



Equestrian Course Outline

Beginning Riders

1. Haltering and leading the horse

- A. How and where to approach the horse
- B. Correct haltering
- C. Leading the horse safely
 - 1. Holding the lead rope
 - 2. Control when leading
 - 3. Turns to the right and left
 - 4. Backing the horse
- D. Tying the horse
 - 1. Learning the quick release knot
 - 2. Safely working around a horse that's tied

2. Basic grooming

- A. Use of the rubber curry comb
- B. When to use the metal curry comb
- C. Rough haired brush
- D. Soft finish brush
- E. Proper use of the mane and tail brush
- F. Using the hoof pick
- G. Hosing the horse off and using the squeegee

3. Saddling the horse

- A. Placement of the pad
- B. Fitting the saddle
- C. Placement of the saddle
- D. Cinching up the horse or tightening the girth
- E. Learning the cowboy knot
- F. Why and how to use a breast collar
- G. Adjusting the saddle

4. Bridling the horse

- A. How to hold the bridle
- B. Controlling and positioning the horse's head
- C. Opening the horse's mouth for the bit
- D. Adjusting the bridle



Equestrian Course Outline

Beginning Riders - Continued

5. Care of tack

- A. Differences between leather and nylon tack
- B. Cleaning and oiling leather tack
- C. Keeping nylon tack in good condition

6. Mounting the horse

- A. The correct position to mount
- B. Controlling the horse when mounting

7. The rider's position

- A. The ear hip heel line
- B. Holding the reins correctly

8. Use of the aids

- A. Leg positioning and pressure
- B. Using your hands correctly
- C. Developing an independent seat
- D. Emergency one reining

9. Basic ring work

- A. Working at the walk
 - 1. Turning the horse
 - 2. Turns on the forehand and haunches
- B. Learning the trot/jog
 - 1. Slowing and sitting the jog
 - 2. Trotting, posting and diagonals

10. Introduction to the trail

- A. Riding on the trail with others
- B. Road safety

11. Care of the horse after riding

- A. Walking the hot horse
- B. Post ride grooming



Equestrian Course Outline

Intermediate Riders

1. Riding Etiquette

- A. Correct riding position for the English and Western rider
- B. Riding around others
 - 1. Passing other horses in the arena
 - 2. Common courtesies when showing or competing
 - a. Manners
 - b. Ribbons for green horses or ones that kick
 - 3. Where to be in the arena at different gaits

2. Making cues subtle

- A. How to refine your cues to the horse
- B. What to do for a better response with less effort

3. The half halt

- A. Learning the half halt
- B. Using the half halt for better transitions and collection

4. Intermediate trot work

- A. Sitting the trot
 - 1. Creating a better seat
 - 2. Slowing the horse to a jog
- B. Posting the trot
 - 1. Why diagonals are used
 - 2. Posting with the horse's rhythm
 - 3. Posting without stirrups
- C. Working over cavaletti
- D. Learning the two point position

5. Introduction to canter work

- A. Learning control at the canter
- B. Moving with the horse
- C. How to ask the horse for the right and left leads
- D. Checking for correct leads

6. Introduction to games and patterns

- A. Learning some of the gymkhana games
 - 1. Barrel racing
 - 2. Pole bending
 - 3. Scurry
 - 4. Flag race
- B. Different techniques for competition



Equestrian Course Outline

Intermediate Riders - Continued

7. Packing with the horse

- A. The use of the pack saddle
- B. Packing the panniers
- C. Trail tips
- D. Survival equipment and uses

8. Advanced grooming

- A. Bathing the horse
- B. Trimming and clipping
- C. Hoof care
- D. Braiding the mane

9. Continued trail work

- A. Learning about different terrain
- B. Pacing your horse
- C. Riding up inclines and down hills

Advanced Riders

1. Putting the horse on the bit

- A. Collection
- B. Extensions
- C. Controlling rhythm and energy

2. Show-ring savvy

- A. What the judge is looking for in different disciplines
- B. Advanced riding etiquette
- C. Showmanship

3. Improving your horse

- A. What to do when things go wrong
- B. Smoothing out transitions
- C. Creating quick responses