



Irish Pony Club

B Test Horse Care

Disc Colour: **Brown**

Candidate Requirements:

- Candidates must be in their 16th year or older at the time of taking the B Horse Care.
- Candidates may proceed from C+ to B Horse Care, if successful candidates may continue to the Lungeing test and H test.
- Candidates taking the complete B test (Riding and Horse Care) should attempt both modules together on their first attempt, however, if they are not successful in one module, they have only to re-sit the module they were unsuccessful in.
- Candidates who only wish to sit the Horse Care module do not have to present for the Riding module.
- Candidates can wear Pony Club sweatshirt or jumper (no hood), white, beige, plain black or plain navy jodhpur.

Outcomes:

Candidates should be aware of the 5 Welfares / Freedoms of the Horse. Candidates should be capable of a high standard of care and turn out.

Candidates should follow standard daily, yard routine and be confident in basic yard maintenance.

Format:

There are 9 topics which candidates are expected to show good knowledge and understanding of.

The assessment will take place in a stable yard environment and candidates will be expected to discuss and demonstrate various elements of each topic.

Please note this test card only outlines the Horse Care module, please see the B Test Riding test card for details on the Riding module.

Topic 1:

Stable design:

Candidates should show a good knowledge of stable design and be able to discuss the following points:

- Health and safety awareness
- Fire and disease prevention
- Access a stable for suitability and design
- Stable fittings
- Ventilation, drainage, light, warmth and bedding
- Location of feed room, hay barn, muck heap
- Location of tack room
- Seasonal management of fields
- Awareness of good environmental practice

Topic 2:

Tack:

Candidates should show a good knowledge of tack and be able to discuss and / or demonstrate the following points:

- Organisation of tack room and relevant facilities
- Inspect tack for safety and soundness
- Recognise and understand the effect of types of martingales
- Recognise and understand the effect of types of snaffle bits
- Recognise and understand the effect of types of nosebands
- Different types of reins
- Fit a snaffle bridle and saddle
- Fit a Double bridle
- The action of the double bridle and name all parts
- How to clean and store, tack, boots
- Identify a variety of boots and how they protect the horses' legs

Topic 3

Rugs:

Candidates should show a good knowledge of rugs and be able to discuss and / or demonstrate the following points:

- How best to store rugs
- How to maintain and clean rugs
- Fit a variety of rugs
- Recognise various types of rugs and their uses

Topic 4

Travel:

Candidates should show a good knowledge of travel and be able to discuss and / or demonstrate the following points:

- Know the importance of safety and roadworthiness of a trailer/lorry
- The equipment taken to a competition
- The documents that must accompany the horse on any journey
- Tail guards / tail bandages
- Put on a travel bandage
- Travel boots, travel bandages
- Ways of assisting a difficult horse to load
- Travel first aid kit for the horse

Topic 5:

Conformation:

Candidates should show a good knowledge of confirmation and be able to discuss and / or demonstrate the following points:

- Recognise good and poor conformation
- Understand how this will effect the way of going, soundness
- Show a horse in hand and discuss step and type

Topic 6:

Foot and shoeing:

Candidates should show a good knowledge of foot and shoeing and be able to discuss and / or demonstrate the following points:

- Recognise a well shod hoof
- Identify a variety of commonly used shoes
- Identify the farriers' tools and know their uses
- How a shoe is removed and fitted
- Comparison of hot and cold shoeing
- The internal structure of the hoof
- Management and products to assist in a healthy hoof
- How to treat common foot ailments, stone bruise, corn, nail bind, abscess etc
- Types and use of studs

Topic 7:

Feeding:

Candidates should show a good knowledge of feeding and be able to discuss the following points:

- Rules of watering and feeding
- Understand the importance of clean fresh water
- Understand the importance of roughage in the diet and explain the different types of roughage that can be fed
- Recognise different types of feed and how to prepare them
- How to prepare all types of beet pulp
- The reasons why you feed such feeds and why you would need to feed some feeds together to maintain a balanced diet
- Explain any supplements you use on your own horse and why you feed them
- The diet of a horse on stable rest.
- The weight of the horses daily feed, what percentage is roughage / hard feed
- Explain your daily feeding regime (e.g. how many times a day you feed roughage / hard feed and why)
- Basic knowledge of the digestive system
- Different issues that can arise, colic, laminitis, ulcers, choke. Signs, causes and treatment.
- Care of teeth and problems that could arise, how often should you get a dentist and basic knowledge of ageing a horse.
- How some dental problems can cause digestive issues
- Annual worming programme
- Know when a grass kept horse may need extra feed

Topic 8:

Fittening:

Candidates should show a good knowledge of fittening rugs and be able to discuss and / or demonstrate the following points:

- Bringing a horse back to work from grass
- Interval training
- Tying up / azoturia
- The increase of hard feed as fitness progresses
- A typical week in the fitness programme
- The importance of electrolytes
- Issues that may affect a horses fitness programme
- Have a basic knowledge of the horse's respiration system
- The importance of warming up and cooling down
- Care and management of a horse before, during and after a strenuous competition

Topic 9:

Health and Welfare:

Candidates should show a good knowledge of fittening rugs and be able to discuss and / or demonstrate the following points:

- Temperature, pulse, respiration of a horse at rest
- How to take Temperature, pulse, respiration
- Essential vaccinations required
- Vaccination record keeping and appropriate timing of vaccinations
- Signs of good health
- Contents of your veterinary cupboard
- Daily health checks of competition / leisure horse
- Identify the internal structure of the front leg from the knee down
- The points of the horse
- Symptoms of lameness and common causes
- Symptoms of viral infections (i.e. common cold / equine influenza)
- Symptoms of bacterial infections (i.e. strangles, mud fever. Preventative measures)
- Symptoms of fungal infections, (i.e. ringworm, thrush. Preventative measures)
- Various bursal enlargements
- Various bony enlargement
- Various types of strains, sprains
- Various types of wounds and their treatment
- Various types of poultice and when and how to apply them
- Hot and cold treatments
- When to call a vet
- Sick nursing, care and isolation
- Put on a stable bandage, to hold a dressing or for comfort