskin horses at CHRC: Sam



Sam



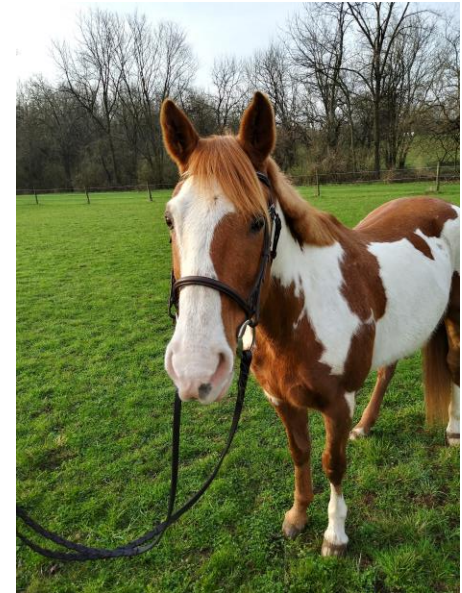
Colors

Chestnut

➤ Chestnut/Sorrel - Although these two colors are genetically the same, they are commonly viewed differently. Sometimes sorrel is used to describe a slightly lighter shade than chestnut, but in general both terms describe the same color. Sorrel is used more commonly in the western USA and in Western riding disciplines and chestnut is more common in the eastern USA and in the UK and in English riding disciplines.

➤ Chestnut horses at CHRC:

- Classic chestnut: Drifter
- Flaxen chestnut (light mane and tail): Sunny and Pongo
- Chestnut and white pinto: Darcy



Darcy



Drifter



Pongo

Colors

Brown

➤ Brown- A brown horse is just like it sounds. The body, mane and tail are all brown and can vary in shades. They can have white face or leg markings.

➤ Currently there are no brown horses at CHRC



Colors

Black

✦ Black- A black horse is just like it sounds. The body, mane and tail are all black. They can have white face or leg markings.

✦ Currently there are no true black horses at CHRC.



Colors

Colors: Pinto and Appaloosa

➤ Pinto- Pinto horses have large patches of white and some dark color. They can either be primarily white or primarily the darker color. Most commonly the darker color is either black or reddish brown. The word "paint" is also often used synonymously with pinto, but a Paint is actually a breed of horse that often demonstrates the pinto coloration.

➤ Pintos at CHRC: Oreo, Darcy

➤ TeeJay is a registered Paint who does not have the pinto coloration

➤ Appaloosa- Appaloosa is a breed of horse characterized by a coat pattern that consists of smaller spots, either white on a dark base or dark on a white base. The patterns themselves are technically called a "leopard complex" but that term is not commonly used in the USA.

➤ Sam and Jesse have leopard patterning



Oreo



Darcy



Jesse



Sam

Colors

Palomino

- Palomino- Palomino horses have a golden body color and a flaxen (blond or white) mane and tail. The body color can range from a light creamy color to a deep golden. The mane and tail can be almost white to a golden blend.
- Currently there are no palomino horses at CHRC



Colors

Roan

➤ Roan- Red Roan horses have a chestnut coat with white hairs mixed in that gives a reddish look. Blue Roans have a black base coat with white hairs that give a bluish-gray look.

➤ Jesse is a varnish roan, which is not a true roan but includes the elements of darker legs. Varnish roans are darker when they are born and the white hairs gradually spread outward from white points as they age.



Blue Roan



Red Roan



**Jesse – Varnish Roan
(2008 to 2018)**

Colors

Dun

➤ Dun- Dun horses are a “diluted” coloring of whatever base color the horse is. You will hear the terms yellow dun, red dun, brown dun and many others. For example, a chestnut with dun qualities would be a few shades lighter than a chestnut in the body, but the mane, tale and other dun points would be the standard chestnut color. Some of the basic “dun” qualities are a dorsal stripe, mask over the face, zebra striping on upper legs and darker hair around the outline of the ears.

➤ Examples of dun horses at CHRC: Duncan (red dun), Jorge (brown dun), Hank and TeeJay (both blue dun, also called “grullo”)



Duncan (red dun)



Jorge (brown dun)



Hank (blue dun or “grullo”)



**Teejay
(blue dun or “grullo”)**

Summary

Remember, you are a representative of Five Rivers MetroParks. It is your responsibility to act in a professional and courteous manner with the public at all times. Our utmost concern is the safety of our horses and riders. We want to demonstrate a safe, fun, and exciting environment for everyone to enjoy!

