



Maryland 4-H Horsemanship Standards Knowledge Study Guides



The study guides below are provided to help members prepare for the Maryland 4-H Horsemanship Knowledge Standards. Required knowledge is outlined for each level, along with suggested resources for each section. However, the lists of references are by no means complete. The information required for the Knowledge Standards may be found from many different resources including breed association literature, local trainers, veterinarians, feed stores and tack dealers. The best way for members to prepare is to consult a variety of sources in addition to obtaining hands on experience.

SUGGESTED RESOURCES:

Horse and Horsemanship (HH), National 4-H Council, Ph: (301) 961-2934

Horse Science (HS), National 4-H Council, Ph: (301) 961-2934

The Normal Animal (NA) - Veterinary Science Unit 1, University of NE, Ph: (402) 472-9184

Animal Diseases (AD) - Veterinary Science Unit 2, University of NE, Ph: (402) 472-9184

The Horse, 2nd edition (**EVANS**), By Evans, Borton, Hintz, Van Vleck. W. H. Freeman and Company, 660 Market St., San Francisco, California, 94104 Phone: (415) 391-5870

Horse Industry Handbook (HIH), *The American Youth Horse Council*

4093 Iron Works Pike, Lexington, KY 40511-8434 Phone: (800) 879-2942

Feeding And Care Of The Horse, 2nd edition (**LEWIS**), by Lon D. Lewis Williams and Wilkens, P. O. Box 1496, Baltimore MD 21298-9724 Phone: (800) 638-0672

Horse Anatomy – A Coloring Atlas, by Robert Rainer and Thomas O. McCracken.

Order from Alpine Blue Ribbon Books, P.O. Box 7027, Loveland, CO 80537-0027

Phone: (800) 777-7257 Fax: (970) 667-9157

Equine Science: Basic Knowledge for Horse People of All Ages, by Jean T. Griffiths

order from Horse Books etc. com at:

<<http://horsebooksetc.com/index.php?p=product&id=750&parent=41>>

Giddy Up and Go – 4-HCCS Horse Science 1, Ph: (301) 961-2934

Head, Heart and Hooves– 4-HCCS Horse Science 2, Ph: (301) 961-2934

Stable Relationships – 4-HCCS Horse Science 3, Phone: (301) 961-2934

Riding the Range– 4-HCCS Horse Science 4, Phone: (301) 961-2934

Jumping to New Heights – 4-HCCS Horse Science 5, Phone: (301) 961-2934

Horse Helper’s Guide – 4-HCCS , Phone: (301) 961-2934

SUGGESTED RESOURCES (continued):

Illustrated Dictionary of Equine Terms (ID), New Horizons Education Center, Inc. Alpine Publications, PO BOX 7027, Loveland, CO 80537 Ph: 800-777-7257, Fx: 970-667-9157

USPC Manual of Horsemanship: The Basics for Beginners through D Level, by Susan E. Harris. United States Pony Club 4041 Ironworks Parkway Lexington KY 40511
Phone: 859-422-5522

USPC Manual of Horsemanship: The Intermediate Horsemanship through C Level, by Susan E. Harris. United States Pony Club 4041 Ironworks Parkway, Lexington KY 40511
Phone: 859-422-5522

USPC Manual of Horsemanship: The Advanced Horsemanship Through A Level, by Susan E. Harris. United States Pony Club 4041 Ironworks Parkway
Lexington KY 40511 Phone: 859-422-5522

Junior Master Horseman: Level One, by AQHA and AYHC. American Quarter Horse Association. PO Box 200, Amarillo, TX 79168 Phone: 806-376-4811

Junior Master Horseman: Level Two, by AQHA and AYHC. American Quarter Horse Association. PO Box 200, Amarillo, TX 79168 Phone: 806-376-4811

CHA Composite Horsemanship Manual, by Certified Horsemanship Association. CHA, 5318 Old Bullard Road, Tyler, TX 75703 Phone: 1-800-399-0138

Knowledge Level 1 Study Guide

Horse Handling

- Know at least 2 things you should consider to safely approach a horse that is turned out in a pasture and in a stall
- Know where the horse's blind spots are located
- *Suggested Resources: Chapter 5: USPC Basics for Beginners, Horse and Horsemanship*

Horse Breeds, Conformation, and Movement

- Name and locate at least 10 basic parts of the horse, from the following list: muzzle, cheek, forelock, throatlatch, mane, neck, withers, back, shoulder, tail, knee, hock, fetlock, hoof
- Recognize the following colors: bay, black, and chestnut
- Know the difference between a filly, colt, mare, stallion, and gelding
- *Suggested Resources: Chapters 2 and 3 of Equine Science*

Grooming and Bandaging

- Know the proper use of commonly used grooming tools, including a hoof pick, curry comb, dandy brush, mane/tail comb, and body brush
- Know at least 2 reasons why daily grooming is important
- Know at least 2 reasons why you would bandage a horse's legs
- Know how to pick out a horse's hoof and why it is important
- *Suggested Resources: Chapter 3 in JMH: Level 1, Horses and Horsemanship, Chapter 6 in USPC Basics for Beginners*

Health Care and Veterinary Knowledge

- Know what and who a veterinarian is
- Know at least 2 reasons that would cause you to call the veterinarian for a horse
- *Suggested Resources: Chapter 4 in JMH: Level 1 and Chapter 9 on USPC Basics for Beginners.*

Nutrition

- Know at least 2 items you may feed a horse daily
- *Suggested Resources: Chapter 5 in JMH: Level 1 and Chapter 7 in USPC Basics for Beginners*

Stable Management and Barn Safety

- Know at least 2 things that are not safe to do or have in a barn
- Know at least 1 type of bedding for horses
- *Suggested Resources: Chapter 4 USPC Intermediate Horsemanship*

Tack and Equipment

- Know at least 2 reasons for cleaning tack
- *Suggested Resources: Chapter 12 USPC Basics for Beginners,*

Transportation and Travel Safety

- Know at least 1 step you can take to make a horse safer or more comfortable in the trailer
- *Suggested Resources: Chapter 10 in USPC Basics for Beginners*

Knowledge Level 2 Study Guide

Horse Handling

- Name at least 2 safe places to tie a horse
- Name at least 2 things you should consider when safely leading a horse
- *Suggested Resources: Giddy Up & Go, Chapter 5 in USPC Basics for Beginners*

Horse Breeds, Conformation, and Movement

- Name and locate at least 15 parts of the horse from the following list: flank, barrel, jaw, poll, elbow, stifle, forearm, gaskin, cannon, pastern, coronet, loin, croup, dock, point of hip, hearth girth
- Name and describe at least 5 common markings, including 3 on the head and 2 on the leg
- Name at least 4 horse or pony breeds
- Know the proper way and units for measuring a horse
- Know at least 1 difference between a pony and a horse
- Be able to recognize the following colors and patterns: grey, palomino, appaloosa, buckskin, and pinto
- Know how many beats are in a walk and trot (jog)
- *Suggested Resources: Chapter 2,3, and 5 in Equine Science, Chapter 11 in USPC Basics for Beginners, Chapter 2 in JMH: Level 1*

Grooming and Bandaging

- Explain the proper procedure for daily grooming. Be sure to include body, mane and tail, and hoof care in your explanation.
- Know at least 2 types of boots or bandages and the reasons for their use
- *Suggested Resources: Chapter 9 in USPC Intermediate Horsemanship, Chapter 6 in USPC Basics for Beginners*

Health Care and Veterinary Knowledge

- Describe at least 5 basic symptoms that indicate that your horse might be in need of veterinary care.
- Name at least 2 ways you can tell if a horse is properly cooled out after work
- Know at least 2 reasons for daily hoof care
- Know at least 2 reasons why farrier (blacksmith) visits are necessary
- *Suggested Resources: Chapter 6 in USPC Basics for Beginners, Chapter 8 in Equine Science, Horses and Horsemanship*

Nutrition

- Give at least 2 ways to tell if hay or grain is safe to feed
- Give at least 2 ways to store hay or grain safely
- *Suggested Resources: Chapter 5 in USPC Intermediate Horsemanship*

Stable Management and Barn Safety

- Name at least 3 common stable vices
- Name at least 2 types of fencing that are safe for horses
- *Suggested Resources: Chapter 6 in USPC Basics for Beginners, Chapter 4 in USPC Basics for Beginners, Stable Relationships*

Tack and Equipment

- Identify at least 5 major parts of both the saddle and bridle (English or Western)
- Name and describe how to use at least 3 common products to clean or condition tack
- *Suggested Resources: Horses and Horsemanship, Chapter 12 in USPC Basics for Beginners*

Transportation and Travel Safety

- Describe the purpose of the following things used to make your horse safe while traveling in a trailer: Break away halter, head bumper, blanket, tail guard/wrap, shipping boots or shipping bandages
- *Suggested Resources: Chapter 10 in USPC Basics for Beginner, Stable Relationships*

Knowledge Level 3 Study Guide

Horse Breeds, Conformation, and Movement

- Name and locate at least 20 parts of the horse
- Know the difference between a light breed and a draft breed, and characteristics of each
- Recognize and describe the following conformation faults: ewe neck, sway back, cow hocked, and base narrow
- Know at least 2 different variations of grey coat color
- *Suggested Resources: Chapters 2 and 3 in Equine Science, Horses and Horsemanship, CHA Composite Horsemanship Manual, Chapter 11 in USPC Basics for Beginners*

Grooming and Bandaging

- Give at least 2 reasons for clipping a horse
- Name and describe at least 3 different types of body clips
- Give at least 2 safety measures to use when bathing a horse
- Give at least 2 reasons for wrapping a horse's leg
- Name at least 2 types of protective boots and what they are used for
- *Suggested Resources: Chapter 4 USPC Intermediate Horsemanship, Chapter 16 Advanced Horsemanship, Horses and Horsemanship*

Health Care and Veterinary Knowledge

- Name and describe at least 1 type of wound that should be treated by a veterinarian
- Explain why a regular vaccination program is important to your horse and identify at least 3 disease that you should regularly vaccinate a horse against every year in Maryland
- Know at least 2 signs of a hoof that needs trimming or shoeing
- Name and locate the following parts of the horse's hoof: bulb of heel, frog, central groove, collateral groove, heel, bar, wall, white line, apex of frog, toe, and quarter
- *Suggested Resources: Chapter 6 USPC Intermediate Horsemanship, Chapter 8 Equine Science*

Nutrition

- Name at least 2 basic rules for feeding
- Know how feeds should be measured, to include units
- Explain a feeding schedule for a horse or pony (be sure to specify horse's age and use), including amounts of hay (roughage) and grain (concentrates)
- *Suggested Resources: Horses and Horsemanship, Chapter 4 and 7 USPC Intermediate Horsemanship*

Stable Management and Barn Safety

- Know appropriate care of a horse after hard work, including 1 example for each of the following: cooling out, inspection of legs, watering and feeding
- Name at least 2 management decisions that can be made to help prevent disease from coming onto a horse farm
- Know proper stall size for a horse and for a pony
- Know at least 2 safety concerns you should take into consideration when properly securing a hay net/hay bag
- *Suggested Resources: Chapter 4 and 7 USPC Intermediate Horsemanship*

Tack and Equipment

- Name at least 2 areas on tack that you should check for safety
- Know at least 3 different types of bits
- Identify a tie-down, breast strap, martingale, and breast plate
- Identify at least 3 types of horse blankets and explain their purposes
- *Suggested Resources: Horses and Horsemanship, Chapter 12 USPC Basics for Beginners, Chapter 4 USPC Intermediate Horsemanship*

Transportation and Travel Safety

- Know the proper way to load/unload a horse from the trailer
- *Suggested Resources: Chapter 10 in USPC Basics for Beginners*

Knowledge Level 4 Study Guide

Horse Breeds, Conformation, and Movement

- Recognize and describe the following types of conformation faults: toe in, toe out, back at the knee, sickle hock, parrot mouth, and goose rump
- Name at least 2 breed characteristics for each of the following: Arabian, Quarter Horse, Thoroughbred, and Saddlebred or Tennessee Walker
- Identify the following blemishes and unsoundness: splints, bowed tendon, capped hock, toe crack, quarter crack and fistula
- Know the footfall patterns of a walk, trot (jog), canter (lope), gallop, and pace
- Know the difference between a tobiano and overo color pattern
- *Suggested Resources: CHA Horsemanship Manual, Chapters 3 and 5 in Equine Science, Horses and Horsemanship, Chapter 12 Intermediate Horsemanship, Chapter 11 in USPC Basics for Beginners, The Horse*

Grooming and Bandaging

- Know at least 3 different ways a horse's mane may be presented in specific disciplines or breeds
- Know how to bandage a wound located on the cannon bone and what materials would be needed
- Name the areas of the leg protected by a stable bandage
- *Suggested Resources: Chapters 6 and 9 in USPC Intermediate Horsemanship, The Horse*

Health Care and Veterinary Knowledge

- Know cause, transmission, and symptoms of at least 2 diseases that may affect horses in Maryland
- Name the front teeth of a horse and explain their purpose
- Name at least 2 reasons why routine dental care is important
- Name at least 2 reasons for having a routine deworming program
- Know the normal temperature, pulse, and respiration values for a resting, healthy horse
- Explain what Equine Infectious Anemia is and what a Coggins test is used for. Be sure to indicate how often this test must be done and why you must have documentation of it.
- *Suggested Resources: Chapter 3 in JMH: Level 2, Chapter 8 in Equine Science, Chapter 6 in USPC Intermediate Horsemanship*

Nutrition

- Name at least 3 types of hay
- Name at least 2 types of feedstuffs
- Name at least 3 classes of nutrients
- *Suggested Resources: Chapter 5 in USPC Intermediate Horsemanship, Horses and Horsemanship*

Stable Management and Barn Safety

- Know at least 2 good and bad characteristics of each of the following: feed, water, pasture, and hay
- Name at least 2 safety precautions to consider when storing hay and grain
- Know at least 3 stable vices, possible causes, and at least 1 way to try to correct each of them
- Name at least 4 ways to help prevent external and/or internal parasites
- *Suggested Resources: Section 7 in Horse Industry Handbook*

Tack and Equipment

- Identify and describe at least 2 different types of bits that have different actions/mechanisms
- Know at least 3 things you can do to check if a blanket fits properly
- Identify and describe the following types of horse shoes and their uses: Keg shoe, bar shoe
- *Suggested Resources: Chapter 9 in USPC Advanced Horsemanship, Horses and Horsemanship*

Transportation and Travel Safety

- Know at least 3 things to check each time before using a trailer
- List at least 5 items that should be included in a trailer safety kit
- *Suggested Resources: Chapter 15 in USPC Advanced Horsemanship*

Knowledge Level 5 Study Guide

Horse Breeds, Conformation, and Movement

- Know at least 5 conformation faults and how each may affect movement
- Name at least 2 signs that a horse may exhibit when they are lame
- Know at least 2 different variations of roans and 2 different variations of chestnut
- Know at least 3 different gaits and the corresponding footfall pattern that a gaited horse might have
- *Suggested Resources: Chapter 9 USPC Advanced Horsemanship, Chapter 12 in USPC Advanced Horsemanship, Chapter 11 in Basics for Beginners, Chapter 3 Equine Science, The Horse*

Grooming and Bandaging

- Give at least 2 reasons to use a tail wrap
- Name the areas of the leg protected by a shipping bandage
- Explain how you would apply a stable or shipping bandage. Be sure to include important considerations that differentiate a properly applied bandage from an incorrectly applied bandage and how an incorrectly applied bandage might affect the horse.
- *Suggested Resources: Chapter 14 in USPC Advanced Horsemanship, The Horse*

Health Care and Veterinary Knowledge

- Prepare and be able to discuss a 6-8 week outline for a conditioning program suitable for a discipline of the candidate's choice; to include feed and vital information.
- Know the recommended vaccination schedule and health requirements for horses in Maryland
- Explain what a parasite is, why a regular deworming program is important to your horse's health, and how you would select and administer deworming medications to your horse
- Know the life cycle and damage caused by two of the following internal parasites: bots, ascarids, small and large strongyles, pinworms, and tapeworms
- Know at least 4 types of shoes and specific uses
- Recognize and describe at least 3 characteristics of both good and bad shoeing
- Know at least 2 symptoms of colic and laminitis
- Explain how to take a horse's temperature, pulse, respiration, and capillary refill time and how to tell if the resulting vital signs represent a problem
- Explain how to recognize and respond to dehydration
- Identify the scoring system used to body condition score a horse
- Name at least 2 methods of breeding horses
- Know the length of a typical gestation period for a mare
- *Suggested Resources: Chapters 9,10 and 12 from USPC Advanced Horsemanship, Chapters 4, 8, and 9 in the Horse Industry Handbook, CHA Composite Horsemanship Manual: Level 4, The Horse*

Nutrition

- Describe at least 1 feeding management decision you would make in regards to a horse's ration when doing the following: developing fitness, maintaining fitness, or if the horse is lame and out of work.
- Describe the feeding management for 2 of the following: an idle horse, a horse in light work, a horse in intense training, a lactating mare, or a young growing horse
- Name and describe at least 3 toxic plants found in Maryland horse pastures
- Identify 8 of the following types of feed ingredients: molasses, sweet feed, pelleted feed, salt, wheat bran, rice bran, cracked corn, whole corn, beet pulp, barley, oats, and alfalfa meal
- Explain how points, waves, and hooks develop and how they affect your horse's ability to chew
- Name at least 3 different types of grasses and/or legumes commonly found in Maryland pastures
- Name at least 5 parts of the horse's gastrointestinal tract and describe each part's basic function
- *Suggested Resources: Chapters 11 and 12 in USPC Advanced Horsemanship, Chapter 7 in Equine Science, Chapter 7 in the Horse Industry Handbook, Feeding and Care of the Horse*

Stable Management and Barn Safety

- Name at least 2 characteristics of an unsafe pasture
- Name at least 2 characteristics of safe fencing
- Name at least 3 basic requirements of a safe barn layout
- Name at least 2 ways to prevent barn fires
- *Suggested Resources: Chapter 3 in the Horse Industry Handbook, Chapter 13 in USPC Advanced Horsemanship*

Transportation and Travel Safety

- Name at least 2 possible causes of loading and unloading problems
- *Suggested Resources: Chapter 10 in USPC Basics for Beginners*

Knowledge Level 6 Study Guide

Horse Breeds, Conformation, and Movement

- Know what conformation points might contribute to the following unsoundnesses: bowed tendon, curb, ringbone, sidebone, navicular, interfering, overreaching, forging, and splints
- Know the internal structure of a horse's foot and how it functions
- Know the anatomy of the leg, including bones, principal tendons and ligaments, including superficial digital flexor tendon, deep digital flexor tendon, long pastern, short pastern, coffin bone, navicular bone, laminae, plantar cushion, and suspensory ligament
- *Suggested Resources: Chapter 8 in USPC Advanced Horsemanship, Chapters 2 and 5 in the Horse Industry Handbook, The Horse*

Grooming and Bandaging

- Know at least 3 suitable materials for bandaging, including 1 advantage and 1 disadvantage of each
- Discuss at least 2 specialty bandages and their uses
- *Suggested Resources: Chapter 14 in USPC Advanced Horsemanship, The Horse*

Health Care and Veterinary Knowledge

- Know causes and signs of the following: tying up/azoturia, laminitis/founder, heaves/COPD, choke, dental problems, proud flesh, and skin diseases
- Know symptoms, preventative measures, and transmission for 4 of the following diseases: Equine Encephalomyelitis, Strangles, Rhinopneumonitis, West Nile Virus, Potomac Horse Fever, and Equine Protozoal Myeloencephalitis (EPM)
- Know how a horse's teeth grow, how baby teeth are replaced by permanent teeth, and how a horse can be aged by examining the teeth
- Know reasons for using a poultice and how it is applied
- Know the importance of body condition scoring and be able to score an unfamiliar horse
- Know the importance of colostrum for a newborn foal
- Know the length of a typical estrous cycle for a mare
- Name at least 2 hormones involved in the estrous cycle of a mare
- *Suggested Resources: Chapters 6 and 9 in the Horse Industry Handbook, Chapter 7 and 12 in USPC Advanced Horsemanship, The Horse*

Nutrition

- Discuss a feeding program for 2 of the following: an underweight horse, an overweight horse, a geriatric horse, and a horse in intense training
- Know at least 3 supplements given to horses, common compounds or ingredients in each, and reasons for their use
- Know availability, cost, and origin of hay and grain available in Maryland typically used to meet a horse's nutritional requirements
- Name the 6 classes of nutrients and a common source for each

- Know seasonal variations of feeding a horse
- *Suggested Resources: Chapter 11 in USPC Advanced Horsemanship, Chapter 7 in the Horse Industry Handbook , Feeding and Care of the Horse*

Stable Management and Barn Safety

- Know at least 5 toxic plants and/or weeds in your area, including what parts are most toxic, when they are most toxic, and the symptoms of poisoning
- Name at least 3 management decisions that would help to maintain a healthy pasture
- Know the importance of soil testing and why it is used in pasture management
- Name at least 2 examples of proper manure management practices
- *Suggested Resources: Chapter 3 in the Horse Industry Handbook, Chapter 13 in USPC Advanced Horsemanship*

Tack and Equipment

- Know the basic action of a snaffle, curb, Pelham, bosal, and hackamore
- Know at least 2 methods and/or tools used for restraint and their purpose
- *Suggested Resources: Chapters 12 and 16 in USPC Advanced Horsemanship*

Transportation and Travel Safety

- Know at least 3 precautions that should be taken when trailering horses long distances
- Know at least 2 techniques for loading and unloading difficult horses
- Name at least 1 way to transport mares and foals
- *Suggested Resources: Chapter 15 in USPC Advanced Horsemanship*