



Virtual Intro to Equine Project

Safety, Grooming, Health, & Housing

For this first part of the Virtual Intro to Equine Project members are to view all of the videos and read all of the articles listed/linked on these pages.

WORKING WITH EQUINES SAFELY:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0CABQdO1XAg>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JuaflowDeVNE>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fvkVaaKPr2w>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UB7kh9fm17o>

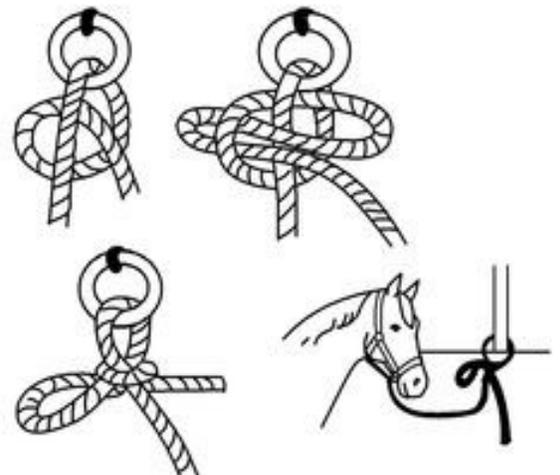
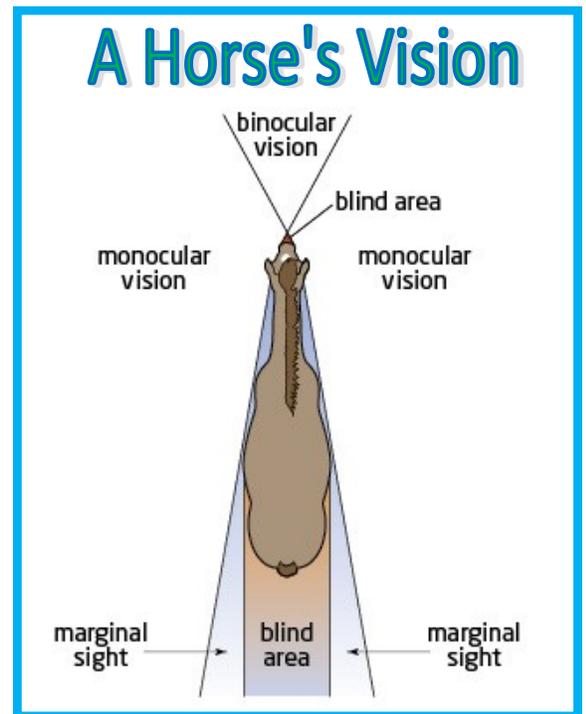
What to wear > When working around equines it is important to always wear closed toed shoes, with boots being the best choice. It is also a good idea to wear gloves to protect your hands from rope burn and to allow for more control of your horse. When riding you should always wear a boot with a small heel; the heel helps to keep your foot from going through the stirrup and getting caught. **It is mandatory for all 4-H members to wear a helmet at all times when mounted or in a cart**, and a safety riding vest is also highly recommended.

Selecting a Riding Helmet:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rSAHV8fFgHY>

Activity > Practice tying a quick release knot. You do not need an actual lead rope for this; any thick rope will do.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fG6LiX10hIU>



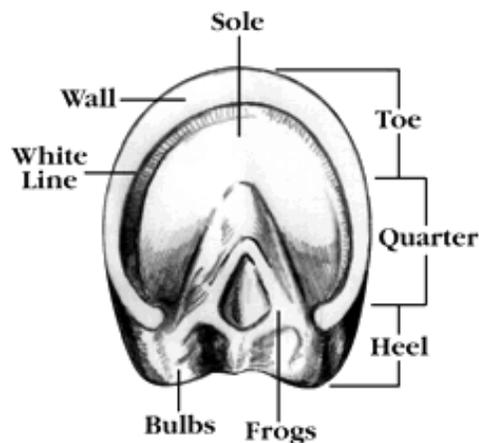
GROOMING > <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8ofSkCSrfpc>

The 5 main reasons for grooming your horse are:

1. **To promote a healthy coat.** Each time you groom your equine you are bringing their natural oils from their skin to their fur. The more you brush them the more you distribute these oils to their fur, which will lead to a shiny coat. Grooming also helps to prevent bacterial skin infections by helping with air circulation to the skin of the horse.
2. **To check for injuries.** Grooming time allows an excellent opportunity for a close up inspection of your equine to check for things such as cuts, scraps, infections, rashes, swellings and/or heat, muscle tightness, etc.
3. **To prevent injuries.** It is important to remove dirt from any area on the equine where tack will be worn, because friction from dirt rubbing under tack can cause abrasions known as tack sores or saddle sores. Grooming also acts as a massage for the equine before and after they are worked which can help in the prevention of muscle strains and other such sports related injuries.
4. **To make them look nice.** A true horseman or horsewoman always take pride in their equines appearance.
5. **To bond with your equine.** Grooming time with your animal is an excellent opportunity to develop your relationship with them. Use this time wisely to establish both respect and affection from your horse.

The 3 main reasons for cleaning out their hooves are:

1. **To prevent injury.** Foreign objects such as stones, bark, glass, etc. can cause your horse discomfort and even injury, so it is important to check your horses hooves everyday to make sure they are free of such objects.
2. **To prevent hoof infections.** Removing packed in dirt and mud from your equine's hooves daily helps to get oxygen to all parts of the hoof, and oxygen aids in the killing of harmful bacteria that can cause hoof infections. There are also various products you can buy that can help with the prevention of bacterial and fungal infections in the hoof. One inexpensive prevention is to spray the hoof with apple cider vinegar each time you clean them out.
3. **To check for injury.** Cleaning out your horses hooves allows you to check them for any heat, cracks, abscesses, bruises, infections, holes, etc.



Underside view of an equine hoof.

BASIC HORSE HEALTH CHECK > <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0t5jfk4ainU>

HEALTHY HORSE HOUSING > https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c_UHVXMTsps

The Creed of the 4-H Animal Caretaker

I WILL: Be kind to my animals. I will not take my frustrations out on animals. I will be patient while training my animal. I will never physically abuse my animal and I will only use low-stress handling methods and tools.

I WILL: Provide comfortable and sufficient housing for my animals. I will house my animal with enough space to prevent crowding and fighting. When I tie my animal, I will make sure the rope is not too tight and that there is nothing nearby that can harm the animal. This also means that I will help to prevent my animal from being too hot or too cold, both at home or during transport.

I WILL: Feed my animal on time each day. I will make sure that I can financially afford to feed my animal the right amount and type of feed every day on a regular schedule. This will provide the nutrition my animal needs and ensure the daily comfort of my animal.

I WILL: Provide my animals with clean water. Every day I will check that the water supply for my animal is clean, free of ice, easily accessible and working properly.

I WILL: Keep my animals free from disease and parasites. To ensure the good health of my project animal, I will observe it carefully every day, to see that it is eating and behaving normally. If my animal appears unhealthy, I will see that it receives immediate attention. I will keep accurate and complete records of any health problems that occur. I will never subject my animal to undue suffering.

I WILL: Learn as much as possible about the best methods of feeding and caring for animals. By learning about different methods, my animals will benefit from new ideas that help to ensure that my animals receive the best possible care. I can explore new animal husbandry ideas through reading, asking questions, attending workshops and participating in 4-H activities.

I WILL: Strive to improve the breeding and quality of my animals. The more structurally sound, efficient and productive our animals are, the less stress will be placed on them.

I WILL: Always be a good sport in competition. Events, including Achievement Days, are one way that the public can see how important proper care of our animals is to us. Good manners and a courteous disposition go a long way in presenting a good impression to my fellow members and the public.

I WILL: Talk to my 4-H volunteers or fellow members about others who are not following this creed and are not setting a good example of animal care.

I WILL: Complete my project and take part in all the activities of my 4-H club each year. By taking part in all the activities and completing the project each year, I am allowing myself to learn and experience all that I can about my project. This will help me to improve my understanding of animals and my methods of caring for them.

The Five Freedoms

Farmers, 4-H members, animal owners and caretakers are all responsible for providing their animals with these five freedoms:

Freedom from thirst, hunger and malnutrition by ready access to fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and vigor.

Freedom from discomfort by providing a suitable environment including shelter and a comfortable resting area.

Freedom from pain, injury and disease by prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment.

Freedom to express normal behavior by providing sufficient space, proper facilities and company of the animal's own kind.

Freedom from fear and distress by ensuring conditions that avoid mental suffering.

If interested in more information on the standard of care for equines see the National Farm Animal Care Council's

Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Equines

www.nfacc.ca/codes-of-practice/equine

*Care, and not fine stables,
makes a good horse.
- Danish Proverb*