

OPEN HOUSE

March 16th



Horse Safety

Horses are big powerful animals and have the capability of hurting you, that is why, before we start with anything else, we need to understand the correct behavior around horses.

1. HORSES ARE DANGEROUS

- a. If horses are scared or feel threatened by you horses will KICK, BITE, or other potentially harmful things
- b. They are bigger than us. Be careful of where your feet are or you could be accidentally stood on
- c. When walking behind a horse, place your hand on their bum and stand nice and close. The closer you are the less it will hurt.

Slow motions, quiet voices

Horses are very sensitive creatures, they have the ability to feel scary threats from far away. Horses developed this skill in the wild, long, long, ago to protect themselves and their babies, and still have this ability to this day. This skill they have makes them super sensitive to our actions too, so we need to move slowly:

- Around the horse
- Walking up to the horse
- Patting the horse
- And whenever you're in the horses sight

We also have to make sure we keep our voices quiet. Loud sounds can easily scare a horse, and frighten them to where they could hurt someone or themselves. So we have to use our inside voices whenever we are around horses.

Personal space

When you are around horses, we need to make sure we are careful with what we do. We always stay away from the horse's bum, as their back legs are powerful weapons that were once used against predators. To avoid being kicked when walking around the horse, stay as close to them as possible and keep a hand on the top of their bum at all times, that way the horse knows where you are.

Also do not walk under a horse's neck, they have big front feet that can severely hurt you if you don't give the horse personal space. Horses might also accidentally stand on you if you're not careful, and can break bones. It's important we understand to always wear boots around horses and to make sure we focus on what we are doing around the horse at all times.

Approach

Always approach horses with your arm extended and walk towards their shoulder slowly, talking to them nicely will also let them know where you are and keep them calm.

DO NOT RUN TOWARDS A HORSE

ALWAYS WALK

Manners

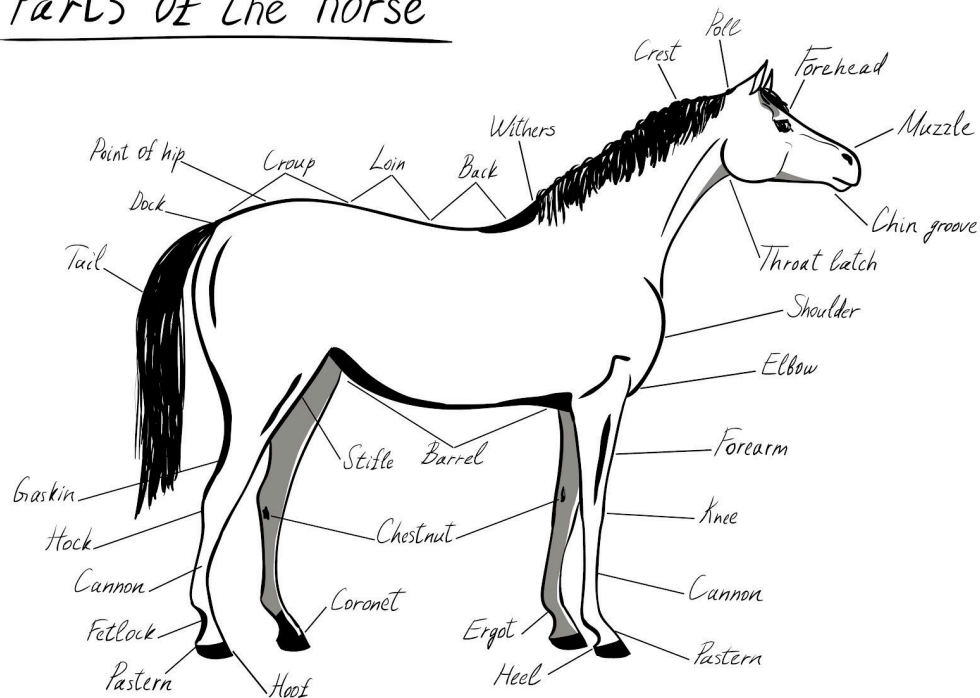
Horses have manners too, but we need to also show our manners to the horses. These manners include:

- Soft hands-we have to be gentle to the horse
- Quiet voices-it can spook the horses.
- Calm and slow movements
- Personal space-don't get close to a horse's bum unless you can hold your hand on them at all times and be as close as possible. The front feet are also just as dangerous as the back feet. Always give horses personal space.
- Approach a horse at his shoulder

Equine fact: Did you know horses can sense your magnetic field and your emotions? Keeping your emotions calm and happy will also keep the horse calm and happy. They are an emotional mirror!

Anatomy

Parts of the horse



There are many different parts that make up the horse's body. Here are some of the few points on the outside of the horse. For example, did you know horse's have elbows? And a chestnut is more than the color of a horse, but also the hard piece of skin inside the knee or hock. Then there are certain areas of the horse we have to protect, for example, the Cannon bone. Horses cannon bones are not protected from harm with surrounding muscle like most of their other bones. Sometimes when they bump these bones hard it can cause damage and formations called splints occur, which are hard bumps on the horses legs. We use boots, polo wraps, or other methods to protect this area.

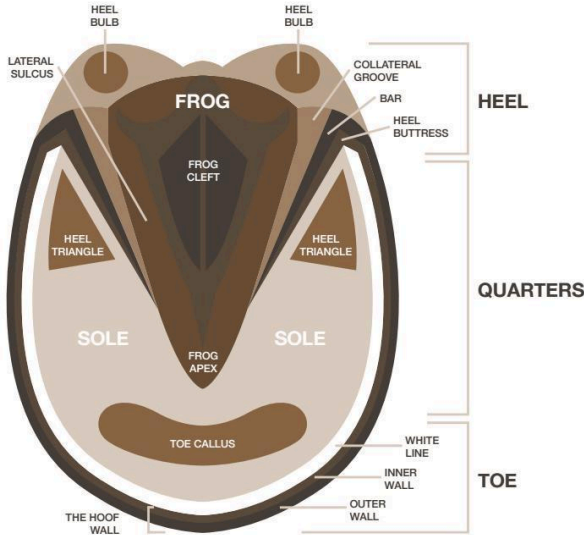
Equine fact: Horses have 205 bones in their body.

feel free to color in the 'parts of the horse' image!

Horse hooves

NO HOOF NO HORSE

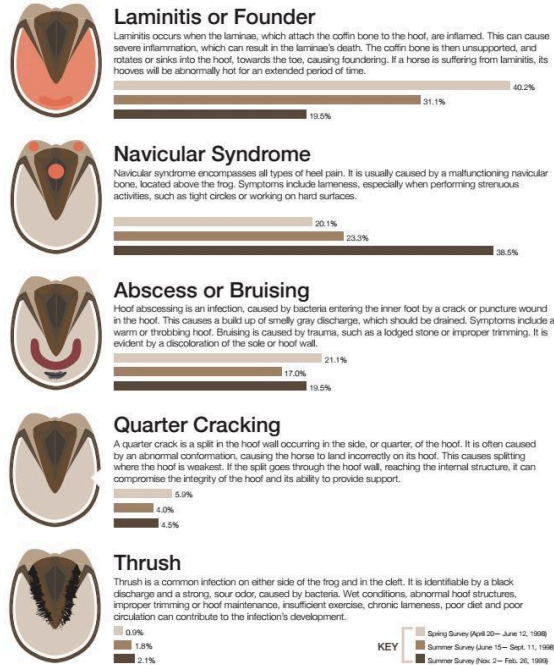
Horse hooves are a complex, important structure. They are also susceptible to a multitude of problems, caused by everything from diet to a wet environment.



By Alexa Walkowicz
Sources: SmartPak, USDA and the National Animal Health Monitoring System, Rusty's Equine Hoof Repairs

MOST COMMON HOOF PROBLEMS

Listed below are their descriptions and their percentages relative to the USDA's 1998 survey of reported horse lameness. Because no preventative measures or treatment advances have been made, the percentages can be expected to hold steady. In the spring survey, 28,026 horses were surveyed. In the summer survey, 26,845 horses were surveyed. In the winter survey, 24,159 horses were surveyed.



The horse's hooves are incredibly important to a healthy and happy horse. As you can see in the image above, the hoof is made up of many parts, such as:

- The frog
- Heel triangle
- Sole
- Heel bulbs
- Collateral groove
- The wall

And many more. Have you ever had a sore toe? Maybe you stumped it on the edge of the table? Or how about a sore foot? It's not much fun when your feet hurt, and that's why we have to look after horses feet too, they need cared for just as much as the rest of the horse's body or they might end up with hoof problems like:

- Laminitis/founder
- Navicular Syndrome
- Abscesses or bruising

- Quarter cracking
- Thrush

Most of these hoof problems can be fixed if treated on time and properly, if not though, unfortunately it can lead to serious problems.

Grooming

Grooming tools:

- Curry comb
- Hoof pick
- Hard brush
- Soft brush
- Scissors
- Comb/mane and tail brush

Match the color of your pencil, used to tick off the box to the color you use to circle the grooming tool.

Curry comb

The curry comb is used all over the horse's body to remove dirt and loosen dead hair.

Hoof pick

The hoof pick is used to clean the horses feet of debris. Rocks, sticks, mud and other sorts of things can get tightly packed into a horse's hoof and cause hoof problems like abscess or bruising.

Hard brush

The hard brush is used to sweep off the dirt, hair and other debris the curry comb brought up. This tool is used all over the horse's body.

Soft brush

The soft brush is used to remove particles or grease from the horse. This brush also feels soothing to the horse when brushed down.

Scissors

The scissors are used to trim the horse's tail when it gets too long. Sometimes when the horse's tail grows past the horse's fetlock, the horse can stand on it and pull out big chunks which can be very painful to the horse.

Comb/mane and tail brush

The comb or brush is used to detangle the horse's mane and tail. Also can be used to remove things such as hay, sawdust or sticks and burrs.

Equine tip: It is important to groom horses everyday, to maintain a healthy coat, skin, and hooves. Horses can develop fungus on their skin, and by grooming them we can keep them clean and healthy. It's also important to use your hands to feel for lumps, bumps, cuts and scrapes. By grooming them everyday you can keep close attention to your horses health and well-being.

Horse Colours

All horse colours are formed by two possible base colours, red and Black. 11 most common colours are:

1. Black
2. Bay
3. Chestnut
4. Brown
5. Dun
6. Buckskin
7. Gray
8. Pinto
9. Grulla
10. Roan
11. Palomino

Black

Black horses are ebony in colour from head to toe. With the exception of white on the face or legs.

Bay

Bays are from a red base coat with the main coat of the horse being brown in colour. These horses have a black mane and tail.

Chestnut

Like Bay horses, chestnuts also have a red base coat with a reddish coat colour, along with their manes and tails. Sometimes Chestnuts can be such a dark red that they are confused as black.

Brown

Brown horses have black base colour, however as they may look black over their bodies they are actually brown hairs. A way to tell a black horse apart from a brown horse is that a brown horse will have a lighter coloured brown around the eyes and muzzle.

Dun

Also a red base, dun's are yellow/cream/golden in colour, with a black mane and tail. They also must have a dorsal stripe and dark legs.

Buckskin

Buckskins are very similar to a dun, however they do not feature a dorsal stripe.

Gray

Gray's are typically born another colour such as black, chestnut or bay, and will gradually get more gray hairs as they get older due to genetic dilution after birth.

Pinto

These horses can be any of the colours above, but have big white patches over the body. This horse may also be called a paint horse.

Grulla

These horses have a black skin base, but can be confused with a dun. They are yellowish/gray in colour with sooty faces, dark legs and a dorsal stripe.

Roan

Roans can be red, blue (black), and bay, and have fine white hairs all over the body that give the horse a shimmery look.

Palomino

Red base mixed with cream gives golden palominos! These horses have a yellow/golden/creamy coat with white manes and tails.

Other colours:

- White
- Chocolate flaxen
- Chimera
- Leopard
- Brindle
- Gold champagne
- Creamello
- Dappled
- Appaloosa

Horse Breeds

Horse breeds we will talk about today are the 11 US Equestrian recognised breeds.

1. Andalusian/Lusitano
2. Arabian
3. Connemara
4. Friesian
5. Hackney
6. Morgan
7. National Show Horse
8. Paso Fino
9. American Saddlebred
10. Shetland
11. Welsh Pony/Cob

Some of these horses are of American descent however others are horses from across the world who have made it here through the demand of competition.

Andalusian/Lusitano

The Andalusian/Lusitano breed originated in the Iberian Peninsula and is one of the oldest breeds of horse. The Andalusian was bred principally by Carthusian Monks in the late Middle Ages. Every purebred Andalusian/Lusitano today can trace its lineage directly to the Stud Books of Spain and Portugal. The typical Andalusian stands between 15.2 and 16.2 hands with a very powerful yet elegant build. Grey or white is the predominant breed color, but it is not unusual to see a bay, black, chestnut or even a palomino or dun colored Andalusian. Because of its trainability, lightness, and athleticism, the Andalusian excels in all disciplines of riding and driving, including an array of classes in halter, driving, hunt seat, saddle seat, dressage, Western pleasure, equitation, showmanship and working equitation. This majestic and rare "Horse of Kings," is enjoying increasing recognition and acclaim in international dressage competition, and the Andalusian breed continues to grow and increase in popularity here in the United States.

Arabian

One of the world's oldest and purest breeds of light horse, the Arabian's ancestry is as far-reaching as civilization itself. Historical figures the likes of Genghis Khan, Napoleon, Alexander the Great and George Washington all rode Arabians. Originating in the harsh desert conditions of the Middle East, this compact, efficient breed with its unparalleled stamina, intelligence, hardiness, gentle disposition and loyalty evolved as a direct result of the unforgiving climate, and became both a necessary instrument for survival and the most valued possession of its Bedouin master. Designed for efficiency and longevity, Arabians are medium-sized (between 14.2 and 15.3 hands), short-coupled and possess a lean muscle mass. Their large lung capacity and efficient metabolism allow them to carry heavy loads over great distances in extreme heat and with little water.

Connemara

Considered Ireland's only native breed, the Connemara Pony originates from an area of the same name located in Western Ireland and noted for its rocky, barren and mountainous terrain which is full of seemingly endless and desolate moors and bogs. Originally developed as a utilitarian working horse by the local farmers, the Connemara dutifully pulled a plow through the barren land, hauled rocks and other heavy loads over rough roadways and through heavy bogs, and carted the family to church on Sunday. While grey and dun are the most common colors for Connemaras, they can also be black, bay, brown, chestnut, palomino or even roan. Black points are common, but pinto coloring is not accepted. The rich heritage, as well as the temperament, intelligence and sensible nature of the Connemara, makes it an ideal candidate for work in harness in today's show ring. Because of this, the Connemara is a frequent competitor in combined driving and driven dressage classes. The Connemara also possesses heart, determination, and extraordinary jumping ability, so it often competes as a show jumper, working hunter, or eventer. This versatile breed's rectangular build makes the Connemara a natural fit for dressage, Western and English pleasure, and even endurance riding.

Friesian

The purebred Friesian originated in Friesland, a province in the Netherlands. The Friesian is most recognized by its upright, noble carriage, its black hair coat, its long thick mane, tail and forelock, and the trademark feathers on its lower legs. Although the breed's conformation resembles that of a light draft horse, the Friesian is remarkably nimble and graceful for its size, and carries itself with distinctive animation and elegance. Ranging in height from 15.1 to 17.3 hands and possessing a powerfully built body with dense bone, the Friesian horse is known for its brisk, high-stepping trot. Today the breed can be found competing in virtually every discipline. Still a favorite for

carriage driving because of its beauty and powerful trot, the Friesian is making its presence felt in the dressage world in recent years, as well. Saddle Seat, Hunter Seat and Western riders have all found the Friesian a match in their respective classes. As to the driving disciplines, the Friesian has not merely retained its place, but expanded it, finding its way into pleasure driving, as well as combined driving.

Hackney

The Hackney originated in and around Norfolk, England, by prosperous farmers seeking to improve the quality and trotting speed of their carriage horses. The modern Hackney horse stands over 14.2 hands tall, with the ponies ranging from 12.2 hands to 14.2 hands in height, and they can be black, brown, bay or even occasionally chestnut in color. The Hackney's hallmark is its highly distinctive action; trotting fluidly with high knee and hock action, the Hackney exhibits extreme brilliance. Hackney ponies are divided into four competitive categories: the Hackney Pony; the Harness Pony; the Roadster Pony; and the Pleasure Pony. The Hackney Horse, like the Hackney Pony, is a versatile performer that excels in carriage and combined driving events, as well as in the show ring, both in harness and under saddle.

Morgan

The proud, personable and stalwart Morgan is a truly American creation representing America's first horse breed, and its heritage parallels many significant historical events in this country. In the late 1780s, teacher, composer, and businessman Justin Morgan acquired a young colt whose compact muscular build, stylish way of going, and ability to outwork and outperform other horses caught the attention of area settlers and soon made him a legend. Although the stallion's real

name was Figure, he became known (as was the custom of the day) by his owner's name, hence the Justin Morgan horse became the foundation sire for the Morgan breed. The stamina and spirit of the Morgan, combined with its build and way of traveling, contributed in part to the formation of other American breeds, including the American Quarter Horse, the Standardbred, the Tennessee Walking Horse and the American Saddlebred. Morgans range in height from 14.1 to 15.3 hands, and their color can be bay, black, chestnut, grey, palomino, dun and even buckskin. The breed comprises a large number of entries at combined driving and carriage events and was the first American breed to represent the United States in World Pairs Driving competition. Morgans also excel in many other disciplines, including English and Western pleasure, park under-saddle and in harness, hunter, jumper, dressage, reining, cutting, endurance and competitive trail. Today, the Morgan serves as one of the nation's top show horses, and the breed's soundness, power, agility, versatility and stamina make it the choice for many equestrians.

National Show Horse

The National Show Horse (NSH) is a relatively new American breed whose registry was not founded until 1981. Representing the epitome of the modern day show horse, a National Show Horse was originally a combination of the best of two breeds: the Arabian and the American Saddlebred. Beginning in 2011, the National Show Horse expanded its influence and now accepts into its registry a horse representing a combination of Arabian and any other breed as long as the resulting offspring possesses a minimum of 50% Arabian blood. A typical NSH stands between 14.3 and 16.2 hands in height and can be grey, bay, black, chestnut, and even palomino or pinto in color. Due in large part to their natural upright carriage and lofty animated action, the National Show Horse is predominantly ridden saddle seat in English pleasure and gaited classes, or driven as a fine harness or pleasure driving horse. However, their inherent dynamism, athleticism, and willing disposition make this extremely versatile breed equally successful in a wide variety of classes, including hunter pleasure, Western pleasure, show hack, and dressage.

Paso Fino

The Paso Fino horse reflects its Spanish heritage through its proud carriage, grace, and elegance. Originally a combination of Andalusian, Spanish Barb, and the now-extinct Spanish Jennet blood, the Paso Fino was initially brought to the Americas by Spanish Conquistadors who used the horses to stock their remount stations in the Caribbean and Latin American colonies. The Paso Fino, which can range in height from 13 to 15.2 hands, is born with a gait unique to the breed that is smooth, rhythmic, purposeful, and synchronous front to rear, which produces a smooth and balanced ride. The Paso Fino exhibits three forward speeds with varying degrees of collection: Classic Fino (full collection and slow forward speed); Paso Corto (full-to-moderate collection and moderate forward speed), and Paso Largo (moderate-to-minimal collection and fastest forward speed). Additionally, Paso Finos are capable of executing other gaits natural to horses (including the canter), which makes them versatile, family-oriented horses capable of competing in a wide variety of disciplines and classes, including Western pleasure, trail, pleasure driving, and even team penning and endurance.

American Saddlebred

Historically referred to as the “Horse America Made,” the American Saddlebred has a long and proud history, from the battlefields of Gettysburg to the bright lights of Madison Square Garden and a tremendous legacy of service in between. When Thoroughbreds made their first appearance in North America during the 1700s, the colonists began crossing them with the Pacer. The resulting breed, first known as the American Horse, quickly became extremely popular; so much so that in 1776, an American diplomat in France issued a letter to the Continental Congress proposing a gift of an American Horse to Marie Antoinette. Proud, upright carriage with neck arched and ears forward, the American Saddlebred dominates the saddle seat disciplines with its

elegant and powerful high-stepping action. In addition to the three typical gaits – walk, trot, and canter – the five-gaited American Saddlebred is known for its unique, distinctive, and exceptionally smooth-riding gaits known as the slow gait (a highly-collected movement executed very slowly and in which each of the four feet strike the ground separately) and the rack (in which footfalls are similar to the slow gait, but the movement is performed at greater speed, with more animation and brilliance, and with little collection). In addition to its animated style and brilliance in the show ring, the American Saddlebred's willing attitude, big heart and bravery make it an equally suitable candidate for other disciplines as well, including dressage, combined driving, and jumping. American Saddlebreds typically stand between 15.1 and 16.3 hands in height and, true to their showman style, can be of any color ranging from black, bay, grey, and chestnut to palomino and pinto. A thrilling show horse, a true and loyal companion and an incredible athlete, the American Saddlebred is a horse for everyone.

Shetland

The Shetland Pony originated on the cluster of Scottish islands located off the East coast of Norway, known as the Shetland Isles. These hardy, sturdy ponies roamed the hills and moors of Shetland as early as the 8th or 9th centuries. The ponies were first introduced to the United States in the 1800s and have since been selectively bred for refinement resulting in a sturdy but elegant show pony. Today there are two distinct types of Shetland Pony recognized by the breed's registry here in the United States. Division A Shetland Ponies— otherwise known as the Classic Shetland Pony— have retained the original sturdy rugged breed characteristics of their Shetland Isle ancestors. Out-crossing Classic Shetlands with registered Hackneys or registered Welsh ponies has resulted in a lighter, more elegant and animated show pony well-suited to the driving and harness classes offered in today's show ring. This type— known as the Modern Shetland Pony— must still retain at least 50% Shetland blood and represents Division B of the registry. All Shetlands, whether Division A or B, average approximately 9.3 hands (or 39 inches), but must never exceed 11.2 hands (or 46 inches) in height, and they can be found in any color.

Shetland Ponies are well-suited to the performance demands of pony hunters, carriage driving, modern fine harness, and roadster driving.

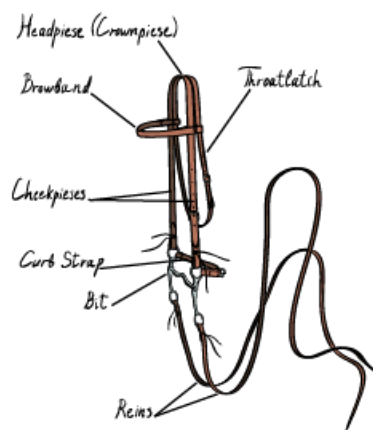
Welsh Pony and Cob

The Welsh Pony and the Welsh Cob get their names from the mountainous region of Wales from which they originate. Pre-dating the Romans, Welsh ponies could be found roaming the region, climbing mountains, leaping ravines, and running through rough terrain, resulting in the development of an extremely intelligent pony with remarkable soundness and tremendous endurance. Able to subsist on sparse vegetation and survive the severe winters, the ponies were prized by local farmers who began breeding them for use as sturdy work ponies. Welsh Ponies and Cobs are well-known for their friendly personalities and even temperaments; they are extremely intelligent and easily trained. All Welsh types can be found in any color except pinto. Today, Welsh Ponies and Cobs can be found competing in nearly every discipline, including hunters, pleasure driving, dressage, eventing, combined driving, heavy harness, and English and Western pleasure. Welsh Ponies and Cobs are ideal for the growing child, and have the spirit and endurance to challenge an adult; they are truly trusted companions that you will never outgrow.

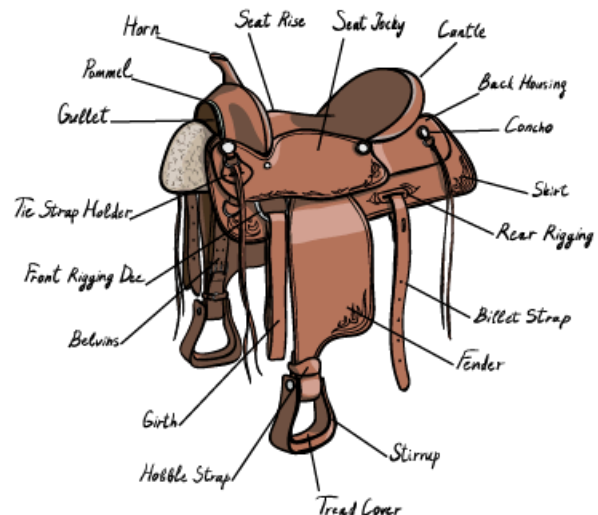
Tack and Equipment

Western Tack

Parts of the western bridle



Parts of the western saddle



Western/English Bridle: (both are very similar)

-Headstall

Sometimes known as Crown piece, is the top of the bridle that sits on top of the horse's Pole.

-Browband

The leather strap across the horse's temples/under forelock. Some bridles do not have a brow band, instead they have an earpiece. The Earpiece is for the bridle to be supported by a single ear.

-Cheek Pieces

This part of the bridle sits along the cheeks of the horse

-Curb Strap

Sometimes known as the curb chain, this sits under the horse's jaw as a tool used during collection. The curb strap will aid the rider in creating a softer head carriage.

-Bit

The bit is the metal tool that sits inside the horse's mouth on top of their tongue. This helps the rider to not only steer the horse but different bits can be used to train different horses

-Throatlatch

A leather strap under the throatlatch(of the horse) to secure the bridle to the horse's head. Most Western bridles used with a one earpiece, do not have a throat latch.

-Reins

The reins are the long leather parts of the bridle connected to the bit. This is the connection between horse and rider, as this is what the rider holds.

Western Saddle

-Horn

A horn on a Roping saddle has to be strong because it is used in Roping to dally, and pull a steer.

-Seat rise

Is the angle of the seat from front to back

-Seat Jockey

The leather from the seat covering the saddle fenders

-Cantle

The cantle is the rear part of the saddle and western saddles cantles are higher than that of the english saddles for more comfort when riding.

-Back Housing

The leather finish on the back of the saddle

-Conchos

Are metal discs used to secure the leather skirt to the saddle tree

-Skirt

This protects the horse from the tree bars and helps to distribute the riders weight more evenly

-Rear Rigging and Back Girth

The rear rigging is used with a Back Girth to secure the back of the saddle to the horse. This is used for safety reasons in sports such as Team roping, or simply trail riding. This prevents the saddle from sliding over the neck of the horse

-Billet Strap or Latigo

The Billet is a short but thick strap with holes to attach the girth (front or back) to the saddle and secure it to the horse.

The Latigo is the long strap with holes in it used to attach the girth.

-Fender

This is the large leather piece that connects the main body of the saddle to the stirrups.

-Stirrup

The metal or wood frame that holds the riders foot.

-Hobble Strap or Fender Hobble

This keeps the Fender of the saddle and the stirrup strap together.

-Girth

Secures the saddle to the horse

-Belvins

This is the part of the saddle used to adjust the length of the stirrups

-Front Rigging Dee

The Dee is used to secure the girth (using the Billet Strap or Latigo) to the main frame of the saddle

-Tie Strap Holder

This hold the Latigo and prevents it from dragging on the ground

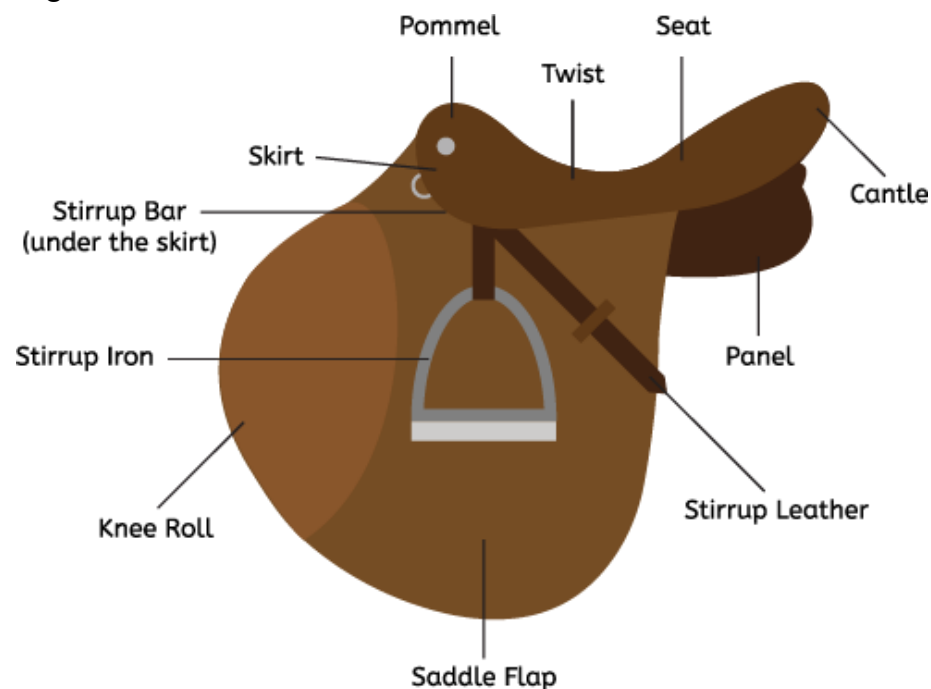
-Gullet

Where the Pommel swells meet the bars of the tree

-Pommel/Swell

This is part of the main frame of the tree and varies in sizes from saddle to saddle.

English Saddle



-Pommel

The front of the saddle that rises higher for riders safety and gives room for horses withers

-Twist

Part of the saddle seat. A narrow twist is light on the horse's back.

-Seat

The part of the saddle where the rider sits

-Cantle

The raised back of the saddle

-Panel

The two areas that are in contact with the horses back

-Stirrup Leather

The leather strap that secures the stirrup iron to the main body of the saddle

-Stirrup Iron

The metal frame for holding the riders foot

-Saddle Flap

The flap as a whole that does not come into contact with the horses back

-Knee Roll

Helps to keep the riders knee stable

-Stirrup Bar

The metal piece under the saddle skirt that securely attaches the stirrup to the saddle tree

-Skirt

The transitional piece of leather between the seat covering the stirrup leather and bar.

Equine Disciplines

Western/ Reining Equitation



In this sport, the rider is to demonstrate how well the horse is in control. The judges judge the riders abilities to control the horse, keeping an eye on methods used, also hand, leg, and body position must be considered. They will also judge how well the horse performed the maneuvers.



Western

Western includes a multitude of disciplines from Western pleasure, Trail, to Working cowhorse. These sports are derived from the past of the old west and were developed to show the capabilities of horses on the ranch. Everything from the saddle style to chaps and a cowboy hat are the same attire and tack used in the 1800's. Chaps were used by cowboys to

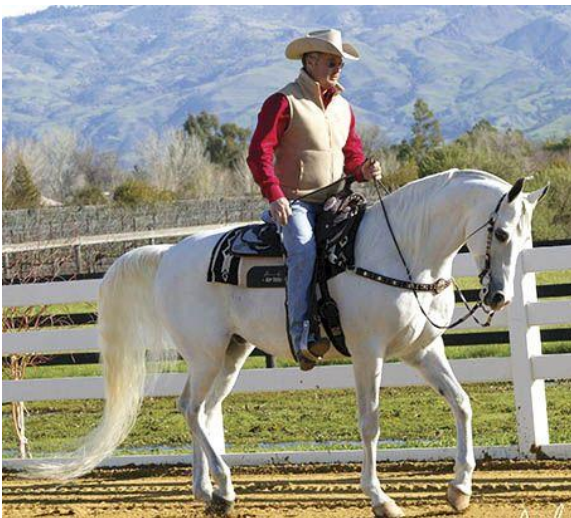
protect their legs from scrub and cactus, and the cowboy hat served as sun protection.



Eventing

The Olympic sport of eventing is best described as an equestrian triathlon. The sport originated as a cavalry test and is comprised of three phases: dressage, cross country and show jumping. The first phase – dressage – shows the graceful partnership of horse and rider through a sequence of movements on the flat. The next phase – cross country – challenges bravery,

fitness and determination as combinations navigate a series of solid obstacles, technical questions and varied terrain. In the final phase – show jumping – pairs must again prove their precision as they clear a course of fences. Competitors accumulate penalty points in each phase. At the end of the event, the pair with the lowest score wins. Eventing tests horse and rider pairs more completely than any other discipline.



Western Dressage

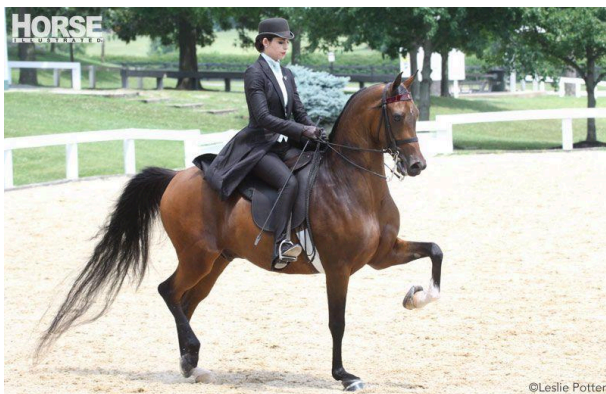
The hallmarks of the Western dressage horse are usefulness, rideability, willingness, safety, pure gaits, lightness, calmness, and steadiness. A Western dressage rider should be attentive and tactful. They should use clear, effective, subtle aids coupled with a confident seat and light, responsive hands in communication with their horse. Western Dressage is the combination of the ability of a well trained horse in the comforts of western tack.



Volting

One of the oldest known forms of equestrian sport. Often described as gymnastics performed on horseback, vaulting's origins can be traced back to Roman games which included acrobatic displays performed on cantering horses. All vaulting routines – team, individual, and freestyle – are performed on the back of a cantering horse, traveling in a circle and attached to a long line. Competitors are judged on their ability to smoothly execute compulsory movements demonstrating strength, flexibility, and balance—making sure to face all four directions and cover all parts of the horse from neck to

croup—during their routines. Vaulting offers enthusiasts the opportunity to develop coordination, balance, strength, and creativity while working harmoniously with both fellow teammates and the horse itself.



Saddle seat

In Saddle Seat Equitation classes, riders should convey the impression of effective and easy control. To show a horse well, he should show himself to the best advantage. Ring generalship must be taken into consideration by the judges. A complete picture of the whole is of major importance in "open" Equitation classes (not breed restricted) only the rider is being judged,

therefore, any horse that is suitable for a particular style of riding and is capable of performing the required class routine is acceptable.



Roadster

The Roadster belonged to the country doctor and the itinerant preacher in days gone by. Famous for its fast trot and ability to go long distances, it was the forerunner of the harness horses you see on the racetrack today. Shown at a jog trot, Road Gait and then at speed, the horses are either hitched to a two-wheeled cart (bike) or a four-wheeled wagon, or shown under saddle. The drivers and riders wear

racing silks in farm colors. Roadsters should show animation, brilliance, and competition-ring

presence with straight and true action in the jog-trot and Road Gait. "At speed," the horse must show speed and still go in form.



Reining

The modern reining horse's roots date back to the bygone era of the Old West where horses were a vital part of every working livestock ranch. Horses needed to be sturdy, quick, responsive, and agile to be able to herd and move cattle and other livestock across the range.

A reining competition essentially shows off the skills and athletic abilities necessary in the working ranch horse, but does so within the confines of a show pen and the movements you see in competition today have become extremely precise and highly refined. There are a total of 13 approved official reining patterns, and horses exhibit individually-performing, compulsory movements which include small slow circles, large fast circles, flying changes of lead, roll-backs, quick 360-degree spins, and the ever-exciting sliding stops which have become the hallmark of the reining horse. Probably due to its exciting, fast-paced action and its accessibility for any breed of horse, coupled with its enriching programs for riders of all experience levels, the discipline of reining has enjoyed one of the fastest rates of growth, experiencing a 40% increase in worldwide participation in the last 10 years. There are currently over 700 approved reining competitions held annually, up from 265 just a decade earlier.



Parade

The modern show ring parade horse's roots, however, take on a Western theme and can be

traced back to the mid-1800s when wealthy landowners in the Southwest region of the United States— particularly near the Mexican border— spared no luxury with their saddle horse transportation. The modern show ring parade horse can be of any breed, although the refined, animated carriage associated with American Saddlebreds, Morgans, and Hackneys make them favorite choices. A typical turn-out for a parade horse includes elaborate forms of Western tack including a bridle, breast-collar, and stock saddle adorned heavily with silver. The rider is most commonly attired in brightly-colored, elaborately decorated Western wear typical of the Old West which can be American, Mexican or Spanish in origin. A winning parade horse must have impeccable manners, and since beauty is important, blemishes are also considered. The parade mount is shown at two gaits: the animated walk and the “parade gait,” —a true, straight, square, high-prancing, balanced, and collected trot, the maximum speed of which should not exceed five miles-per-hour.



Para Equestrian

The primary focus of para-equestrian sport is to provide educational and competitive opportunities for athletes with physical disabilities. Many disabled athletes compete, and even excel, in sports designed for the able-bodied, but para-equestrian in particular opens a world of competition to riders and drivers with even severe disabilities that might preclude them from other forms of sport, and does so while providing a structured, focused, and highly competitive environment. In para-equestrian competition, each rider or driver is classified according to his or her functional ability and competitors are grouped accordingly to ensure a level playing field. Competitions can include dressage and driving. While it offers competitive opportunities for athletes of every level and aspiration, para-equestrian sport has evolved into an internationally-recognized event and para-dressage is held as part of the World Equestrian Games and at the Paralympics which take place every four years immediately following the Olympic Games and at the same venue.



Jumping

Jumping enjoys its place, both nationally and internationally, as one of the most popular and perhaps most recognizable equestrian events, aside from Thoroughbred horse racing. At its highest competitive level, Jumping is

recognized as one of the three Olympic equestrian disciplines alongside both Dressage and Eventing. Essentially, what pole vaulting, high jump and hurdles are to track and field, Jumping is to equestrian sport. Spectator friendly and easy to understand, the object for the Jumper is to negotiate a series of obstacles, where emphasis is placed on height and width, and to do so without lowering the height or refusing to jump any of the obstacles. The time taken to complete the course is also a factor. The Jumping course tests a horse's athleticism, agility and tractability while simultaneously testing a rider's precision, accuracy and responsiveness. Perhaps most importantly, Jumping tests the partnership between horse and rider.



Hunter

The modern show ring hunter's roots were established in Europe when gentry rode across the countryside hunting for game, often aided by dogs used to track the prey. The horses were necessary to carry their riders many miles over the varied terrain of the countryside in pursuit of their game, often negotiating the creeks, ditches, walls, and fences they encountered along the way. Although somewhat recreational from its beginning, the task of the working hunter became less rugged and more refined and competitive, thus the show ring hunter was born. Subjectively judged, the modern show ring hunter must still exhibit the traits desired of a good field hunter— calm disposition, good manners, smooth gaits, steady way of going, and pleasant and efficient jumping ability— but must do so with style, presence and superior technique. Conformation, athleticism, disposition, and jumping form all combine to define a winning show ring hunter. A wide range of sections and classes is offered for hunter riders in today's show ring, both over fences and on the flat.



Hunter/Jumper seat equitation

The Hunter/Jumping Seat Equitation division is divided into two different types-Hunter Seat and Jumping Seat. Both types of Equitation classes are designed to teach riders proper form and style, with riders being judged on position and style both over fences and on the flat. Riders should be accurate and stylish while using invisible aids and trying to make their rounds seem completely effortless. In Hunter Seat Equitation classes, courses are hunter-style courses with the majority of fences resembling

those that would traditionally be found in the hunt field. Bridles and bits permitted in the Hunter Seat Equitation classes are more traditional hunter-style tack, i.e. snaffles and pelhams along with cavesson nosebands. In Jumping Seat Equitation classes, courses are jumper-style courses with the majority of fences and tracks resembling those that would traditionally be found in the jumper ring. Additional jumper-type tack is permitted including gags and two or three ring bits as well as falsh, drop, and figure eight nosebands. Additionally, if martingales are used, they must be running martingales.



English Pleasure

In today's show ring, English pleasure is divided into three distinct categories: hunter seat, saddle seat, and driving. English pleasure horses can be of any breed, but all horses must exhibit impeccable manners, obedience, and suitability as a pleasure riding or driving horse. Transitions from one gait to another should be smooth, prompt, and effortless. Emphasis is placed on a true flat walk with special consideration being given to those entries that

represent a true recreational type, general riding mount or driving horse. Entries should not exhibit extreme motion, speed, or resistance of any type. Horses must stand quietly and back readily in the line-up.



Endurance

Endurance is a long distance sport covering variations in altitude, terrain, and weather that tests the fitness and stamina of the horse as well as the athlete's discipline and horsemanship skills. Periodic checkpoints occur throughout the competition to ensure the health and fitness of the horse and athlete. Given their ability to meet and master physical challenges, it's no surprise that Arabians and their close kin dominate in this discipline.



Dressage

In today's world, competitive dressage is recognized as one of the three equestrian Olympic disciplines, and as well, is a method for

showcasing all levels of training in a competitive format. Currently, there are nine progressive levels of competition, open to any breed of horse and available for all levels of riders, in which the horse and rider perform compulsory exercises. Special classes such as musical freestyle offer creativity and individual expression for the exhibitors and have become spectator favorites.



Combined Driving

An international three-phase carriage driving discipline

Carriage pleasure Driving



Since prior to the Industrial Revolution the horse and buggy represented the primary mode for both public and private transportation, it is no surprise that driving has established itself as one of the oldest and most popular disciplines within competitive equestrian sport. Carriage pleasure driving classes pay tribute to this heritage, and the vehicles used in competition are either actual antique or replica carriages of the day. Classes may be divided by type of hitch: single, pair, tandem, unicorn, or four-in-hand, and can be further categorized by the criteria with which they

are judged. Although overall performance is evaluated in every class, the driver's skill and ability take priority in reinsmanship. Conversely, in a working class the performance of the horse or horses is most important. A turnout class is primarily evaluated based in the appropriateness and quality of the vehicle, harness, and driver appointments. Additionally, there are obstacle classes which test the driver's ability to negotiate a series of cones set in a particular pattern and order, with speed and accuracy becoming the determining factor. Marathons may also be included at driving competitions along with driven dressage.