



Maryland 4-H Horsemanship Standards Knowledge Study Guides



The study guides below are provided to help members prepare for the Maryland 4-H Horsemanship Knowledge Standards. Required knowledge is outlined for each level, along with suggested resources for each section. However, the lists of references are by no means complete. The information required for the Knowledge Standards 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.

SUGGESTED RESOURCES:

- Horse and Horsemanship (HHH)*, National 4-H Council
Horse Science (HS), National 4-H Council
The Normal Animal (NA) - Veterinary Science Unit 1
Animal Diseases (AD) - Veterinary Science Unit 2
Giddy up and Go – 4-HCCS Horse Science 1, Phone: (800) 876-8636
Head, Heart and Hooves– 4-HCCS Horse Science 2, Phone: (800) 876-8636
Stable Relationships – 4-HCCS Horse Science 3, Phone: (800) 876-8636
Riding the Range– 4-HCCS Horse Science 4, Phone: (800) 876-8636
Jumping to New Heights – 4-HCCS Horse Science 5, Phone: (800) 876-8636
Horse Helper's Guide – 4-HCCS , Phone: (800) 876-8636
The Horse, 2nd edition (**EVANS**), By Evans, Borton, Hintz, Van Vleck. W. H. Freeman and Company, 660 Market St., San Francisco, California, 94104
Phone: (415) 391-5870
Horse Industry Handbook (HIH), *The American Youth Horse Council*
4093 Iron Works Pike, Lexington, KY 40511-8434 Phone: (800) 879-2942
Feeding And Care Of The Horse, 2nd edition (**LEWIS**), by Lon D. Lewis Williams and Wilkens, P. O. Box 1496, Baltimore MD 21298-9724 Phone: (800) 638-0672
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 Phone: (800) 777-7257 Fax: (970) 667-9157
Illustrated Dictionary of Equine Terms, New Horizons Education Center, Inc. Alpine Publications, PO BOX 7027, Loveland, CO 80537 Ph: 800-777-7257, Fx: 970-667-9157
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 Phone: 859-422-5522
USPC Manual of Horsemanship: The Intermediate Horsemanship through C Level, by Susan E. Harris. United States Pony Club 4041 Ironworks Parkway, Lexington KY 40511 Phone: 859-422-5522
USPC Manual of Horsemanship: The Advanced Horsemanship Through A Level, by Susan E. Harris. United States Pony Club 4041 Ironworks Parkway Lexington KY 40511 Phone: 859-422-5522

Knowledge Level 1 Study Guide

Horse Handling

- Understand and be able to safely demonstrate the following:
 - Haltering and leading a horse
 - Approaching a horse in a pasture or stall
- Suggested Resources: *Horses and Horsemanship, USPC D Manual*,

Horse Breeds, Conformation and Movement

- Be able to demonstrate knowledge of the following:
 - Identification of at least 10 basic parts of the horse's body
 - Basic horse coat colors
 - Age and sex terminology
- Suggested resources: *Horses and Horsemanship, USPC D Manual*

Grooming and Bandaging

- Be able to demonstrate and discuss the following:
 - Proper grooming techniques and use of grooming tools
 - Reasons for grooming
 - Reasons why a horse may be bandaged
- Suggested resources: *Horses and Horsemanship, USPC D Manual*

Health Care and Veterinary Knowledge

- Be able to recognize and discuss symptoms displayed by a sick or injured horse
- Suggested resources: *Horse Science, USPC D Manual*,

Nutrition

- Be able to discuss the following:
 - Common types of diets fed to horses, such as pasture, hay, grain, etc
 - Common feeding practices, such as how often and how much horses should be fed
- Suggested resources: *Horse Science, Feeding and Care of the Horse, USPC D Manual*

Stable Management and Safety

- Be able to discuss the following:
 - Actions or items that are unsafe around horses and why they are unsafe.
 - Several types of appropriate bedding for horses
- Suggested resources: *Horse Industry Handbook, USPC D Manual*

Transportation and Travel Safety

- Be able to discuss the following:
 - Ways that horses may be safely transported over short and long distances
 - How a horse should be prepared for safe travel

Suggested resources: *USPC D Manual, USPC C Manual*

Knowledge Level 2 Study Guide

Horse Handling

- Be able to safely demonstrate the following:
 - Lead a willing horse in and out of a stall
 - Tie a horse with a quick release knot
 - Perform walk trot transitions in hand
- Suggested resources: *Horses and Horsemanship, USPC D Manual*

Horse Breeds, Conformation and Movement

- Be able to demonstrate knowledge of the following:
 - Location and name of at least 15 parts of the horse
 - Description of at least five common face and leg markings
 - Names of at least four different horse and pony breeds
 - Methods for measuring a horse, as well as the difference between a pony and a horse
 - Identification and description of different coat colors and patterns
 - Identification of different gaits
- Suggested resources: *The Horse, Horses and Horsemanship, Horsing Around, Horse Anatomy- A Coloring Atlas, USPC D Manual*

Grooming and Bandaging

- Be able to demonstrate or discuss the following:
 - How a horse should be groomed and trimmed daily Proper methods and safety precautions for bathing a horse
 - At least five items that should be contained in a grooming kit for daily use
 - Describe at least three different types of boots and bandages and reasons for use
 - Apply a stable and shipping wrap with assistance
- Suggested resources: *USPC D Manual, USPC C Manual*

Health Care and Veterinary Knowledge

- Recognize symptoms of a sick or injured horse requiring veterinary care
- Be able to demonstrate knowledge of the following:
 - Normal vital signs of a healthy. Resting horse
 - Description of at least three different types of wounds
 - Reasons why routine hoof care is important, as well as how often a horse should be trimmed or shod.
- Suggested resources: *Horse Science, The Normal Animal, Horse Industry Handbook, USPC D Manual*

Nutrition

- Be able to discuss knowledge of the following:
 - At least three characteristics of quality hay and grain
 - Methods of safe storage for hay and grain
 - How to properly tie a hay net
- Suggested resources: *Feeding and Care of the Horse, Horse Science, USPC D Manual*

Stable Management and Safety

- Be able to demonstrate or discuss knowledge of the following:
 - At least three Common stable vices
 - How to clean and rebed a stall
 - Ideal stall size and design for horses and ponies.
 - Types fencing that are safe for horses
- Suggested resources: *Horse Industry Handbook, Galloping Ahead, The Horse*

Tack

- Be able to demonstrate and describe knowledge of the following:
 - Major parts of the saddle and bridle
 - Products and equipment used to clean tack
- Suggested resources: *Horses and Horsemanship, USPC D Manual*

Transportation and Travel Safety

- Be able to demonstrate knowledge of the following:
 - Preparation of a horse for safe travel
 - How to properly load a willing horse or pony for transportation
- Suggested resources: *The Horse, USPC D Manual*

Knowledge Level 3 Study Guide

Horse Breeds, Conformation and Movement

- Be able to recognize and discuss knowledge of the following:
 - Identification of at least 20 parts of the horse
 - Characteristics of different breed types, including light, draft and warmblood breeds
 - Description of color, breed, markings, size and sex of an unfamiliar horse
 - Basic conformation characteristics of a specific horse
 - Variations of gray coat color
- Suggested resources: *The Horse, Horses and Horsemanship, Horsing Around, Horse Anatomy- A Coloring Atlas, USPC D Manual*

Grooming and Bandaging

- Be able to demonstrate and discuss knowledge of the following:
 - At least three different types of body clips and why they may be used
 - How to groom and clip a horse in preparation for a show
 - Presentation of a horse for showing in different disciplines
 - Advantages and disadvantages of wrapping a horse's leg for exercise
 - Apply a stable wrap and a shipping bandage, without assistance
 - Apply protective boots, without assistance
- Suggested resources: *The Horse, Horses and Horsemanship, USPC D Manual*

Health Care and Veterinary Knowledge

- Be able to demonstrate knowledge of the following:
 - Description of a Coggins test and why it may be needed
 - Several types of wounds and how they may be treated
 - Outline of a vaccination schedule for an active show horse
 - How to measure a horse's vital signs including capillary refill time, temperature, pulse and respiration
 - Symptoms of a horse that is dehydrated
 - Recognize characteristics of a hoof that needs trimming or shoeing
- Suggested resources: *The Horse, Horses Science, Horse Industry Handbook USPC D Manual*

Nutrition

- Be able to discuss knowledge of the following:
 - Rules for feeding horses
 - How to develop a feeding schedule for a specific horse
 - The classes of nutrients fed to horses
- Suggested resources: *Feeding and Care of the Horse*

Stable Management and Barn Safety

- Be able to discuss knowledge of the following
 - Appropriate care of a horse after strenuous work
 - Characteristics of unsafe equipment
 - Methods or practices that may be used for preventing the spread of disease
- Suggested resources: *The Horse, Horses and Horsemanship, Animal Disease, USPC D Manual*

Tack

- Be able to identify and describe the following
 - Different types of snaffle and curb bits
 - Different pieces of tack. Including martingales, breastplates, etc.
 - Different types of horse blankets and why they may be used
- Suggested resources: *Horse Industry Handbook, USPC D Manual, Tack Catalogs*

Knowledge Level 4 Study Guide

Horse Breeds and Conformation

- Be able to recognize and describe knowledge of the following:
 - Conformation faults and unsoundnesses
 - Name breed characteristics for different breeds of horses
 - Footfall patterns at different gaits
 - Distinguishing characteristics of different coat color patterns
- Suggested resources: *Horses and Horsemanship, The Horse, Horse Industry Handbook*

Grooming and Bandaging

- Be able to discuss knowledge of the following:
 - Application of a poultice and why it may be used
 - Proper bandaging of wounds
- Suggested resources: *USPC C Manual*

Health Care and Veterinary Knowledge

- Be able to discuss knowledge of the following:
 - Treatment of minor wounds
 - Cause, transmission and symptoms of diseases that may affect horses in Maryland
 - A proper vaccination schedule for an active show horse
 - Characteristics of teeth of a male and female horse
 - Reasons why equine dental care is necessary
 - Reasons why a deworming program should be established
- Suggested resources: *Horse Industry Handbook, The Horse, Feeding and Care of the Horse, Animal Disease, USPC B/H-A/A Manual*

Nutrition

- Be able to discuss knowledge of the following:
 - Characteristics of different types of hay
 - Methods for measuring and weighing feeds
- Suggested resources: *Feeding and Care of the Horse*

Tack

- Be able to describe or demonstrate knowledge of the following:
 - Action and severity of different types of bits
 - Several types of horse blankets and their purpose
 - How to safely put a blanket on a horse
- Suggested resources: *The USPC Manuals, Tack Catalogs*

Stable Management and Safety

- Be able to discuss knowledge of the following:
 - Characteristics of good and bad feed, water, pasture and hay.

- Proper storage methods for feed and hay
- Types and causes of stable vices and responses
- Effective methods for external and internal parasite control in and around the stable
- Suggested resources: *The Horse, Feeding and Care of the Horse, Animal Disease*

Transportation and Travel Safety

- Be able to discuss knowledge of the following:
 - Precautions that should be taken when feeding a horse before, after and during transport.
 - Items that should be contained in a trailer safety kit
- Suggested resources: *Feeding and Care of the Horse, The USPC B/H-A/A Manual*

Knowledge Level 5 Study Guide

Horse Breeds, Color, Conformation and Movement.

- Be able to demonstrate or describe knowledge of the following:
 - Characteristics of a horse that is unsound
 - Coat color dilutions
- Suggested resources: *The Horse*

Grooming and Bandaging

- Be able to demonstrate the following
 - Application of a tail wrap and why it may be used
- Suggested resources: *USPC B/H-A/A Manual*

Healthcare and veterinary knowledge

- Be able to discuss knowledge of the following:
 - How to prepare a 6-8 week conditioning program for a specific horse and discipline
 - How to outline a vaccination and health care schedule for a specific horse
 - Transmission of different equine diseases
 - Life cycles of various internal and external parasites
 - Several different types of shoes and their specific uses
 - Characteristics of a properly shod horse
 - Prevention, causes and symptoms of colic and laminitis
- Suggested resources: *Horse Industry Handbook, Feeding and Care of the Horse, USPC B/H-A/A Manual, Animal Disease*

Breeding and Reproduction

- Be able to discuss knowledge of the following:
 - Normal estrous cycle of a mare
 - Different methods of breeding horses
 - Details of the normal gestation period of the mare
 - Normal presentation of the foal and the stages of foaling
- Suggested resources: *The Horse, Feeding and Care of the Horse*

Nutrition

- Be able to demonstrate or discuss knowledge of the following:
 - Feeding management of different types of horses
 - How to recognize characteristics various body condition scores
 - Name and describe various toxic plants in the area
 - Sources of protein, fat and carbohydrates in a typical equine ration
 - Identification of different types of feed ingredients
 - Identification of different pasture species
 - Anatomy of a horse's gastrointestinal tract and basic function of each part.
- Suggested resources: *Feeding and Care of the Horse, USPC B/H-A/A Manual, The Horse*

Stable Management and Safety

- Be able to discuss knowledge of the following:
 - Pasture safety and fencing
 - Elements of designing a stable layout
 - Elements of a fire safety plan for a horse barn
 - Importance of soil testing, fertilizers and seeding for proper soil management
 - Elements that make up a proper liability release waiver
- Suggested resources: *Horse Industry Handbook, The Horse*

Transportation and Travel Safety

- Be able to discuss knowledge of the following:
 - Possible causes and prevention of loading and unloading problems
 - Ideal dimensions of a trailer suitable for a specific horse

Suggested resources: *USPC B/H-A/A Manual*

Knowledge Level 6 Study Guide

Horse Breeds, Conformation and Movement

- Be able to discuss the following:
 - Conformation points that may contribute to unsoundnesses including bowed tendon, curb, ringbone, sidebone, navicular, interfering, overreaching, forging, splint
 - Internal structure of a horse's foot and how it functions
 - Detailed anatomy of the horse's front and hind leg, including bones, principal tendons and ligaments from the shoulder and hip down
- Suggested resources: *The Horse*, *Horse Anatomy- A Coloring Atlas*, *Horse Industry Handbook*, *USPC B/H-A/A Manual*

Grooming and Bandaging

- Be able to demonstrate and describe knowledge of the following:
 - Advantages and disadvantages of a variety of materials suitable for bandaging
 - Apply a specialty bandage from a list of the following: Spider, figure eight, exercise, or hoof Explain the purpose or use of the each bandages
- Suggested resources: *USPC B/H-A/A Manual*

Health Care and Veterinary Knowledge

- Be able to discuss knowledge of the following:
 - Causes and signs of Typing up/azotemia, laminitis/founder, heaves, choke, dental problems, and skin diseases
 - Symptoms and preventative measures of the following diseases: Equine Encephalomyelitis, Strangles, Rhinopneumonitis, West Nile Virus, Potomac Horse Fever, and Equine Protozoal Myeloencephalitis
 - Tooth growth and eruption, including, how baby teeth are replaced by permanent teeth, and how a horse can be aged by examining the teeth
 - Characteristics of a well balanced hoof
- Suggested resources: *Horse Industry Handbook*, *The Horse*, *USPC B/H-A/A Manual*

Breeding and Reproduction

- Be able to discuss knowledge of the following:
 - Hormones involved in the estrous cycle
 - Function of hormones involved in normal sperm production
 - Definition on dystocia and reasons why it may occur
 - Importance of colostrum
 - Normal foal behavior within 24 hours of birth
- Suggested resources: *Feeding and Care of the Horse*, *The Horse*

Nutrition

- Be able to discuss knowledge of the following:
 - Feeding strategies for An underweight horse, an overweight horse, a geriatric horse, and a horse in intense training

- Good and bad characteristics of a theoretical ration for horses
- Common ingredients and reasons for use of various supplements
- Availability, cost and origin of hay and grain available in this area typically used to meet a horse's nutritional requirements.
- Suggested resources: *Feeding and Care of the Horse, The Horse, USPC B/H-A/A Manual*

Stable Management and Safety

- Be able to discuss knowledge of the following:
 - Toxic plants and weeds in your area including what parts are most toxic, when they are most toxic, and the symptoms of poisoning
 - Grazing and paddock management including rotational grazing, watering, mowing, harrowing, and shelter
 - Elements of a proper manure management program
- Suggested resources: *Feeding and Care of the Horse, The Horse*

Tack

- Be able to discuss knowledge of the following:
 - Basic action of a snaffle, curb, Pelham, bosal and hackamore
 - Methods and tools used for restraint and their purpose
- Suggested resources: *The Horse, USPC B/H-A/A Manual*

Transportation and Travel Safety

- Be able to discuss knowledge of the following:
 - Techniques for loading and unloading difficult horses
 - Methods of transporting mares and foals
 - Outline and annual maintenance plan for keeping a trailer or van operationally safe
- Suggested resources: *USPC B/H-A/A Manual*