



Maryland 4-H Horsemanship Standards Knowledge Level 1 (K-1)

4-H Member: _____ Date: _____

KEY: ES = Exceeds Standard MS = Meets Standard DNMS = Does not Meet Standard
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Horse Handling

- Approach a horse safely and put on halter
- Lead and turn horse safely in hand
- Discuss proper methods of approaching a horse that is turned out in a pasture or in a stall

ES _____
MS _____
DNMS _____

Horse Breeds, Conformation and Movement

- Name and identify 10 parts of the horse
- Describe and be able to recognize bay, black, chestnut, white, grey, palomino and pinto coat colors
- Discuss the difference between a filly, colt, mare, stallion, and gelding

ES _____
MS _____
DNMS _____

Grooming and Bandaging

- Demonstrate proper grooming techniques including picking out hooves
- Describe/demonstrate proper use of commonly used grooming tools
- Discuss three reasons why daily grooming is important
- Give three reasons why you would bandage a horse's legs

ES _____
MS _____
DNMS _____

Health Care and Veterinary Knowledge

- Discuss how to recognize basic signs of illness

ES _____
MS _____
DNMS _____

Nutrition

- Name at least two common types of diets for horses
- Discuss common feeding practices for horses, such as how much and how often they should be fed

ES _____
MS _____
DNMS _____

Stable Management and Safety

- List three things that are not safe to do or have in a barn
- Name two types of appropriate bedding for horses

ES _____
MS _____
DNMS _____

Transportation and Travel Safety

- Discuss how a horse should be prepared for safe transport
- List at least two suitable methods for transporting horses

ES _____
MS _____
DNMS _____

Comments:

ES: _____
MS: _____
DNMS: _____

Examiner

Date



Maryland 4-H Horsemanship Standards Knowledge Level 2 (K-2)

4-H Member: _____ Date: _____

KEY: ES = Exceeds Standard MS = Meets Standard DNMS = Does not Meet Standard

Horse Handling

- Lead horse in and out of a stall safely
- Tie in an appropriate place with a quick release knot
- Perform walk/trot transitions in hand

ES _____
MS _____
DNMS _____

Horse Breeds, Conformation and Movement

- Name and locate 15 parts of the horse
- Name and describe five common markings
- Name four horse or pony breeds
- Describe the proper units for measuring a horse
- Describe the difference between a pony and a horse
- Distinguish between appaloosa, albino and grey, buckskin and palomino, chestnut and brown
- Recognize the difference between a walk, trot or jog and a canter or lope

ES _____
MS _____
DNMS _____

Grooming and Bandaging

- Discuss proper methods and safety precautions for bathing your horse
- Discuss what areas of a horse may be groomed and clipped daily
- Name and discuss the use of at least five items found in an ideal grooming kit
- Describe at least three different types of boots/bandages and reasons for their use
- Apply a stable and shipping wrap with assistance

ES _____
MS _____
DNMS _____

Health Care and Veterinary Knowledge

- Describe symptoms of a sick or injured horse that would cause you to seek veterinary care for the horse
- Describe the normal temperature, pulse, and respiration values for the resting healthy horse
- Describe how to recognize if a horse is properly cooled out after work
- Discuss the importance of daily hoof care
- Describe two reasons why regular farrier visits are necessary
- Describe how often a horse should be trimmed or shod

ES _____
 MS _____
 DNMS _____

Nutrition

- Discuss three characteristics of good quality hay and grain
- Discuss proper storage of hay and grain

ES _____
 MS _____
 DNMS _____

Stable Management and Safety

- Name at least three common stable vices
- Demonstrate how to clean and rebed a stall
- Describe proper stall size for a horse or pony
- Describe several types of fencing that are safe for horses
- Be able to properly secure a hay net

ES _____
 MS _____
 DNMS _____

Tack

- Identify major parts of the saddle and bridle
- Describe the products and equipment used to clean tack

ES _____
 MS _____
 DNMS _____

Transportation and Travel Safety

- Demonstrate the ability to prepare a horse for safe travel
- Demonstrate the ability to safely load a cooperative horse or pony

ES _____
 MS _____
 DNMS _____

ES: _____ MS: _____ DNMS: _____

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Maryland 4-H Horsemanship Standards

Knowledge Level 3 (K-3)

4-H Member: _____ Date: _____

KEY: ES = Exceeds Standard

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Horse Breeds, Conformation and Movement

- Identify and describe at least 20 parts of a horse
- Describe the difference between a light breed, draft breed, and warmblood
- Identify color, breed, markings, size, sex of an unfamiliar horse
- Analyze the strengths and weaknesses of an unfamiliar horse's conformation
- Recognize and describe the following: Ewe neck, goose rump, sway back, cow hocked and base narrow
- Describe the different variations of grey coat color

ES _____
MS _____
DNMS _____

Grooming and Bandaging

- Describe and give reasons for three types of body clipping
- Demonstrate how to groom and clip a horse in preparation for a show
- Discuss three different ways a horse's mane may be presented in specific disciplines or breeds
- Apply a stable wrap and shipping bandage without assistance
- Discuss at least two advantages and disadvantages of wrapping a horse's legs for exercise
- Apply protective boots and describe their purpose

ES _____
MS _____
DNMS _____

Health Care and Veterinary Knowledge

- Name and describe at least three types of wounds and how they should be treated
- Outline a vaccination schedule for an active show horse
- Describe what a Coggins test is and when and why it is needed
- Demonstrate how to properly take a horse's temperature, pulse, and respiration
- Describe how to see if a horse is dehydrated and appropriate response
- Discuss how and why you would test a horse's capillary refill time
- Describe signs of a hoof that needs trimming or shoeing

ES _____
MS _____
DNMS _____

Nutrition

- Know five basic rules for feeding, and explain a feeding schedule to include amounts of Roughage and concentrates for a particular horse.
- Name 6 classes of nutrients

ES _____
MS _____
DNMS _____

Stable Management and Barn Safety

- Describe appropriate care of a horse after strenuous work, including cooling out, inspection of legs, watering and feeding
- Describe and be able to recognize unsafe horse equipment, including tack
- Discuss ways to minimize the spread of disease on a horse farm

ES _____
MS _____
DNMS _____

Tack

- Describe four different types of bits
- Identify a tie-down, breast strap, martingale, and breast plate
- Identify several types of horse blankets and their purposes

ES _____
MS _____
DNMS _____

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Maryland 4-H Horsemanship Standards Knowledge Level 4 (K-4)

4-H Member: _____ Date: _____

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Horse Breeds, Conformation and Movement

- Recognize the following types of conformation: Toe in/toe out, back at the knee, over at the knees, contracted heels, parrot mouth
- Name two breed characteristics for each of the following: Arabian, Quarter Horse, Morgan, Thoroughbred, Appaloosa and Saddlebred
- Describe or identify the following blemishes and unsoundness: Splints, bowed tendon, capped hock, toe crack, quarter crack and fistula
- Describe the footfall patterns of a walk, trot, canter, gallop and pace
- Be able to distinguish between tobiano and overo color patterns

ES _____
MS _____
DNMS _____

Grooming and Bandaging

- Demonstrate proper method of pulling or trimming a mane as appropriate for a particular breed or discipline
- Describe reasons for using a poultice and how it is applied
- Discuss how to bandage a wound located on the cannon

ES _____
MS _____
DNMS _____

Health Care and Veterinary Knowledge

- Discuss cause, transmission, and symptoms of at least four diseases that may affect horses in Maryland
- Describe and be able to identify the teeth of a male and female horse
- Discuss the importance of proper dental care for horses
- Describe the importance of a routine deworming program

ES _____
MS _____
DNMS _____

Nutrition

- Name and describe 4 types of hay
- Describe how feeds are measured and weighed

ES _____
MS _____
DNMS _____

Tack

- Describe the action and severity of four different types of bits
- Identify several types of horse blankets and their purposes.
- Demonstrate putting a blanket on a horse, recognizing proper fit

ES _____
MS _____
DNMS _____

Stable Management and Safety

- Describe characteristics of good and bad feed, water, pasture and hay
- Discuss proper storage methods for feed and hay
- Discuss types and causes of stable vices and possible responses to correct them
- Describe methods for external and internal parasite control in and around the stable

ES _____
MS _____
DNMS _____

Transportation and Travel Safety

- Describe precautions that should be taken when feeding a horse before, after and during transport
- List items in a trailer safety kit

ES _____
MS _____
DNMS _____

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Maryland 4-H Horsemanship Standards Knowledge Level 5 (K-5)

4-H Member: _____ County: _____ Date: _____

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Horse Breeds, Color, Conformation and Movement

- Analyze the strengths and weaknesses of an unfamiliar horse’s conformation and movement
- Describe and be able to recognize characteristics of a horse that is unsound
- Describe the coat colors resulting from the dilutions of bay, black and chestnut

ES _____
MS _____
DNMS _____

Grooming and Bandaging

- Apply a tail wrap for either grooming or protection and discuss the differences between them

ES _____
MS _____
DNMS _____

Healthcare and Veterinary Knowledge

- Prepare and discuss a 6-8 week outline for a conditioning program suitable for a discipline of the candidates choice
- Describe recommended vaccination schedule and health requirements for horses in Maryland
- Describe the transmission of at least four equine diseases
- Describe the life cycle of at least 2 internal or external parasites
- Describe and recognize several types of shoes and specific uses
- Describe characteristics of a properly shod horse
- Discuss the causes, symptoms and prevention of colic and laminitis

ES _____
MS _____
DNMS _____

Breeding and Reproduction

- Discuss the normal estrous cycle of a mare
- Discuss three methods of breeding horses
- Discuss the normal gestational period of the mare including length, foal growth, and signs of parturition
- Discuss normal presentation of the foal and the three major stages of foaling

ES _____
MS _____
DNMS _____

Nutrition

- Describe the feeding management of the following:
An idle horse, a horse in light work, a mare in early gestation, a mare in late gestation, a mare nursing a foal, and a young growing horse
- Describe a horse’s ration when developing fitness, maintaining fitness, taking a day off, or sick.
- Describe the importance of body condition scoring and be able to score an unfamiliar horse
- Name and describe 3 toxic plants in the area
- Discuss common sources of protein, fat and carbohydrates in a typical equine ration
- Be able to identify different types of feed ingredients
- Be able to identify different types of pasture species common in Maryland
- Be able to identify and the anatomy of the horse’s gastrointestinal tract and discuss the basic function of each part

ES _____
MS _____
DNMS _____

Stable Management and Safety

- Discuss pasture safety and fencing
- Describe a good horse barn layout
- Discuss a fire safety plan for a horse barn
- Discuss the importance of soil testing, fertilizers and seeding for proper soil management
- Describe the elements that make up a proper liability release waiver

ES _____
MS _____
DNMS _____

Transportation and Travel Safety

- Discuss possible causes and prevention of loading and unloading problems
- Describe ideal dimensions of a trailer suitable for a specific horse

ES _____
MS _____
DNMS _____

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Maryland 4-H Horsemanship Standards Knowledge Level 6 (K-6)

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Horse Breeds, Conformation and Movement

- Describe what conformation points might contribute to the following unsoundnesses: bowed tendon, curb, ringbone, sidebone, navicular, interfering, overreaching, forging, splint
- Discuss the internal structure of a horse's foot and how it functions
- Discuss the anatomy of the leg, including bones, principal tendons and ligaments from the shoulder and hip down

ES _____
MS _____
DNMS _____

Grooming and Bandaging

- Describe a variety of suitable materials for bandaging, including advantages and disadvantages of their use
- 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

ES _____
MS _____
DNMS _____

Health Care and Veterinary Knowledge

- Discuss causes and signs of the following:
Tying up/azoturia, laminitis/founder, heaves, choke, dental problems, and skin diseases
- Discuss symptoms and preventative measures of the following diseases: Equine Encephalomyelitis, Strangles, Rhinopneumonitis, West Nile Virus, Potomac Horse Fever, and Equine Protozoal Myeloencephalitis
- Discuss how horse's teeth grow, how baby teeth are replaced by permanent teeth, and how a horse can be aged by examining the teeth
- Discuss characteristics of a well balanced hoof

ES _____
MS _____
DNMS _____

Breeding and Reproduction

- Discuss hormones involved in the estrous cycle
- Discuss function of hormones involved in normal sperm production
- Discuss the meaning of dystocia and four reasons why it occurs
- Discuss the importance of colostrum
- Discuss normal behavior that a foal should exhibit within 24 hours of birth

ES _____
MS _____
DNMS _____

Nutrition

- Describe feeding strategies for the following:
An underweight horse, an overweight horse, a geriatric horse, and a horse in intense training
- Be able to examine and discuss good and bad characteristics of a theoretical ration for horses
- Describe at least five supplements given to horses, common compounds or ingredients in each, and reasons for their use
- Discuss availability, cost, and origin of hay and grain available in this area typically used to meet a horse's nutritional requirements.

ES _____
MS _____
DNMS _____

Stable Management and Safety

- Describe five toxic plants and weeds in your area including what parts are most toxic, when they are most toxic, and the symptoms of poisoning
- Discuss proper grazing and paddock management including rotational grazing, watering, mowing, harrowing, and shelter
- Discuss methods of proper manure management

ES _____
MS _____
DNMS _____

Tack

- Describe the basic action of a snaffle, curb, Pelham, bosal, and hackamore
- Discuss several methods and tools used for restraint and their purpose

ES _____
MS _____
DNMS _____

Transportation and Travel Safety

- Discuss techniques for loading and unloading difficult horses
- Discuss ways to transport mares and foals
- Discuss an annual maintenance plan for keeping a trailer or van operationally safe

ES _____
MS _____
DNMS _____

ES: _____ MS: _____ DNMS: _____

Comments:

Examiner

Date
