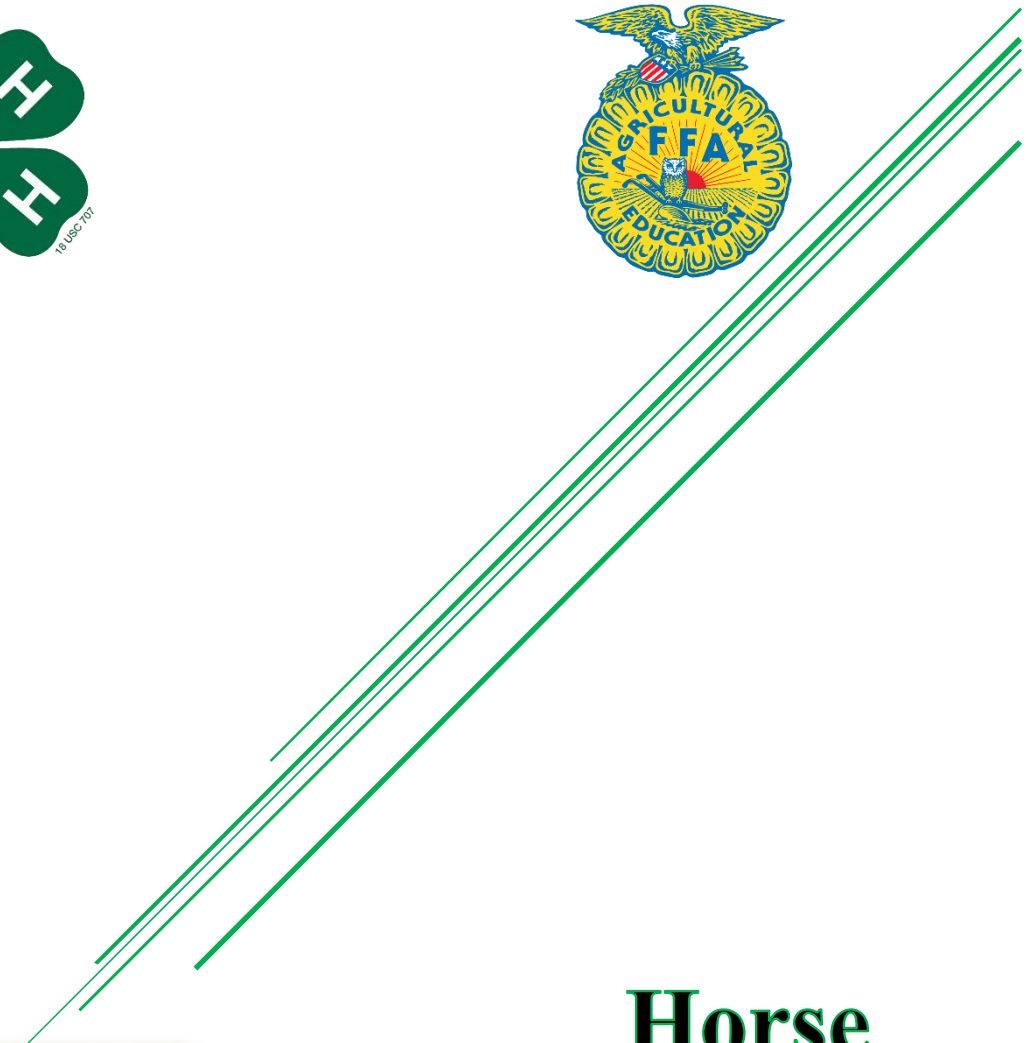


Southwest Florida & Lee County Fair



Horse Skillathon Study Guide





Dear 4-H and FFA youth participant,

Welcome to the Southwest Florida and Lee County Fair Skill-a-thon study guide. This manual is provided as a study guide and should be used as an aid to help youth prepare for the skill-a-thon which will be held at the Southwest Florida Lee County Fair.

A Skill-a-thon is a method of involving 4-H and FFA youth in challenging activities to increase knowledge of their animal project. The skill-a-thon is designed to take youth through a series of mini learning stations and the activities involve hands on learning. Participants will rotate from station to station attempting to perform a given task.

Junior participants will have fewer stations than Intermediate and Senior youth. It is recommended that youth study the entire booklet to prepare them for this challenge.

Curriculum in this package was developed by Extension Services. If you have questions, please contact your 4-H or FFA leader to assist you with your preparation.

Study hard and you will be successful with this skill-a-thon.

Sincerely,

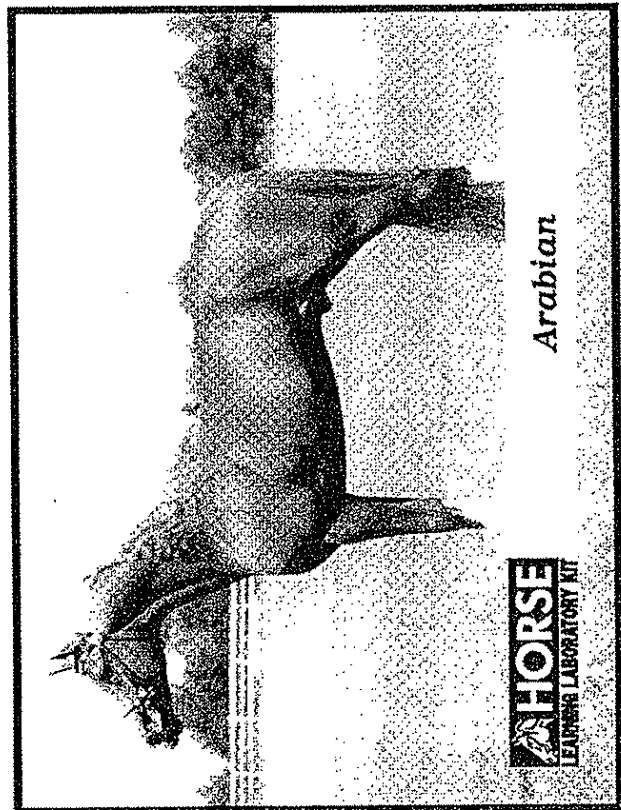
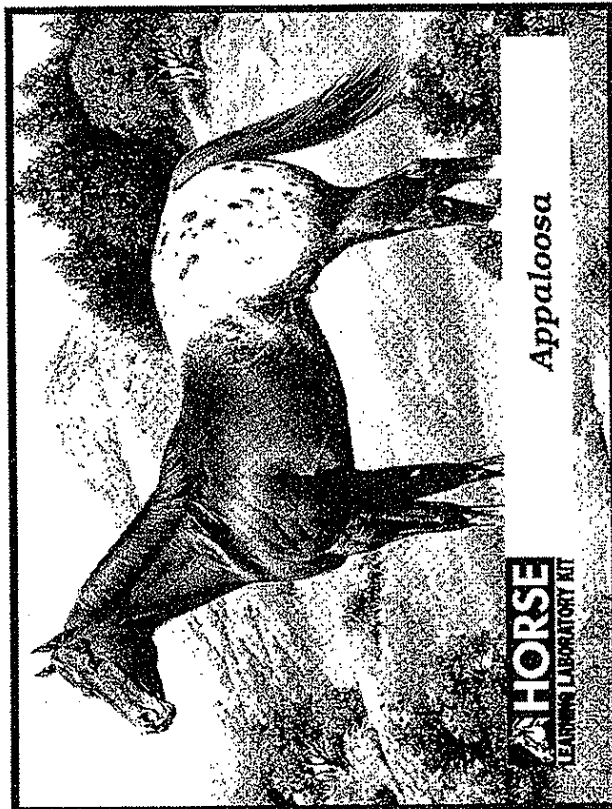
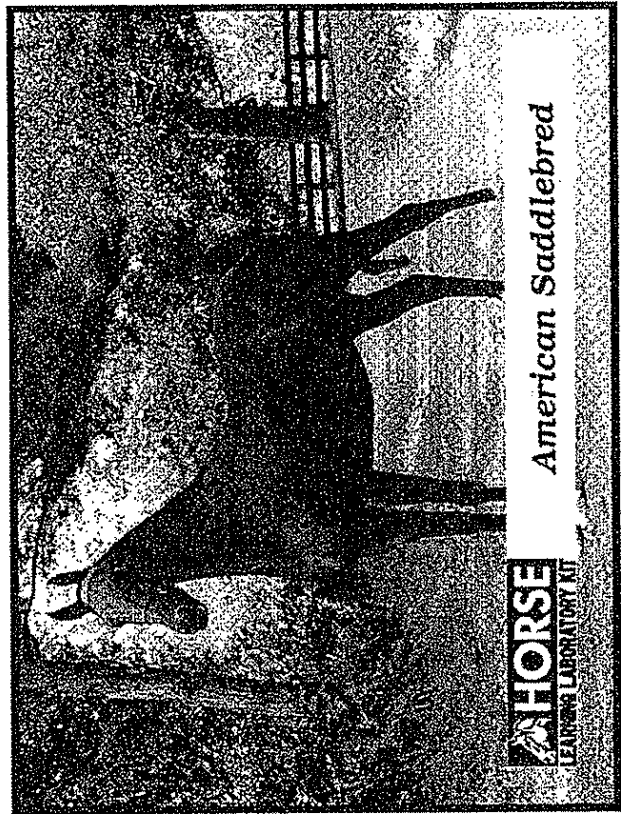
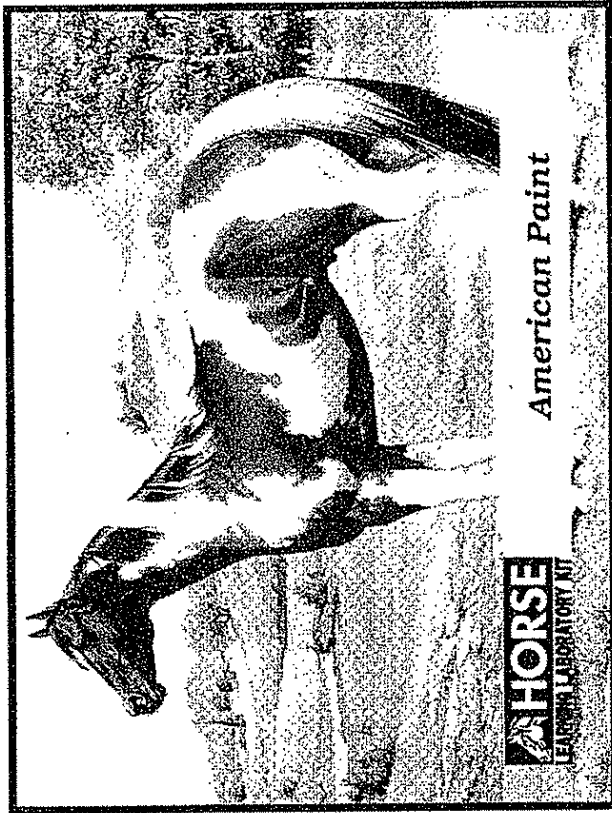
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cathy Suggs". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cathy Suggs
Lee County 4-H Agent

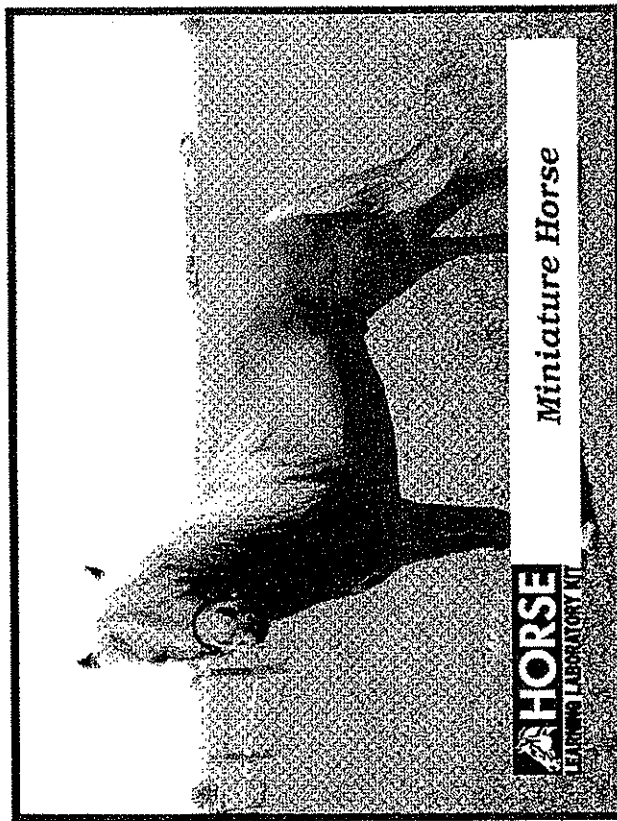
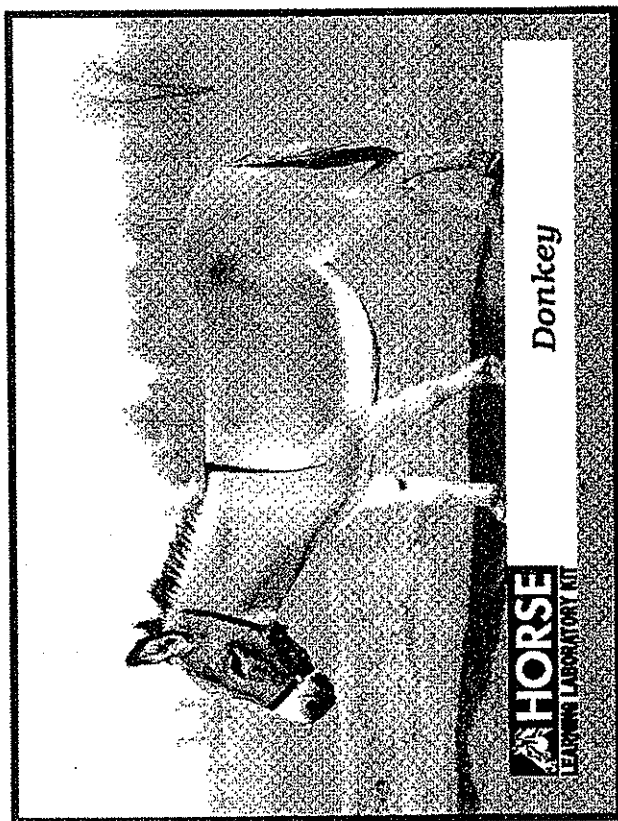
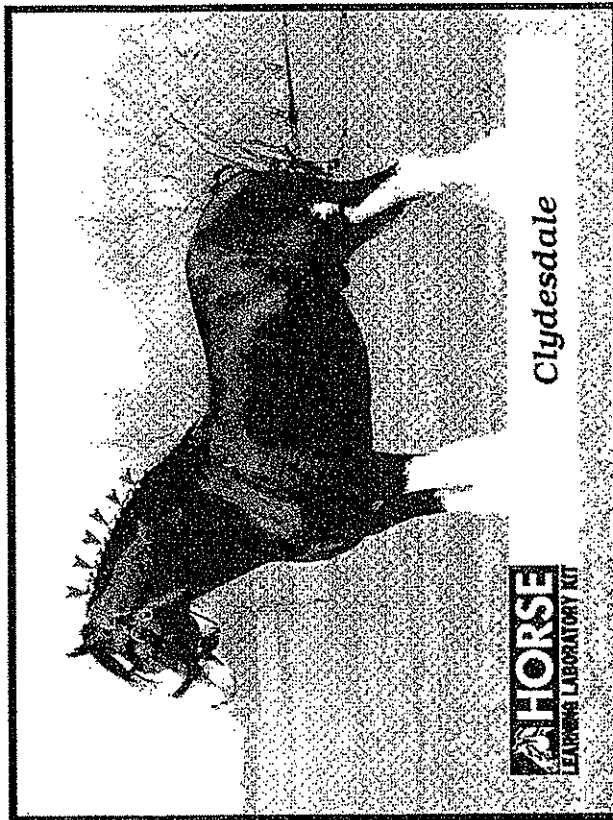
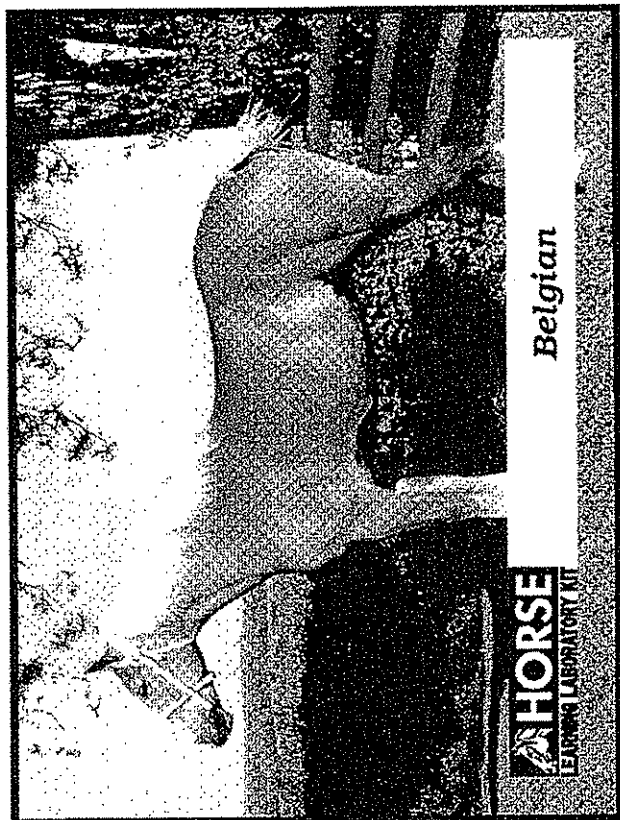
Breeds

Matching names and
descriptions

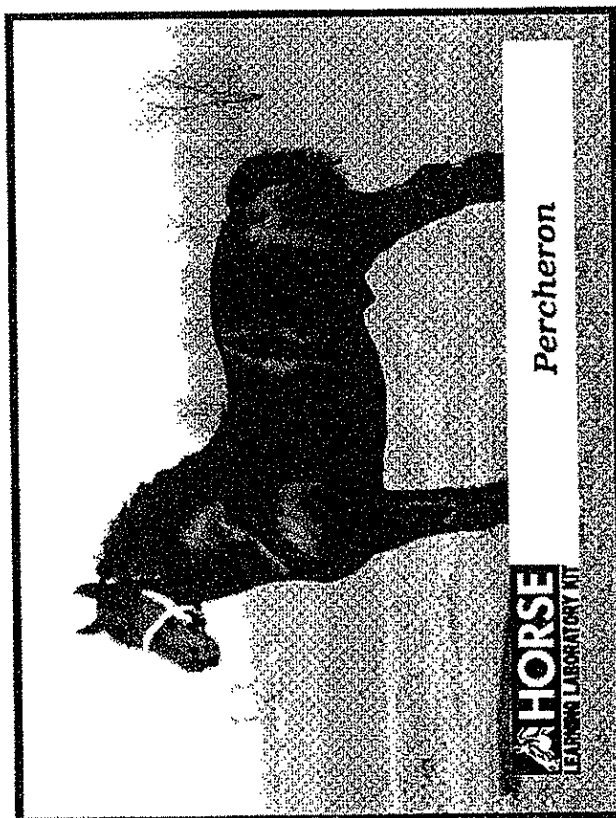
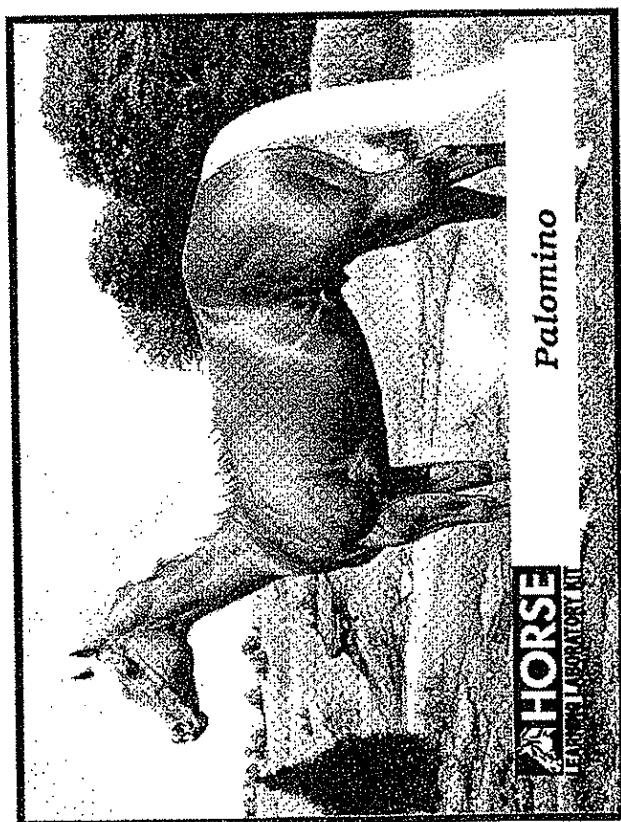
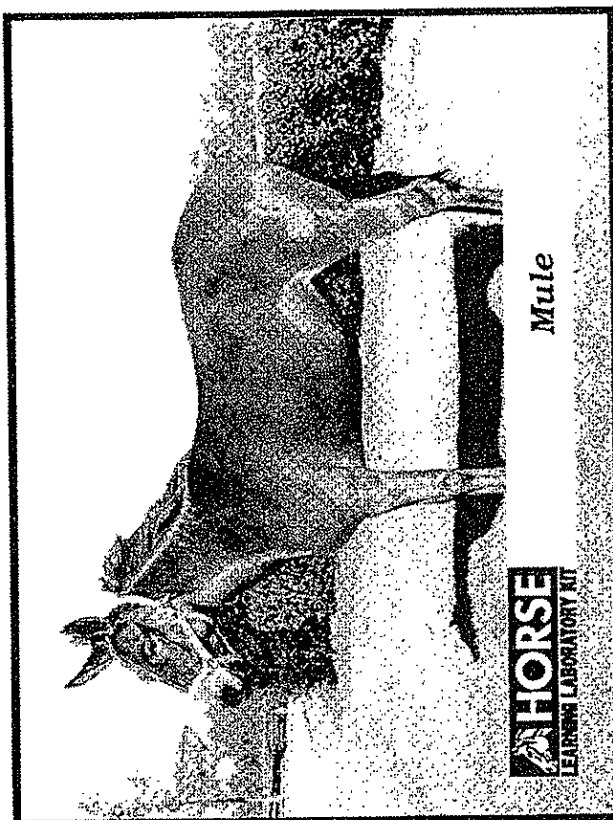
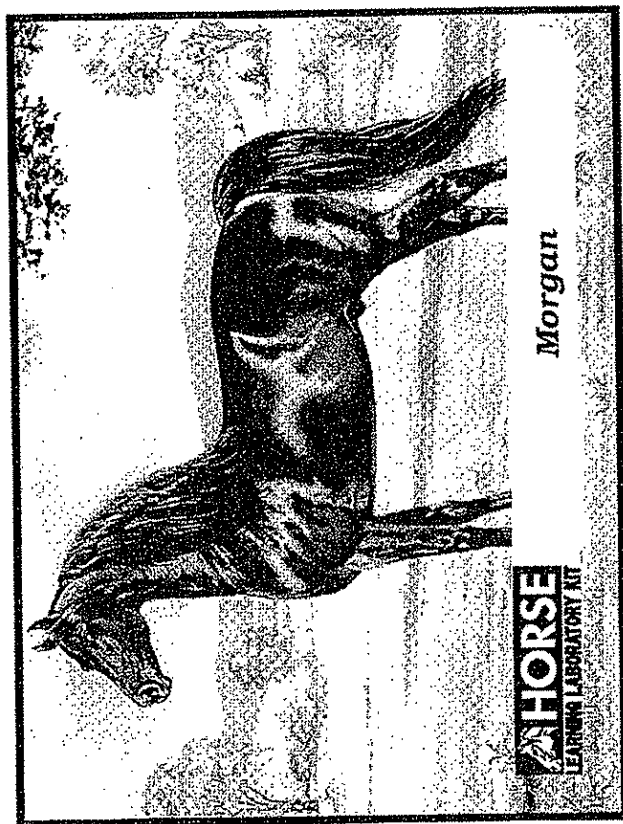
Use these prints in conjunction with Breeds of Horses identification tags and/or Horse Breed Traits description tags.



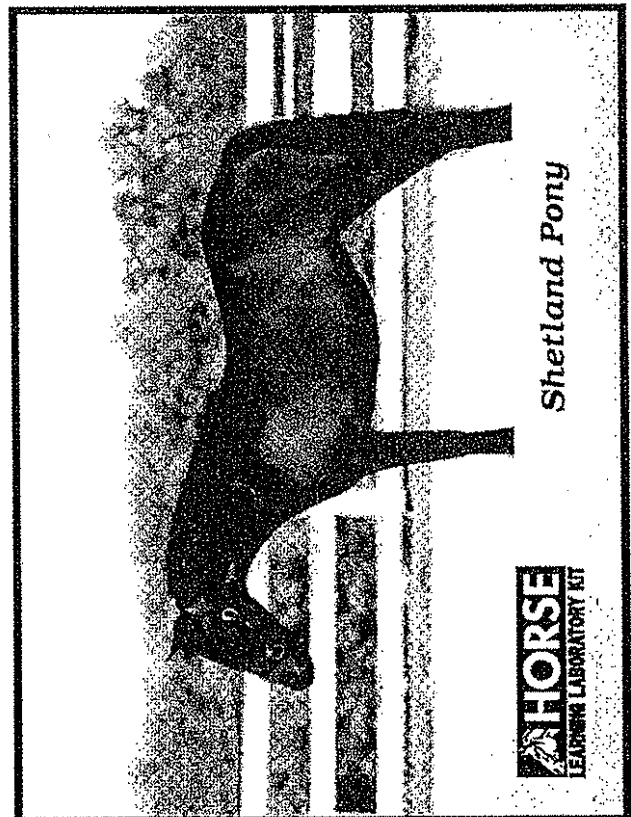
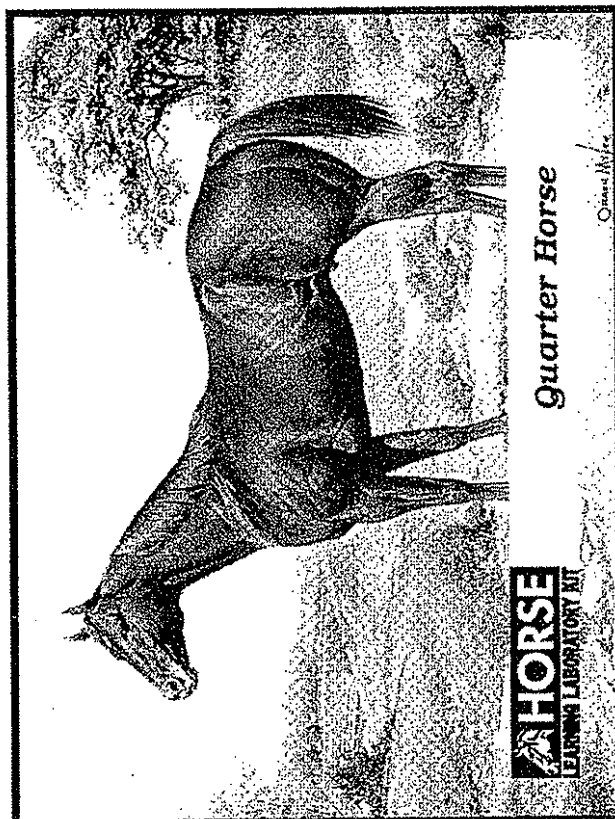
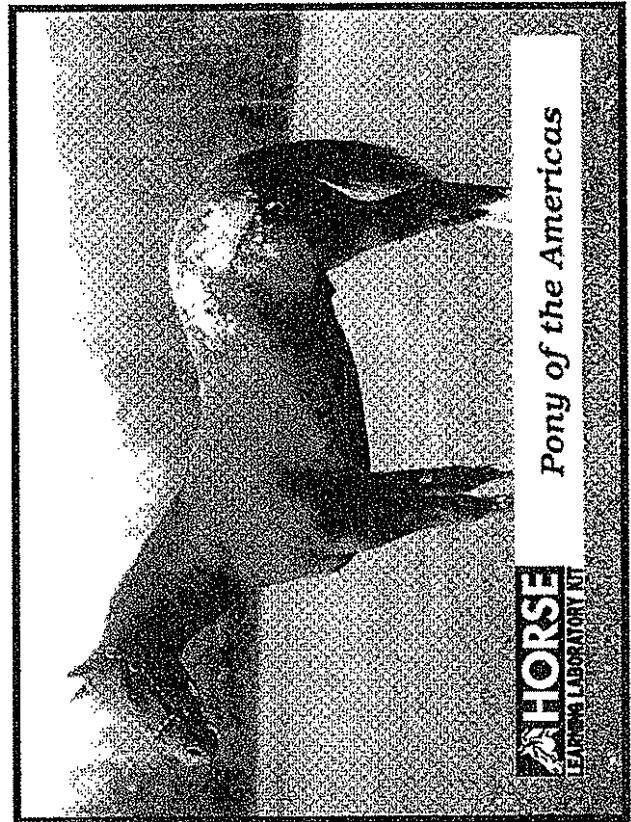
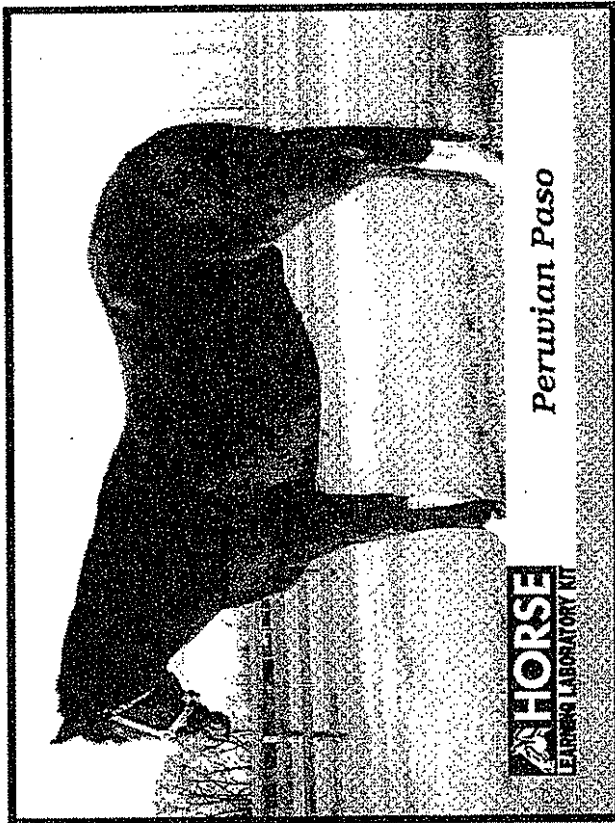
Use these prints in conjunction with Breeds of Horses identification tags
and/or Horse Breed Traits description tags.



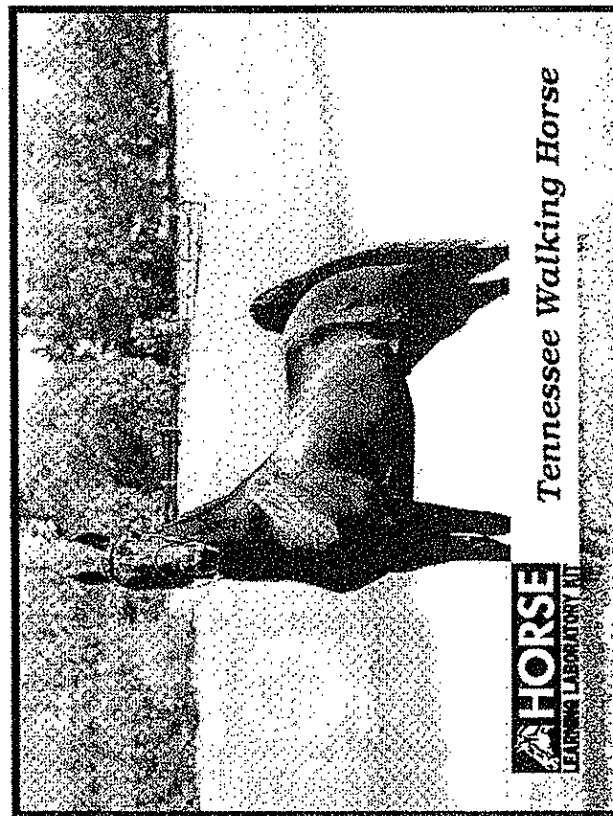
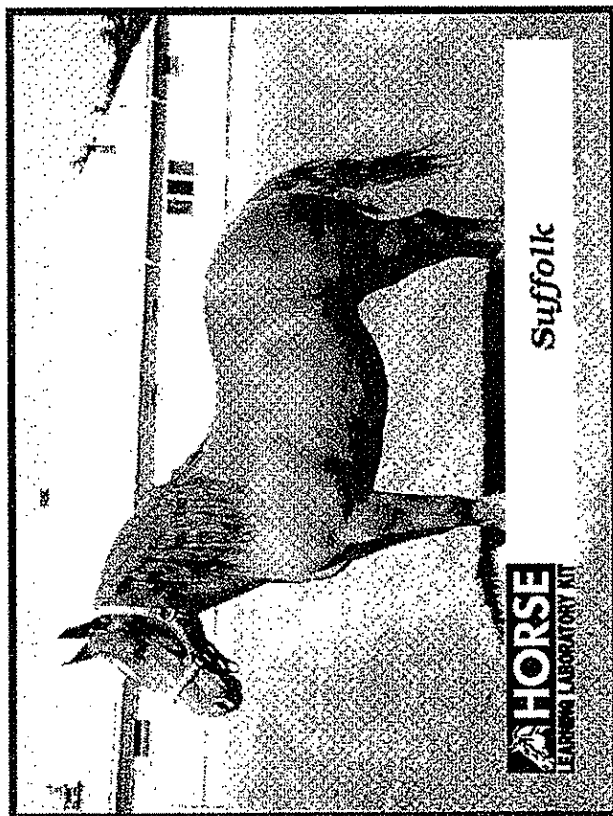
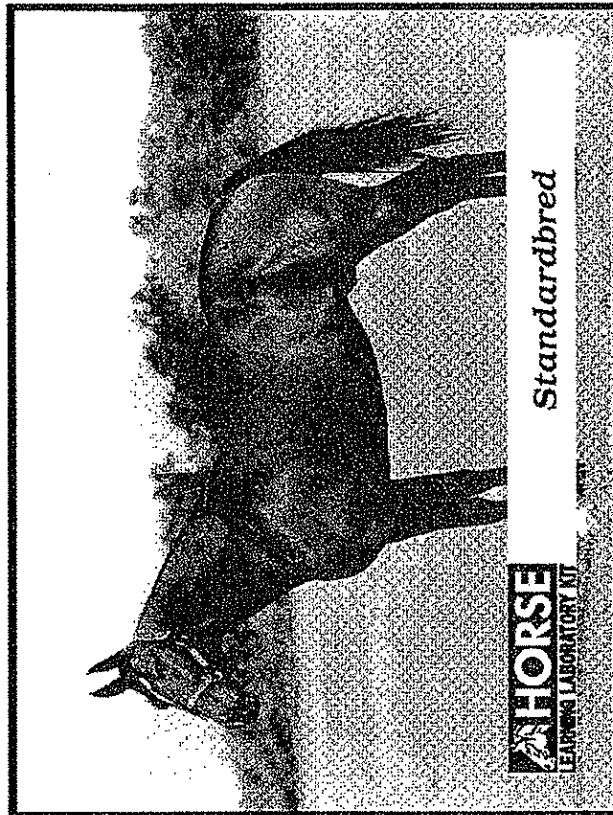
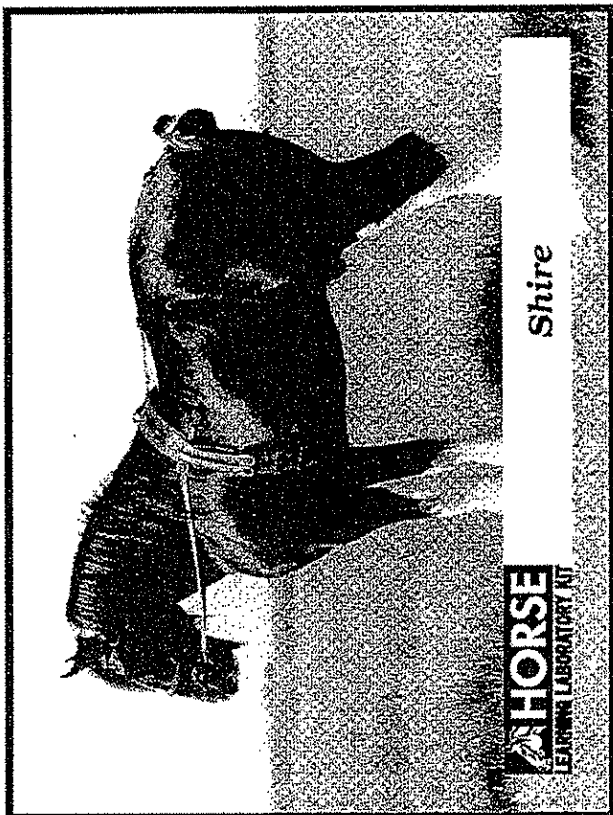
Use these prints in conjunction with Breeds of Horses identification tags and/or Horse Breed Traits description tags.



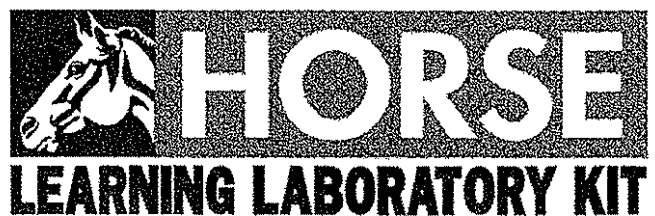
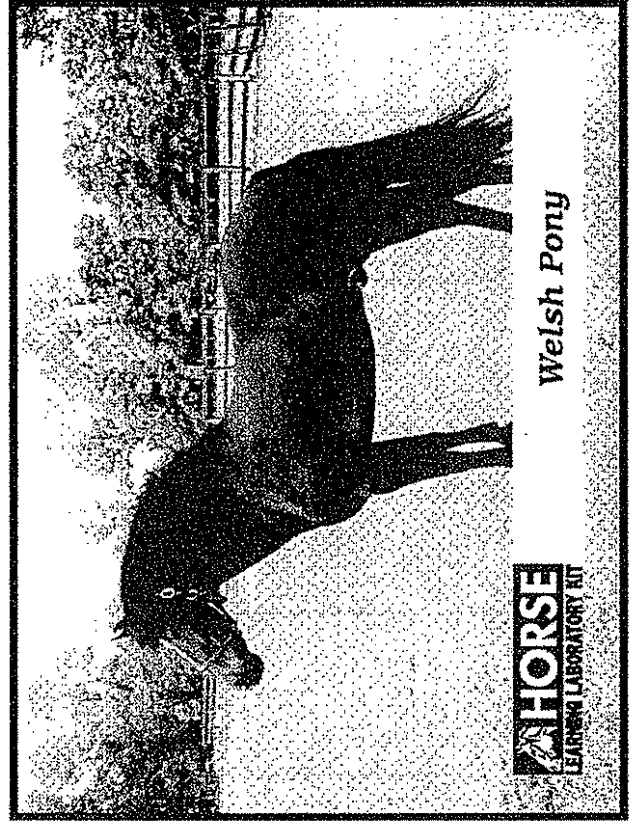
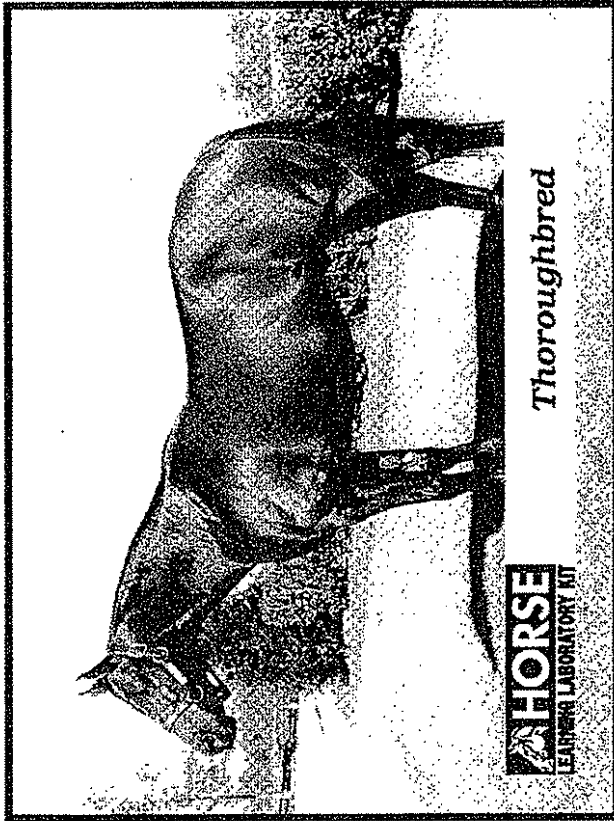
Use these prints in conjunction with Breeds of Horses identification tags and/or Horse Breed Traits description tags.



Use these prints in conjunction with Breeds of Horses identification tags
and/or Horse Breed Traits description tags.



Use these prints in conjunction with Breeds of Horses identification tags
and/or Horse Breed Traits description tags.



Horse Breed Traits

This light horse breed originated in the United States. Primarily a color breed, the name refers to its spotted or two-tone pattern: white with one additional color. Two distinct coat patterns are Overo or Tobiano. They stand 14-2 to 16-2 hands. Only spotted horses with Quarter Horse or Thoroughbred conformation may be registered. Other spotted types may be registered as Pintos. They are used as stock, pleasure, racing, and show horses.

American Paint Horse

This light horse breed originated in the United States. Coat color is bay, brown, chestnut, gray, golden, or black. They stand 15 to 16 hands and carry their tail and head high. These three-gaited or five-gaited horses move with much action and high stepping. They are docile and intelligent; have high endurance; provide easy riding on rough terrain; and are used as pleasure, stock, and fine harness horses.

American Saddlebred

This light horse breed was developed for war and hunting in the western United States by the Nez Perce Indians. Coat color is black, bay, brown, chestnut, or white; coat pattern is blanket, marble, snowflake, leopard, or frost. Loin and hips are white with spots intermingled. Sclera around the eyes is white, and the skin is mottled – more visibly on the muzzle. Hooves are black and white striped; mane and tail are thin. These horses stand 14-2 to 15 1/2 hands. They are used as stock, pleasure, race, parade, hunting, and jumping horses.

Appaloosa

This breed – known as the father of all light horses – originated in Arabia and is the oldest and purest of the breeds. Coat color is bay, gray, chestnut, black, or – less frequently – white. White marks on the head and legs are common. Skin color is black. They stand 14-2 to 15-2 hands. These horses carry their tail high and have a dished face; long, arched neck; and a short back. Developed as a saddle horse with three gaits, these horses are docile and have great endurance. They are used as stock, pleasure, racing, and show horses.

Arabian

This draft horse breed was developed in Belgium as an agricultural workhorse. Coat color is chestnut or sorrel. Mane and tail are generally flaxen and the face has a white blaze. Legs have little feathering and the tail is kept short. Standing 15-2 to 17 hands and weighing 1,850 to 2,200 pounds or more, they are the widest, deepest, and most compact and massive of the draft horses. They are extremely quiet, docile and patient.

Belgian

Horse Breed Traits - continued

This draft horse breed originated in Scotland. Coat color is generally bay or brown with white markings. Lower legs are extremely feathery. Slightly smaller than other draft horse breeds, they stand 16 to 17 hands and weigh up to 2,000 pounds. Known for their beauty and elegant style, these horses move with much action and have a prompt walk and snappy stride. They are used for exhibitions, special attractions, and farm work.

Clydesdale

This breed of ass originated in Egypt. These animals have a white muzzle and underbelly; dorsal stripes; stripes on their legs; and long, dark ears. They stand 36 to 48 inches at the withers. Mane and tail are shorter than those of other asses; the tail is like that of a cow; and their voice is loud and harsh. They are used in the production of mules and - due to their good-natured personality - as children's pets.

Donkey

This horse breed originated in northern Europe. Due to their small stature, they were originally used to pull carts in the coal mines. There are two classifications of this breed: the refined Arabian type and the heavier Quarter Horse type. These horses stand a maximum of 34 inches high at the withers and can be any color. They are used as pets and for pulling carts.

Miniature Horse

This light horse breed - known as the first family of American horses - originated in the New England states. Coat color is bay, black, brown, or chestnut; many have white markings. They stand 14-2 to 16 hands. These horses are known for their pleasing temperament, docility, endurance, beauty, courage, and longevity. They are used as stock, saddle, and harness horses.

Morgan

This breed of ass originated in the Middle East and is a cross between a jack and a horse. Coat colors vary - sorrel with brown or tan points is most preferred. They have combination hair: thin forelock with a coarse mane and tail. Their ears are smaller than those of a donkey. Depending on their use, height varies greatly: 12 to 17-2 hands. They live about 18 years and are sterile. These animals are very strong, intelligent, surefooted, careful, and stubborn. They are used as work and pack animals and for driving, riding, and showing.

Mule

Horse Breed Traits - continued

This light horse breed originated in the United States and is classified by color. Coat must be golden and vary a maximum of three shades lighter or darker than a newly minted gold coin. Mane and tail are white, silver, or ivory. Skin and eyes are dark. These horses stand 14-2 to 16 hands. They are used as stock, parade, saddle, pleasure, and fine harness horses.

Palomino

This draft horse breed originated in France and was used for battle, farming, pulling stage coaches, and pleasure riding. Color is primarily black or dapple-gray - occasionally bay, brown, chestnut, or roan. Head is attractive and clean-cut; the legs have no feathering. They stand 16-1 to 16-3 hands and weigh 1,700 to 2,100 pounds. These horses are known for their strength, good temperament, longevity, and willingness to work. They are used for exhibitions, special attractions, and farm work.

Percheron

This pony breed originated in the United States and is a cross between an Appaloosa and a Shetland pony. These ponies have Appaloosa coloring and are 46 to 56 inches in height. They are primarily pleasure horses and used for young riders who have outgrown Shetlands, but have not yet advanced to light horses.

Pony of the Americas

This light horse breed was developed from three breeds of horses in Peru and then imported to the U.S. in the 1960s. These horses are basic, solid colors and cannot be registered if they have 25 percent or more white anywhere on their bodies. They stand 14-2 to 15-1 hands. Their trademark is an inborn movement called the "termino." This natural, four-beat, lateral gait originates from the shoulder and is very smooth and graceful. These horses are used for pleasure, parade, and endurance riding.

Peruvian Paso

This light horse breed originated in the United States and was named for its quarter-mile racing speed. Coat color is chestnut, sorrel, bay, dun, palomino, black, brown, gray, or roan. They stand 15 to 16 hands and are powerfully built with strong hind quarters. Agile and quick on their feet, these horses are used for racing, herding, roping, hunting, jumping, and pleasure riding.

Quarter Horse

Horse Breed Traits - continued.

This pony breed originated on the Shetland Islands off the coast of Scotland and is one of the oldest and smallest breeds. Coat can be any color or pattern. Two class sizes are recognized for registry: 43 inches and under; and 43 to 46 inches. These ponies are very strong and hardy for their size. They have a gentle, faithful nature and are used for showing, harness racing, and as children's mounts.

Shetland Pony

This draft horse breed originated in England and is the largest of all modern horse breeds. Coat color is bay, brown, or black with white markings. Leg feathering is straight, silky, and heavy; the neck is long; and the shoulders are wide and deep. These horses stand 16-2 to 17-2 hands, and stallions commonly weigh over 2,000 pounds. Because of their great strength, they were used for pulling carts and working the land.

Shire

This light horse breed was developed in the eastern United States for road driving and racing. Coat color is bay, brown, chestnut, black, gray, roan, or dun. They stand 15 to 16 hands and have great shoulder strength and a longer, lower body than a Thoroughbred. Known as trotters and pacers, these horses are not ridden, but used for harness racing and shows.

Standardbred

This draft horse breed originated in England. Coat color is always chestnut, often with a cream-colored mane and tail. There is no leg feathering. These horses appear chunky and low due to their barrel-shaped body and short legs. They are the smallest of the draft breeds - standing 15-2 to 17 hands and weighing 1,450 to 1,800 pounds.

These horses have an excellent disposition and are used for exhibitions, special attractions, and farm work.

Suffolk

This light horse breed originated in the United States. Coat color is sorrel, chestnut, black, roan, white, bay, brown, gray, or golden. White markings on the feet and legs are common. They stand 14-2 to 15-2 hands. These horses have three natural gaits and are well known for their smooth running walk. Due to their disposition and temperament, they are referred to as the "gentlemen of the equines" and used as pleasure, show, and plantation walking horses.

Tennessee Walking Horse



HORSE

LEARNING LABORATORY KIT

Horse Breed Traits - continued

This light horse breed originated in England. Coat color is bay, brown, black, sorrel, gray, or chestnut. White face and leg markings are common. Standing 15 to 17 hands, they are the largest of the light horse breeds. Developed specifically for racing, these horses are the fastest in the world due to their long legs, powerfully muscled hindquarters, and long strides. They are active, energetic, highly nervous, and used for racing, hunting, jumping, polo, and pleasure riding.

Thoroughbred

This pony breed originated in Wales. Coat color is black, gray, bay, roan, cream, or chestnut. These ponies are classified according to height: 48 inches and under; and 48 to 56 inches. They have unusual endurance and considerable speed at the trot. These ponies are used for racing, trail riding, parades, harness shows, stock cutting, hunting, pleasure riding, and as advanced children's mounts.

Welsh Pony

Coat Colors

Identifying different
coat colors



Bay – Bay horses run from light reddish or tan shades to dark brown and mahogany/auburn shades. Bay horses **always** have black points (legs, muzzle, mane and tail, and the tips of their ears are black). Many bay horses have black legs that are covered by white markings.



Chestnut – Chestnut, (also known as "sorrel"), is reddish brown. The points (mane, tail, legs and ears) are the same color as the horse's body (other than white markings). Chestnuts range from light yellowish brown to a golden-reddish or dark liver color. All chestnuts have shades of red in their coats.



Gray – Gray horses have black skin with white or gray hair. Many horse people will call a gray horse "white", but if their skin is dark, they are gray! Gray horses are born dark, sometimes black or brown, and their hair coat turns lighter as they grow older.



Black – Black horses have pure black coats with no signs of brown or any other color



Dun – Dun horses have a sandy/yellow to reddish/brown coat. Their legs are usually darker than their body and sometimes have faint "zebra" stripes on them. Dun horses always have a "dorsal" stripe, which is a dark stripe down the middle of their back. Sometimes the dorsal stripe continues down the horse's dock and tail, and through the mane. Many dun colored horses also have face masking, which makes the horse's nose and sometimes the rest of the face a darker color than the horse's body.



Buckskin – Buckskin horses are a light-to-dark sandy yellow or tan color with all black points. Buckskins are very similar to duns, however, buckskins do not have a dorsal stripe or other "primitive" markings that are shown in the dun color.



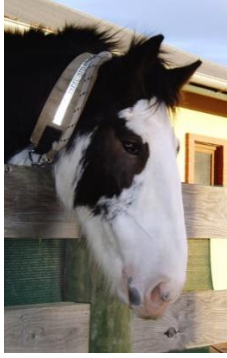
Palomino – Palomino horses have gold-colored coat with a white or light cream colored mane and tail. The Palomino's coat can range from a light off-white shade to a deep shade of gold.



Blue Roan – A Blue Roan is a **black** horse with the roan gene. Roan horses have otherwise solid colored coats, but with white hairs interspersed. The white hairs are not actual spots, but single white hairs mixed with the darker coat color

Markings

Identifying face and
leg markings



Bald Face - A bald face is when the marking on their face extends to the eyes or past



Apron Face - Similar to the bald face, except an apron face literally looks like it's wearing an apron of white over the color. White extends along the jaw to the throat latch & generally covers the whole muzzle



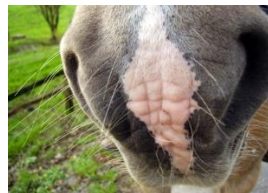
Blaze - Probably the most common face marking, the blaze is found on horses of every breed & color. It is a broad white stripe down the middle of a horses face, generally starting at the forehead & running all the way to the nose, or mouth.



Star - Stars are found in all sizes on the foreheads of horses everywhere. A number of different terms have popped up for markings in this location, if it's between the eyes & more than just a spot of white, it is a star.



Stripe - A stripe is similar to a blaze in that it runs down the center of the face, but it is much thinner – almost a line.



Snip - The snip is a small white marking between a horses nostrils. It can be any shape & ranges in size from a small dot to a larger blotch. This marking is often seen in conjunction with other facial markings like a star or a faint



Coronet - This is the smallest of the leg markings & shows the least amount of white. The mark is only displayed around the coronet band, generally rising no more than an inch up from the hoof.



Pastern - Often difficult to distinguish from the coronet marking, the pastern takes up where it leaves off. The white mark extends more than an inch above the hoof over the pastern but stops at or below the fetlock joint.



Sock - The sock white marking extends beyond the fetlock but doesn't reach above the knee or hock of the animal



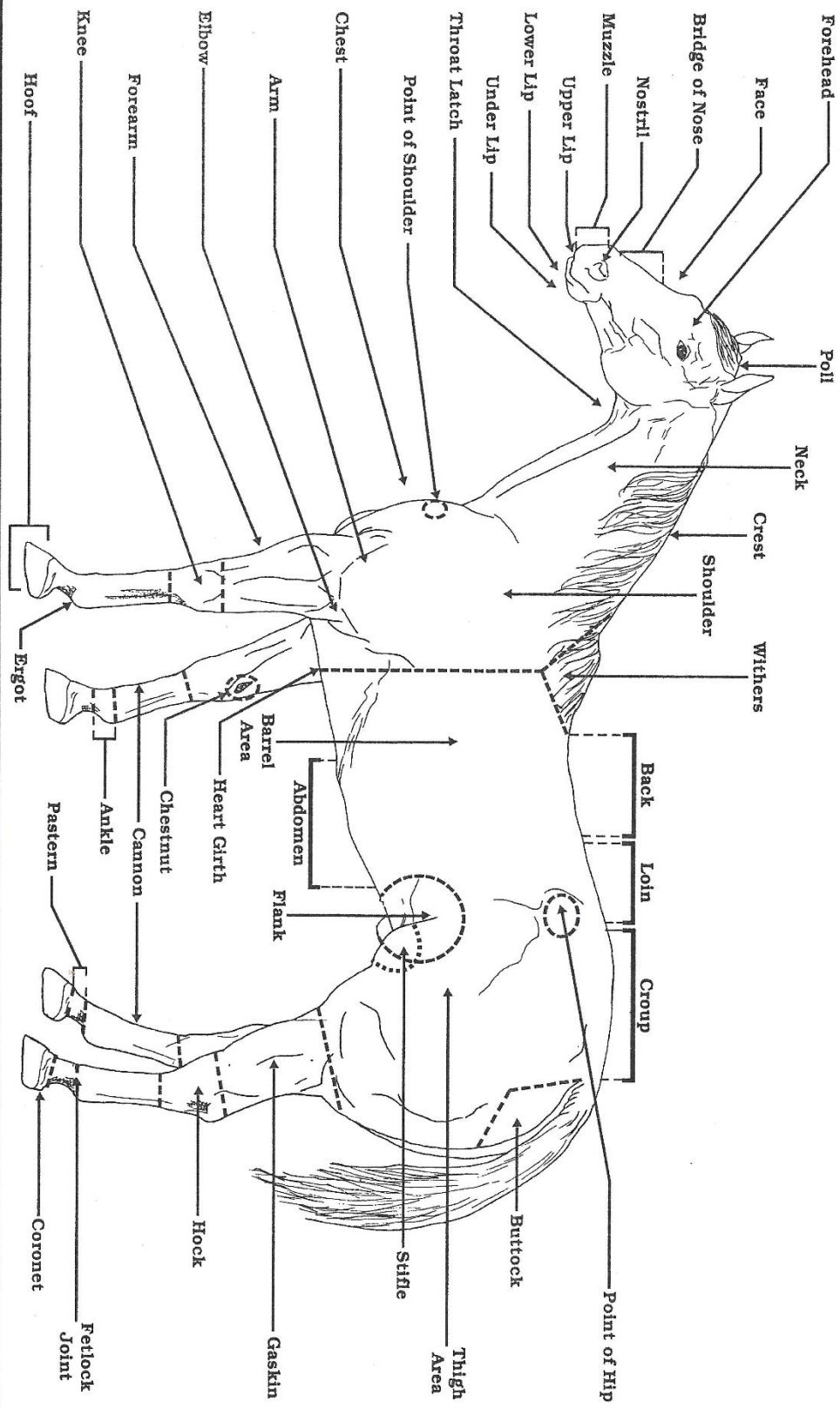
Stocking - Perhaps the flashiest & definitely the largest of the white markings. Stockings extend above the knee or hock & can bleed onto the flank or belly.

Anatomy

Labeling the parts of the
body

Use this poster in conjunction with Anatomy - Match the correct part names with their locations on the diagram situation/task statement and/or Parts of a Horse identification tags.

Parts of a Horse



HORSE
LEARNING LABORATORY KIT

Exploratory Learning: Educational Program

Product distribution through Curriculum Materials Service

Conformation

Front View

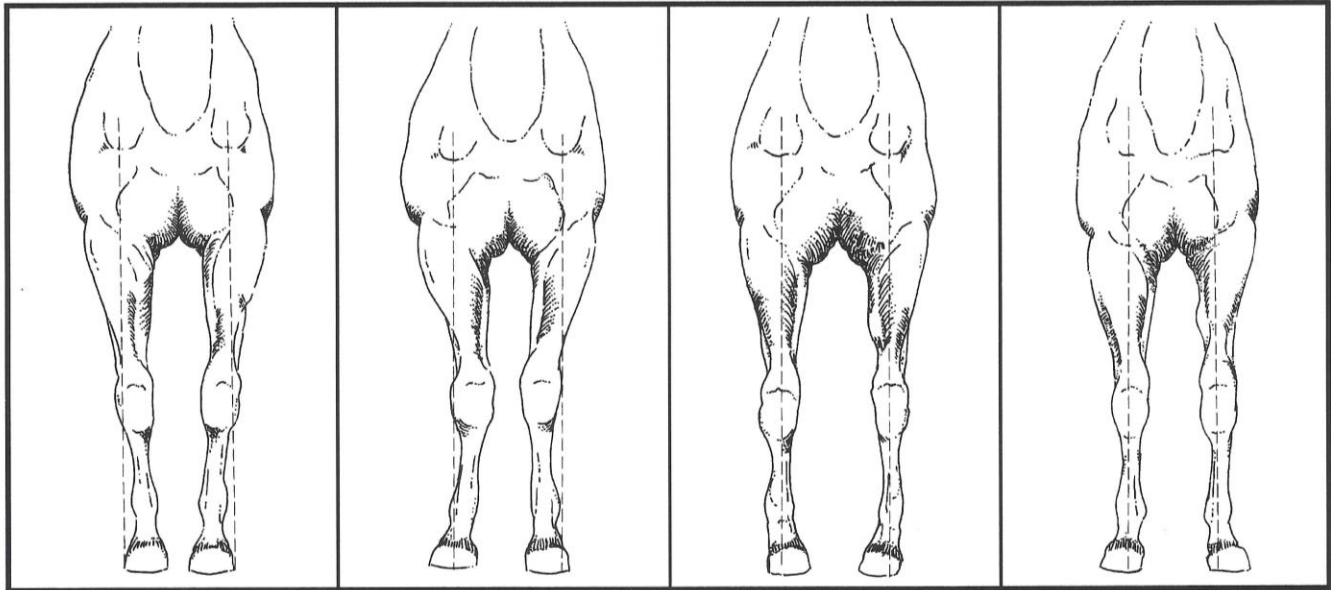
Rear View

Front Side View

Rear Side View

Conformation

(Front View)

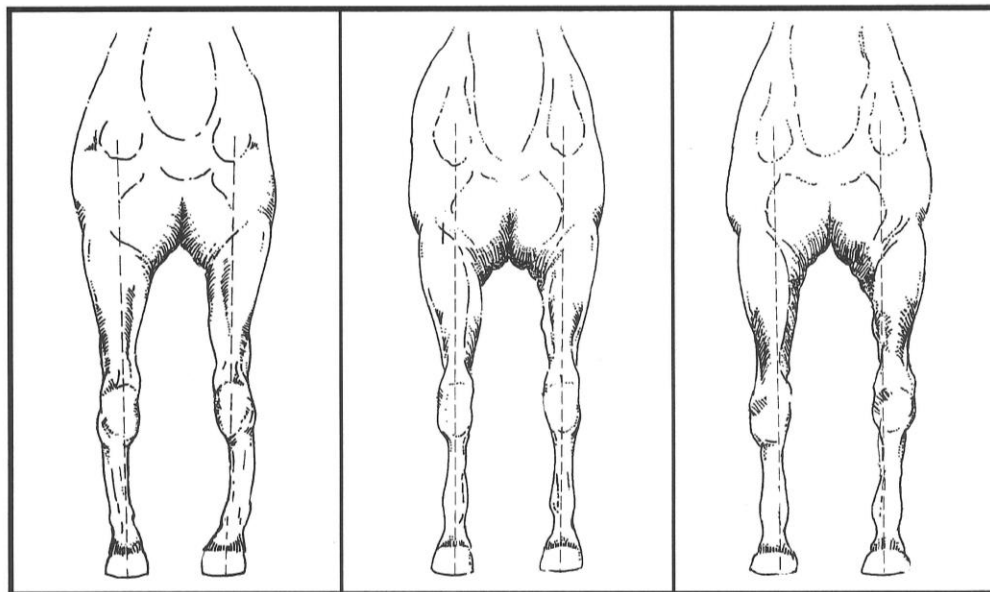


Base Narrow
(stands too close)

Knock Kneed
(knock kneed and splay footed,
forefeet toes out/heels in)

Pigeon Toed
(forefeet toes in/heels out)

Narrow Chested, Toes Out



Bench Kneed

Ideal Position
(correct conformation)

Bow Legged
(with offset canons)



HORSE

LEARNING LABORATORY KIT

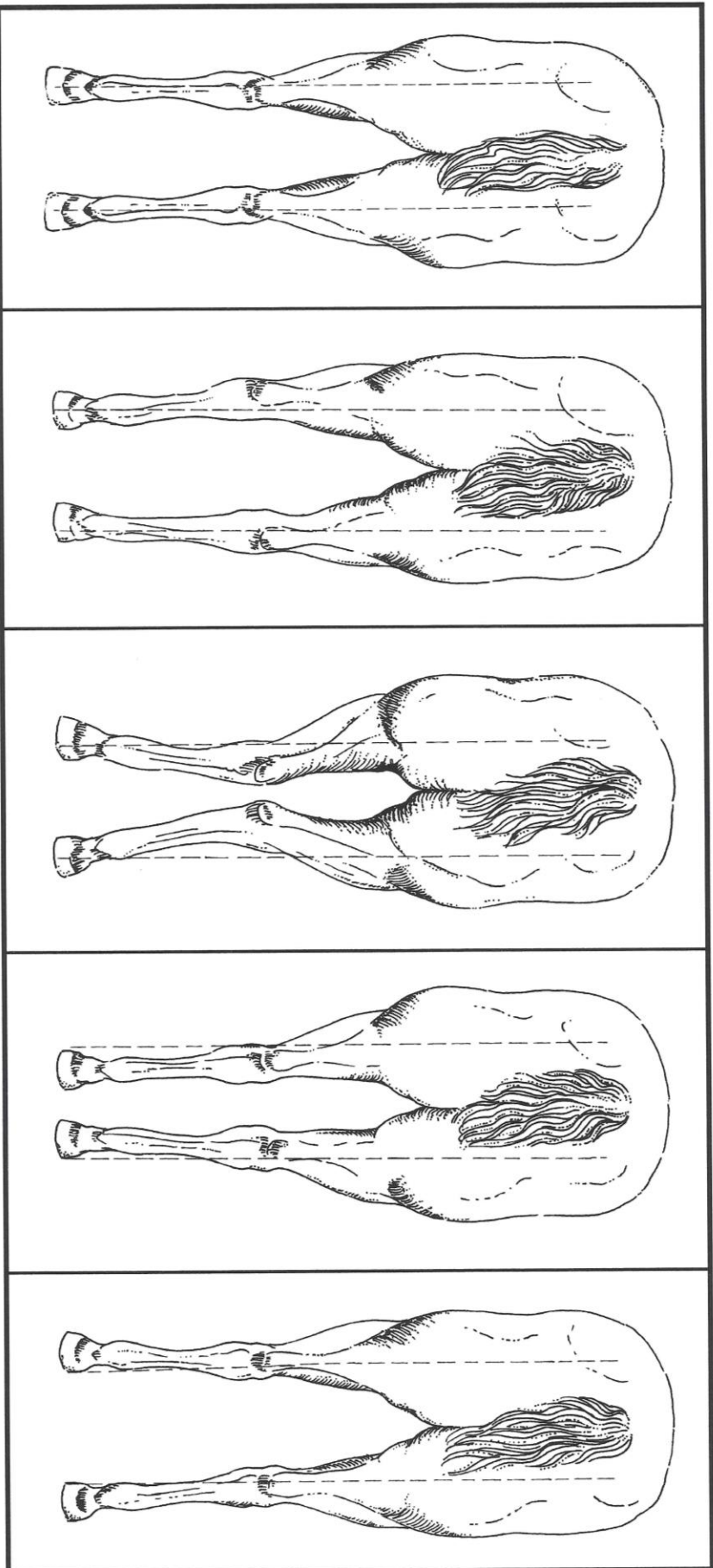
Exploratory Learning: Educational Program

This component adapted from materials found in *Light Horse Selection*, (Ohio State University Extension 4-H/Youth Development, 1998). Graphic used courtesy of Section of Communication and Technology, Ohio State University Extension.

Product distribution through Curriculum Materials Service

Conformation

(Rear View)



Ideal Position
(correct conformation)

Bow Legged
(badly legged)

Cow Hocked
(badly cow hocked and toed out)

Stands Close
(base narrow or set too close)

Stands Wide
(base wide or set too wide)



HORSE
LEARNING LABORATORY KIT

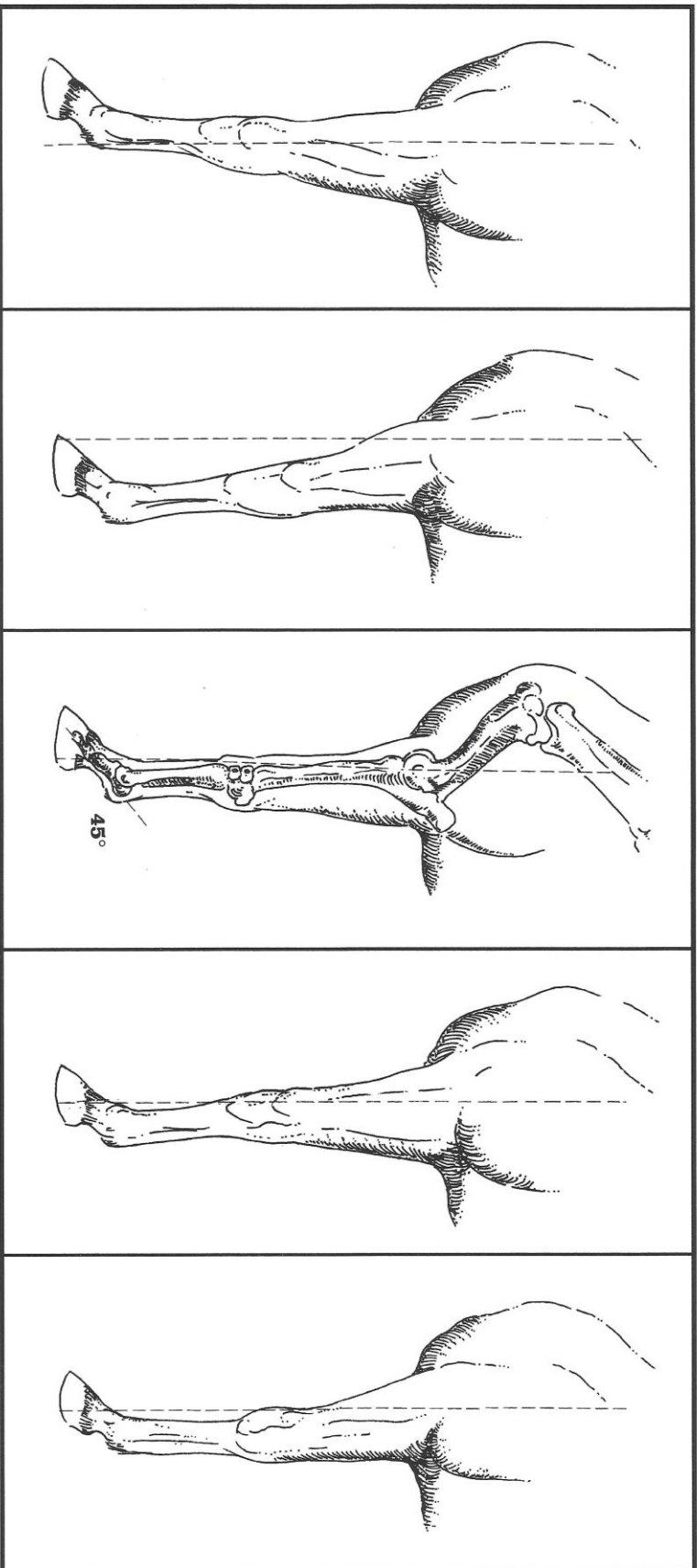
Exploratory Learning: Educational Program

This component adapted from materials found in *Light Horse Selection*, Ohio State University Extension 4-H/Youth Development, 1998).
Graphic used courtesy of Section of Communication and Technology, Ohio State University Extension.

Product distribution through Curriculum Materials Service

Conformation

(Front Side View)



Camped Out
(stands too far out)

Camped Under
(stands too far under)

Ideal Position
(correct conformation)

Buck Kneed
(knees sprung)

Calf Kneed



HORSE

LEARNING LABORATORY KIT

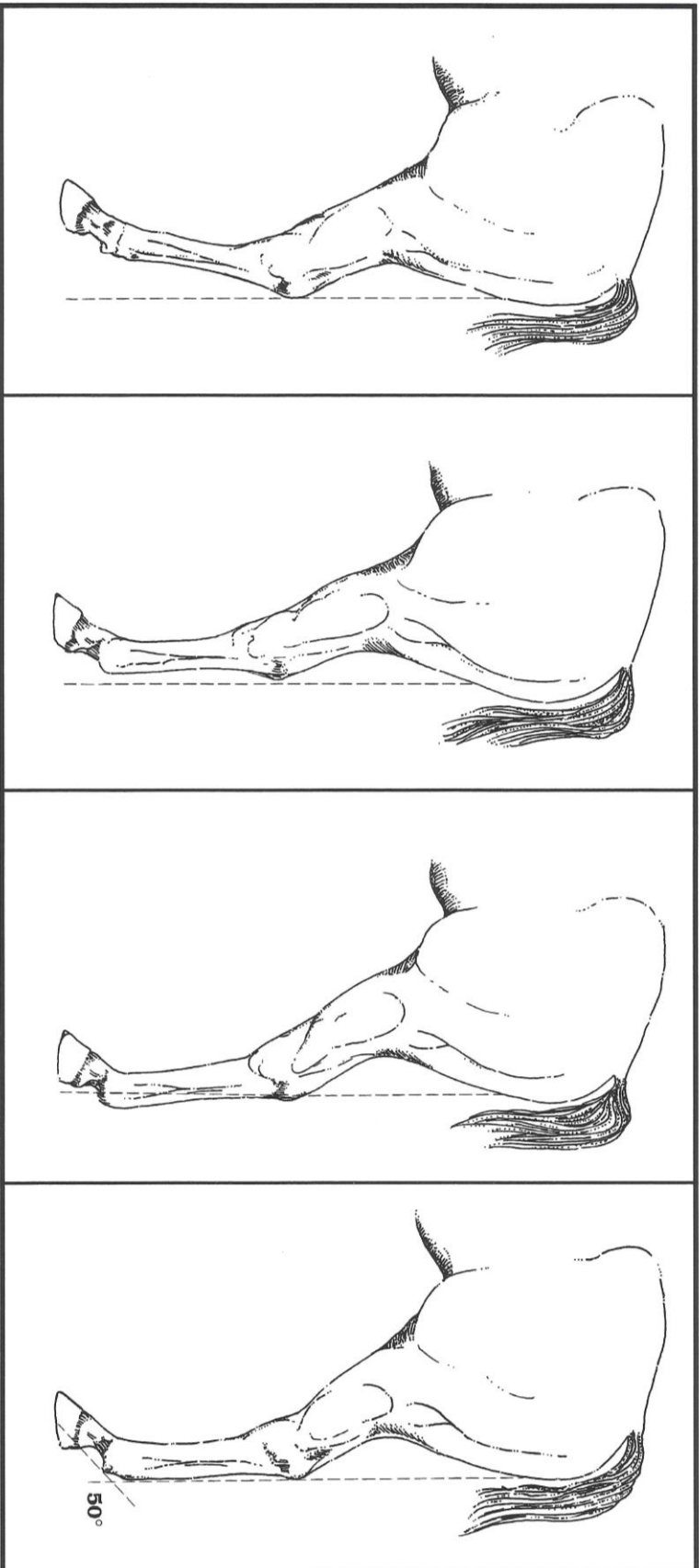
Exploratory Learning: Educational Program

This component adapted from materials found in *Light Horse Selection* (Ohio State University Extension 4-H/Youth Development, 1998).
Graphic used courtesy of Section of Communication and Technology, Ohio State University Extension.

Product distribution through Curriculum Materials Service

Conformation

(Rear Side View)



Sickle Hocked
(stands under or camped under)

Post Legged
(postly legged, stands too straight, or leg too straight)

Camped Out
(stands too far back)

Ideal Position
(correct conformation)



HORSE
LEARNING LABORATORY KIT

Exploratory Learning: Educational Program

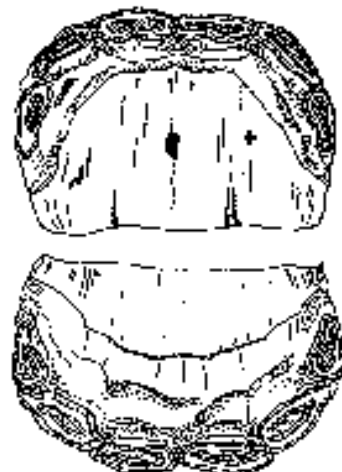
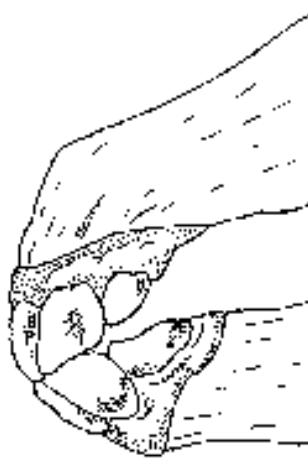
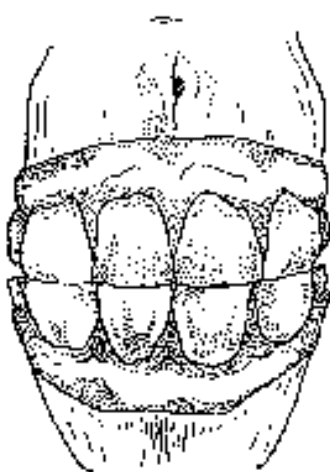
This component adapted from materials found in *Light Horse Selection*, (Ohio State University Extension 4-H/Youth Development, 1998).
Graphic used courtesy of Section of Communication and Technology, Ohio State University Extension.

Product distribution through Curriculum Materials Service

Age by Teeth

Determining the horses
age by the development
of the teeth

Use these cards in conjunction with Anatomy - Match the correct age of the horse with the diagram of its teeth situation/task statement and/or Determining the Age by the Teeth Identification tags.

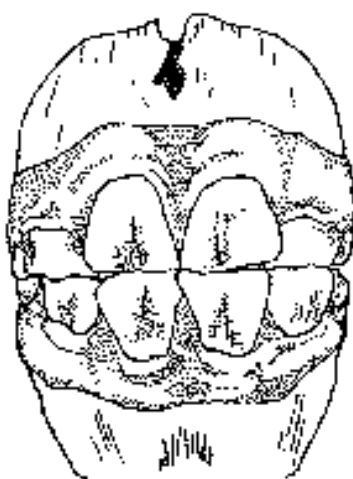


1 Year



Exploratory Learning: Educational Program

Produced by <http://www.horselearning.com> through Curriculum Materials Service



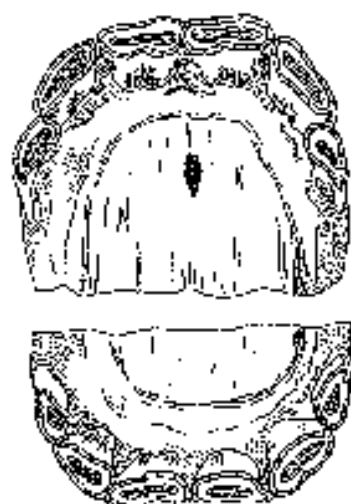
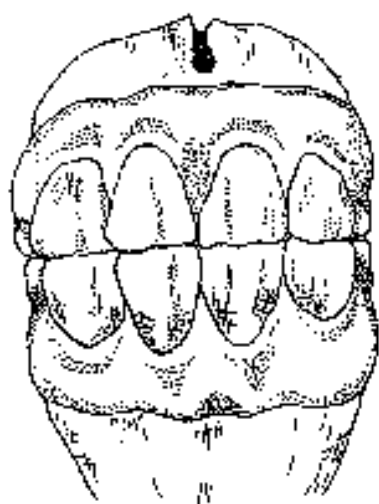
3 Years



Exploratory Learning: Educational Program

Produced by <http://www.horselearning.com> through Curriculum Materials Service

Use these cards in conjunction with Anatomy - Match the correct age of the horse with the diagram of its teeth situation/task statement and/or Determining the Age by the Teeth identification tags.

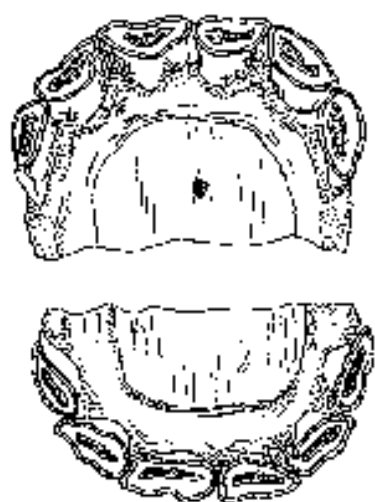
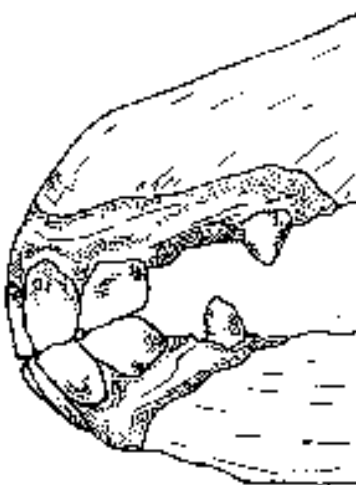
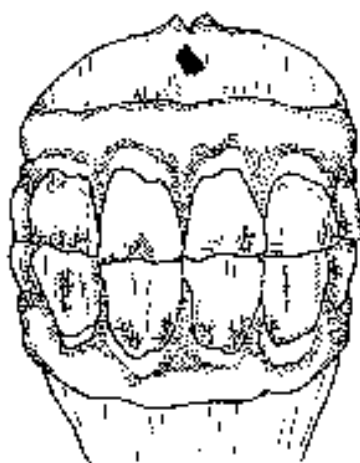


4 Years



Exploratory Learning: Educational Program

Product distributed through EquiSource and EquiSource Service



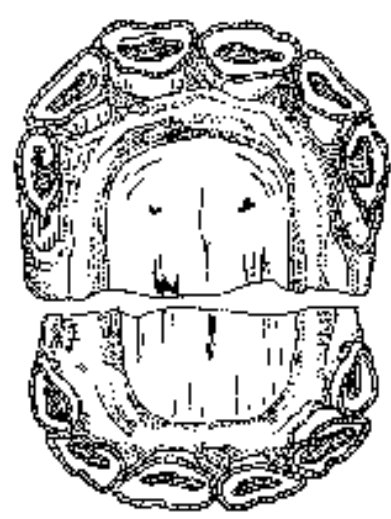
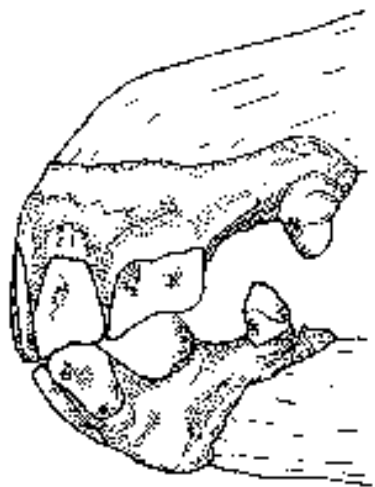
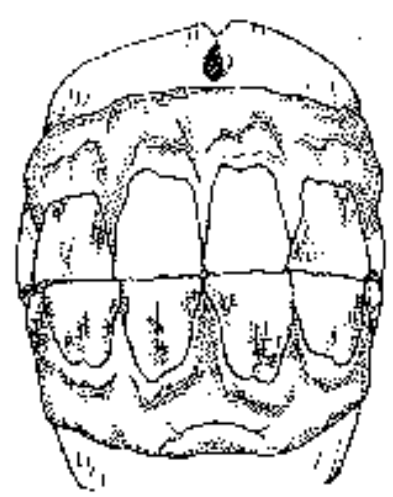
5 Years



Exploratory Learning: Educational Program

Product distributed through EquiSource and EquiSource Service

Use these cards in conjunction with Anatomy - Match the correct age of the horse with the diagram of its teeth situation/task statement and/or Determining the Age by the Teeth identification tags.

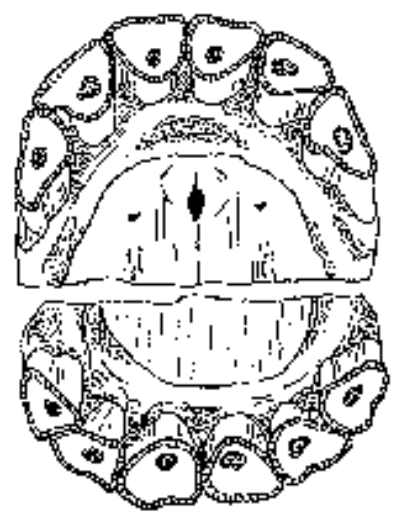
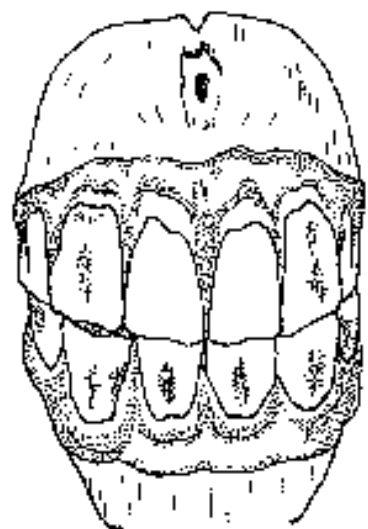


7 Years



Exploratory Learning: Educational Program

Printed and distributed through Equine Education Materials Service



15 Years



Exploratory Learning: Educational Program

Printed and distributed through Equine Education Materials Service

Nutrition

Identifying Feed Types



Whole Grain Oats



Dried Sugar Beet Pulp



Dicalcium Phosphate



Soybean Oil Meal



Trace Mineral Salt or Salt



Dehydrated Alfalfa Meal Pellets



Whole Grain Wheat



Dry Molasses



Steam Rolled Barley



Wheat Bran



Whole Kernel Corn or Maize



Ground Limestone (Calcium Carbonate)

General Tack & Equipment

Identify tack and
equipment



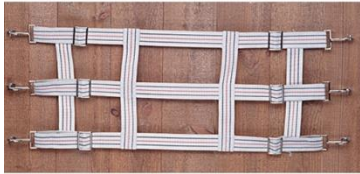
Brush

- Oval Finishing Brush or Soft-Bristle Body and Face Brush



Lunge Whip

- Lunge Whip with 6' Lash



Stall Guard

- Web Stall Guard



Hay Bag

- Canvas Hay Bag



Foal Feeder

- Adjustable Foal Feeder or Creep Feeder



Chifney Bit

- Chifney Bit, Anti-Rearing Bit, or Colt Leading Bit



Bucket

- Flat Back Bucket



Feed Tub

- Round Rubber Feed Pan or Feed Tub



Horseshoe

- Aluminum Horseshoe, Ready-Made Shoe, or Racing Plate



Halter

- Nylon Halter



Leg Wraps

- Quilted Leg Wraps or Equine Wraps



Snaffle Bit

- Hollow Mouth Eggbutt Snaffle Bit



Blanket

- Quilted Nylon Horse Blanket



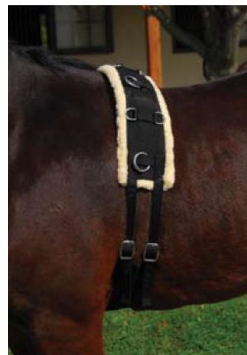
Hobbles

- Leather Hobbles or Figure "8" Hobbles



Lead

- Cotton Lead Rope or Rope Lead



Surcingle

- Web Surcingle or All-Purpose Surcingle



Lunge Line

- Web Lunge Line with Chain



Hoofpick

- Vinyl Coated Steel Hoofpick



Sweat Scraper

- Aluminum Sweat Scraper or Body Scraper



Grooming Mit

- Pebbled Rubber Grooming Mit

Parasites

Identifying common
parasites and their
effects



Horse Bots

Horse bots are bot fly larvae and are internal parasites of horses. The horse bot larvae develop in the stomach of horses causing symptoms ranging from stomach ulcers, and esophageal paralysis to occlusion of the digestive tract.



Horse Fly

Because of their painful bites and frequent attacks, horse flies produce frenzied behavior in their hosts, sometimes causing them to run long distances in an effort to escape. Horse flies introduce an anticoagulant into the bite wound which causes blood to ooze for up to eight hours. These wounds are excellent sites for

secondary invasion of screwworm and also cause much blood loss. Being intermittent feeders, they are known mechanical transmitters of diseases such as anthrax, tularemia, anaplasmosis, and equine infectious anemia (EIA).



Stable Fly

The stable fly, is similar to the house fly in size and color, but the bayonet-like mouthparts of the stable fly differentiate it from the house fly. Unlike the flies already discussed, both sexes of the stable fly are vicious biters. They are strong fliers and range many miles from the breeding sites.



Biting Minge

The life cycles and habits of midges affecting livestock is poorly known. The biting midges are considered the most important livestock pests of this group. One species is a known vector of bluetongue virus in sheep and cattle. Damage is usually seen in skin reactions and lesion formation. Horses may lose their hair in the infected areas because of fly feeding. No effective control measures are available for these flies.



Black Flies

The black flies are small flies and are not as common in Florida as in other regions. Eighteen species are reported for Florida. Four species feed on cattle and horses. Damage from black flies feeding includes animal losses along the river basins. Death usually occurs as a consequence of an acute toxemia caused by vast number of bites or as a result of anaphylactic shock. Both weakness from heavy blood loss and suffocation by inhalation may also cause animal loss. Diseases are vectored by black flies in other regions of the world.



Horn Fly

Horn flies often attack horses which are pastured near cattle. These blood-feeding flies do not develop in horse manure but migrate to horses from cattle pastures. They do feed on horses and may build to more than 65 flies per animal. In Florida they are common and persistent blood feeders causing damage by irritating the animal and producing skin lesions. The life cycle of the horn fly takes place only in fresh cattle manure



House Fly

House fly damage to horses is from annoyance caused by persistent feeding on the muzzle, eyes and open wounds. Animals become nervous,

restless, and reduce food intake. House flies are also intermediate hosts for stomach worms (*Habronema*), diseases and parasites of horses. It has also been shown that the house fly is capable of transmitting diseases such as bovine mastitis and pink eye. In addition house flies are known to be contaminated with more than 100 species of pathogenic organisms.



Eye Gnat

Eye gnats are very common small flies seen around the faces of horses throughout the summer months. The larvae develop in organic matter in the soil. No effective control methods are available for this pest.



Blow Fly

The blow flies are most numerous in the spring and fall. In general eggs are laid in open wounds and putrid organic debris. The larvae develop by feeding on dead tissue or living tissue. As the larvae mature they fall out and pupate in the ground. About 17 days are required from egg to adult.



Lice

Two biting lice and one sucking louse (Figure 14) infest horses and mules. Heavy infestations usually are seen in the winter and may cause anemia, unthriftiness, loss of condition, stunting of growth, uneasiness, loss of hair and even sores, wounds and scabs from rubbing. Lice are permanent parasites of their hosts, spending the entire life cycle on the host. Most species live only a short time off the animal and are not found on other animal species.



Mite

The itch, or mange mites (Figure 14), are small ovoid mites about as big around as the cross section of a straight pin (1/16 inch). The eight legs are very short and barely extend beyond the margin of the body. They burrow just beneath the skin making very slender winding tunnels from 1/10 to 1 inch long. The fluid discharged at the tunnel openings dries to form dry nodules. These mites secrete an extremely irritating toxin, that when combined with the tunneling, causes extreme host reactions and itching. The host reaction causes the skin to slough off in the infested areas.



Mosquito

Mosquitoes are small, two-winged flies with piercing sucking mouthparts. Females of most species suck blood, males do not. Mosquitoes attack all kinds of warm-blooded animals, domestic and wild. Florida has many species recorded as economic pests on livestock.



Ticks

Two general groups of ticks attack horses, hard ticks and soft ticks. Hard ticks (Figure 18) have long association with the host, feed slowly, take a large blood meal, drop from the host to molt, and lay many eggs. Their mouthparts are anterior and may be seen from above. Ticks are easily distinguished from insects, since the body is not definitely divided and the strong fusion of the thorax and abdomen produces a sac-like leathery appearance. A distinct head is lacking, but there is a head-like structure which bears recurved teeth that are inserted into the wound, allowing the tick to hold on strongly

Diseases

Identifying common
diseases and their
effects

Tetanus (lockjaw)

Tetanus is caused by a bacterial toxin normally found in the soil and in the feces of horses. The bacteria that produce the tetanus toxin need a decreased oxygen supply to multiply, so any area where there is a deep puncture wound or where a wound has healed over (such as the navel stump of a newborn foal) is an area where tetanus can thrive. Symptoms of tetanus include a protrusion of the third eyelid and stiff neck, progressing to overall muscle stiffness causing a 'sawhorse' stance. Tetanus is often fatal, but a yearly vaccine can prevent it, and the vaccine is a good idea because small cuts can go unnoticed and become infected.

Equine Encephalomyelitis (sleeping sickness)

This is a disease that affects the nervous system, and can be caused by equine encephalomyelitis viruses (Eastern, Western, and Venezuelan), which are carried by mosquitoes. Signs include depression and a high fever, followed by a period when the horse appears blind, nervous and uncoordinated, with muscle tremors, and eventually, complete paralysis. Proper vaccination and good mosquito control are important to help prevent this disease.

Equine Influenza

This viral disease is spread by inhalation of drops of infective material. Signs include a dry, hacking cough, sudden onset of fever, watery nasal discharge, weakness, loss of appetite and depression. Infection with equine influenza is rarely fatal but can cause problems such as emphysema, pneumonia or bronchitis.

Equine Herpesvirus (rhinopneumonitis, rhino, viral abortion)

There are 2 types of equine herpesvirus: EHV-1, which causes respiratory disease (fever, cough, nasal discharge), reproductive problems (abortion, stillbirth), and neurological problems (hindlimb weakness, difficulty walking, sometimes paralysis); and EHV-4, which is usually limited to respiratory problems. Once a horse has been infected with EHV-1 or EHV-4,

he will always be a carrier, and may shed the virus during times of stress.

West Nile Virus

Horses get WNV by being bitten by an infected mosquito; some horses do not show any signs and recover on their own, but in some horses the infection affects the central nervous system and causes signs including fever, weakness or paralysis of the hind limbs, impaired vision, lack of coordination, head pressing, convulsions, inability to swallow, and coma.

Rabies

This is a viral infection of the central nervous system, and although it is not common in horses, rabies can be transmitted to horses by the bite of an infected animal such as a skunk, raccoon, fox, dog or bat. Rabies can be transmitted to people. We recommend that you check with your veterinarian regarding recommendations for rabies vaccination for your horse.

Strangles

This contagious respiratory disease is caused by a bacterial infection. Signs include a fever, thick, yellow, nasal discharge and swollen, abscessed lymph nodes under the jaws. The infection is spread by infected material from nasal discharge or abscesses contaminating stalls, feed troughs, pastures, etc. Young horses are the most susceptible to strangles.

Potomac Horse Fever

This disease is a bacterial infection of the blood and tissues. It is much more common in spring, summer and early fall and is only found in certain areas of the country. Signs include a fever, depression, decreased gut sounds, and a profuse, watery diarrhea that can lead to laminitis, colic, dehydration, shock, and death.

Horse Grooming

The Process of
Grooming

Grooming, also an important part of management, includes daily inspection of the horse to check for cuts, bruises, or any problem. It also means that the horse's foot is picked up and cleaned with a hoof pick before and after each ride. Then the horse's body is groomed to remove dirt and hair from the entire body.

First go over the horse with a curry comb in a circular motion, except for the bony areas around the knees and hocks. Then brush the horse with a stiff-bristled brush. Comb the mane and tail to eliminate tangles; do this carefully in order not to break off an excessive number of hairs.

Next shine the horse with a dandy brush and a grooming cloth to bring out the oils in his hair coat. After riding the horse, you can bathe him or simply scrape the sweat with a scraper. If a horse is unduly sweaty it is a good idea to bathe him to remove the perspiration and salt that have accumulated



Body Brush



Curry Comb



Dandy Brush



Sweat Scraper



Hoof Pick



Mane/Tail Comb



Grooming Cloth