



Irish Pony Club

H Test

Disc Colour: **Orange**

Candidate Requirements:

- Candidates must have passed their B test or B test Horse Care.
- Candidates must have passed their Lungeing test before sitting their H test.
- Candidates must be in their 18th year to sit their H.

Outcomes:

Candidates should be able to look after a small mixed yard, (stabled and grass kept horses) for up to one month with minimal direction.

Format:

Candidates will be in groups of two or three.

Candidates will rotate through every station throughout the day, each station will have an individual assessor.

Candidates should come dressed in jodhpurs- white, beige, plain black or plain navy jodhpurs, boots, IPC sweatshirts, with skull caps and gloves at hand.

The assessment will consist of five sections, details of what knowledge is expected in each section is outlined below.

Section A (40 mins) One horse in a stable.

A.1 Handling:

- FEI code of conduct
- Be aware of five freedoms / welfares of the horse
- Be aware of horse's behaviour and safe practice when handling (Emphasis on safe working procedures and the importance of good stable manners)
- Importance of morning and evening inspection
- Dealing with a cast horse in the box, and subsequent care
- Trotting a horse up for show or veterinary inspection
- Basic knowledge of the Nervous and Sensory Systems

A.2 Foot and Shoeing:

- The structure of a horse's foot and recognition of a well-shaped foot
- Balance and limb deviance
- Identify a selection of shoes, corrective shoes, pads, etc. Know when they might be used and why.
- The use of studs and pins
- Hoof care management
- Diseases and ailments of the foot
- Care and treatment of a foot abscess
- Select and apply a foot poultice

Section B (40 mins) One horse in a stable.

B. 1 Breeding:

- Discuss factors you would consider before breeding a foal in Ireland (all breeds included) including the importance of temperament, performance, and identifying the end user, and especially about finances and facilities required
- Discuss best practice when looking after breeding mares
- Discuss your approach to riding different genders of horse
- The reproductive system of the mare, pregnancy, veterinary assistance for the in-foal mare, foaling facilities, signs that foaling is imminent, care of a newborn foal and mare post foaling
- Discuss available breeding methods in Ireland and worldwide (embryo transfer, AI, ICSI etc)
- Discuss handling and care of young horses from foal, to weaning, to three-year-olds, including the decision to geld or leave entire.

B. 2 Common Ailments and Injuries:

- Importance of observations and management which can prevent common ailments or injuries
- Knowledge of vaccinations, timing and recording
- Discuss bacterial, viral and fungal infections, preventive measures and treatment
- Discuss laminitis, rain scald and treatment
- Discuss bony enlargements, location, common causes and treatment
- Discuss fractures and treatment
- Discuss bursal enlargements, location, common causes and treatment
- Correct protocol for dealing with death of a horse
- Strains, sprains and treatment
- Cuts, wounds, eye injury types and treatment
- Bruising, inflammation and treatment
- How to deal severe bleeding

B. 3 Sick nursing:

- Knowledge of temperature, pulse, respiration
- Discuss when isolation is required and best practice
- Knowledge of tubbing, hosing etc.
- Knowledge hot and cold treatments
- Knowledge of and ability to select and apply a poultice (different types will be available to select from)
- Select and apply a stable bandage
- Basic knowledge of the Circulatory, Lymphatic and Endocrine systems
- Be aware of veterinary directional terms

Section C (40 mins) One horse in a stable.

C.1 Stable and yard design:

- Discuss the planning of good yard design, stables, lighting, ventilation and water systems
- Location of manure heap, feed room, hay shed etc
- Precautions for fire, burglary, and safety for humans and horses
- Daily office management and record keeping
- Maintenance and upkeep of yard, arenas etc

C. 2 Design of tack room, fitting of tack:

- Discuss the layout of the tack room, maintenance, care and storage
- Recognise bits in everyday use and in competition including double bridle
- Describe the families of bits and their actions
- Be able to fit required tack and boots for different disciplines
- Select and apply an exercise wrap

C. 3 Field Management:

- Discuss yearly maintenance for equine grazing
- Discuss mixed grazing, harrowing and topping
- Discuss Rotating and resting fields
- Understanding of Equine Atypical Myopathy
- Discuss sustainable and environmentally friendly grassland management
- Discuss feeding value of a variety of grasses and herbage
- Discuss the use of chemicals and safety precautions for humans and horses
- Discuss other considerations, secure fencing, shelter, water etc

C.4 Conformation:

- Describe a horse, type and suitability for a specific job
- Demonstrate knowledge of Linear scoring
- Name the bones of the horses Axial and Appendicular Skeleton
- Name the major superficial muscles of the horse and know how the skeletal and muscular systems effect conformation
- Show knowledge of warranties and declarations related to the sale of horses
- Identify what is involved in a five-stage vetting
- Show knowledge of complementary therapies for the maintenance of peak performance / longevity in horses

Section D: (40 mins) One horse in a stable.

D. 1 Grooming Procedure:

- Discuss the thorough grooming process, reasons and benefits
- Discuss the difference between quatering and strapping and benefits
- Discuss the correct process of washing the horses sheath and reasons for this
- Discuss different types of grooming equipment
- Discuss appropriate care of the horse after hard work, washing down / cooling off and what rugs are suitable for this process

D. 2 Trimming and plaiting section:

- Discuss different methods of pulling, trimming manes, tails, heels, and different equipment used.
- Demonstrate how to plait a mane

D. 3 Clipping:

- Discuss the care and maintenance of different types of clipping machines and blades, how to fit and adjust the blades
- Show knowledge of correct safety attire for handlers
- Describe the preparation of the horse and the clipping area, note the special requirements for the young or nervous horse
- Humane methods of restraint for clipping
- Discuss the care of the horse immediately after clipping

D. 4 Travelling and loading:

- Knowledge of required documents to accompany the horse on every trip
- Knowledge of safety checks on lorry or trailer
- Discuss care of horse on a long journey
- Discuss loading a difficult horse
- Knowledge of different types of travel equipment for the horse
- Demonstrate correct fitting of rugs
- Select and apply a travel bandage

Section E: (40 mins) One horse in a stable.

E. 1 Feeding:

- Describe the alimentary canal starting with the whiskers
- Common ailments of the digestive systems (Eg: Ulcers, colic, choke etc.)
- Discuss dietary management for prevention of colic, ulcers and laminitis etc.
- Knowledge and recognition of different feed stuffs available
- Understand the importance of constant clean fresh water
- Show knowledge and understanding of feed value and importance of roughage in the horses diet and explain the different types of roughage that can be fed
- Discuss how hay / haylage is made and stored
- Show knowledge of nutritional requirements of the horse at different levels of fitness and age
- Understanding of different nutrients contained in different grains and which would you combine for a balanced diet.
- Knowledge of various compound feeds
- Discuss the nutritional content of various types of feed and selecting a suitable feed for each individual horse (eg: young horses, leisure, competition, etc.)
- Recognise different types of feeds and how to prepare them
- Discuss the effect that different types of feed could have on behaviour / condition
- Show knowledge of supplements and additives, including herbal supplements.
- Discuss an annual worming programme. How often should you worm? Discuss the worming cycle and different worms and when you should worm for various types
- Discuss care of teeth and problems that can arise. How often should you get the dentist and basic ageing of a horse
- Knowledge of how to check for sharpness, wolf teeth etc.
- Discuss how some dental issues can cause digestive issues

E. 2 Fitting:

- Knowledge of a basic 6 - 8-week fitting programme, taking into account the horses age, previous experience
- What further fitness is required for an event horse, show jumper, dressage and longdistance
- Different fitting methods, interval training
- Discuss importance of warm up and cool down
- Discuss azoturia and how to avoid it
- Discuss different ways of getting a horse fit such as hydrotherapy, treadmills etc.
- Discuss methods of monitoring the horse fitness
- Show knowledge of recognising and dealing with symptoms of pain, exhaustion, stress, dehydration
- Be aware of common ailments or injuries that can arise during the fitting and how to prevent them.