

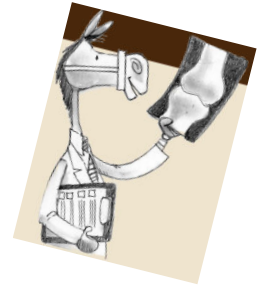


Equine Health Care

(USPC D Manual, 2nd Ed., p222 – 230)

Name: TEACHER

Date: _____



Equine Veterinarian = animal **doctor** who treats **horses**.

Some Things a Vet will do:

- Check a horse for soundness and health before you **buy him**.
- Give your horse a **check-up** twice a year for general health
- Give him Spring and Fall **shots** (vaccinations)
- Treat your horse when he is **sick** or hurt.
- Give you **advice** on deworming, feeding, shots, dental health, and other ways to keep your horse healthy



Reasons to call the Vet



- If the horse is sick or hurt. Don't wait, call the Vet right away.
- If there is a problem but you don't know what it is or how to help, call your Vet.
- For Spring and Fall shots and regular check-ups.



If it doesn't seem like an emergency, but you aren't sure, call your **instructor** for advice. If you have no regular instructor, you can call other knowledgeable adults or upper-rated members in your pony club. If you are leasing the horse, always call the **owner** of the horse!

The name and phone number of your horse's Vet should be written on the **Stall Card** and in the horse's **Record Book**.

- Other important names and phone numbers you may find on these two items:

- **Farrier**
- **Equine Dentist**
- **Owner**
- **In Case of Emergency Person** (If you can't be reached)

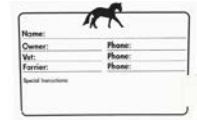
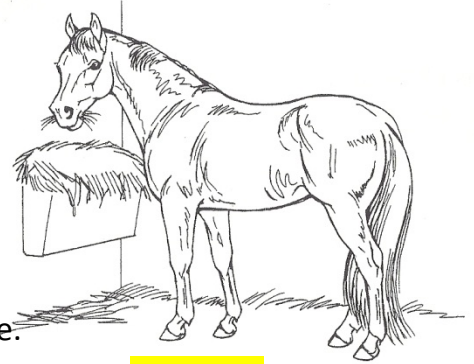


Name: _____	
Owner: _____	Phone: _____
Vet: _____	Phone: _____
Farrier: _____	Phone: _____
Special Instructions: _____	

Signs of a Healthy Horse



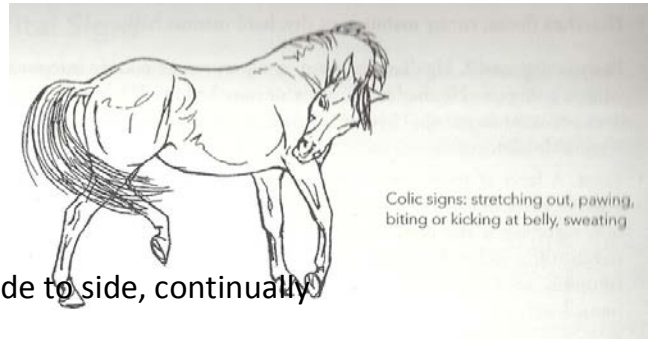
- a. **Eyes** are clear and bright
- b. Breathes **normally**
- c. Coat is **shiny**
- d. Skin is loose and supple
- e. May lie down and stretch out for a while, but he will get up easily
- f. Stand normally on all four legs
 - a. May rest a hind foot
 - b. Does NOT rest a front foot
- g. Likes to **eat**, and drinks normally
- h. Passes **manure** about eight times a day
 - a. Normal manure balls
 - b. **Urine** is clear or light yellow
- i. Vital signs are in the normal range for that horse.
 - a. You will find the horse's normal Vital Signs on the **Stall Card** and in the **Record Book**



Signs of Sickness

1. Colic – Belly pain/**Stomach Ache**

- a. May stop eating
- b. Look at or nip at his belly
- c. Paw the ground
- d. Stretch out as if to urinate
- e. May lie down and get up again, rolling from side to side, continually
- f. May sit on his hindquarters, like a dog.



All of these are signs of colic. Colic can be very serious, even **fatal**.

Call the **Vet** right away.

While waiting for the Vet;

- i. slowly **walk** the pony and
- ii. don't let him **roll**. (*explain how to stop rolling*)
- iii. Keep him walking until the **Vet** arrives.



2. Coughing, with runny eyes and nose.

3. Coughing with great distress (choking)

- a. He may even cough green mucus out his nose.
- b. He keeps walking, pacing, and looking around.

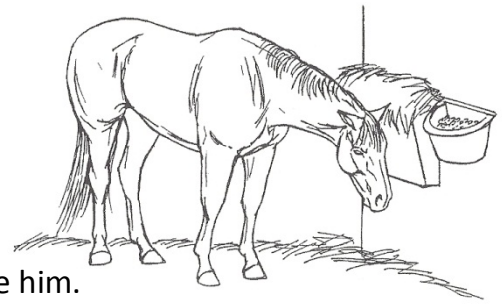


This is an emergency so call the Vet immediately.

4. **Diarrhea** – loose, runny manure OR dry, hard manure balls

5. Pony is **depressed**

- a. Does not want to move or eat
- b. May stand stiffly or hunched up
- c. If lying down, does not want to get up
- d. May act dull, cranky and irritable, especially if you ride him.



Depressed pony, not eating normally
Signs of sickness.

6. **Fever**

- a. More than 1 degree above his normal (102 or higher)
- b. Fever in the feet (feet feel hot to your touch)

7. **Not wanting to eat**

- a. Refuses to eat
- b. Drools
- c. Drops food out of his mouth



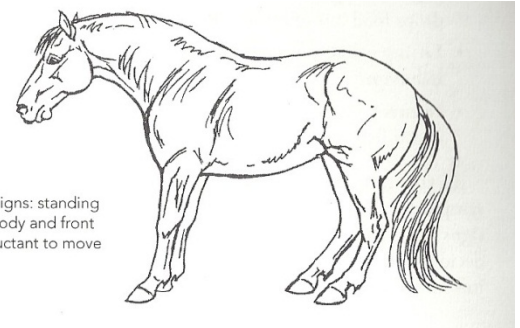
8. **Losing weight**

9. **Injuries**

- a. Cuts, Swelling, Heat, Tenderness, Closed or swollen eye, Lameness, Bleeding

10. **Founder** (Laminitis)

- a. Caused by poor feeding or eating regiment.
- b. Stands with hind legs under body
- c. Horse does not want to move

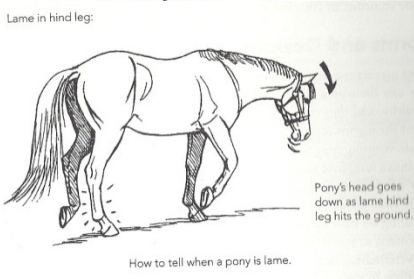
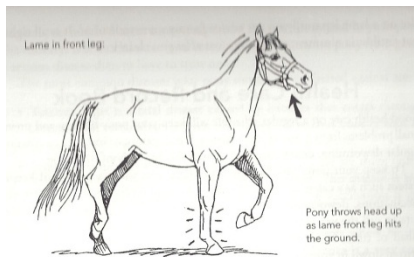


Laminitis, or founder, signs: standing with hind legs under body and front legs stuck forward; reluctant to move

Lameness

Lameness is an injury or soreness to the horse's **leg** or **hoof**.

Recognizing Lameness:



1. Lead him at a jog.
 - a. Keep the lead line loose so he can move his head freely
 - b. Jog him in a straight line
 - c. On a hard and level surface.
2. Listen for the sound of the hoof beats – they may sound **uneven**, one may sound louder than the other.
3. He tries to not step hard on the sore leg
4. He will take a shorter step with the sore leg
5. If front leg lame, he will throw his head **up** when he steps on the sore leg and down when he steps on the good leg
6. If hind leg, his will carry his hip higher on the sore side
 - a. He throws his head **down** when the sore hind leg touches the ground.
7. When standing, he will put weight on the good leg and rest the sore one.

What to Do:

1. Clean out his **feet** and check for
 - a. Stones, twisted or loose shoe, nail or other sharp objects
2. Feel his **legs** to find any:
 - a. tenderness (he may flinch), heat, swelling
 - b. Compare the sore leg to the other legs
3. Call your **Vet** or ask your **Instructor** for advice
4. Do not **ride** him
5. If you notice it while riding, it's okay to walk him back slowly.
6. Do not put liniment or anything else on the lame leg until you have spoken with your **Vet**
7. If there is a minor cut, it is okay to clean it and apply antibiotic ointment.



USPC Rating Requirements, 2016

- D1-• Discuss what a veterinarian is. • Give one reason a vet might treat your mount.
- D2-• Give two reasons to have your mount routinely checked by a veterinarian.
- D3-• Name some symptoms of a sick or injured mount that would cause you to seek help.