

EQUESTRIAN CANADA

LEARNtoCARE - LEVEL 1 RUBRIC

During the LearnToCare Practical Evaluation, participants with a disability may demonstrate, direct, and/or discuss tasks as needed.

PRACTICAL REQUIREMENTS		EVIDENCE
1	Describe the colour of candidate's own horse/pony	Participant should use appropriate basic horse terminology when referring to their own horse/pony's colours and markings.
	Identify 10 parts of candidate's own horse/pony	
	Describe basic face and leg markings of the candidate's own horse/pony	
2	Candidate can demonstrate how to feed a treat and discuss what types of foods are best to offer as treats	Participant can demonstrate how to feed a treat and is able to discuss what types of foods are best to offer as treats. They may feed the treat by hand or use a feed tub depending on the policy of the facility.
3	Approach and move around horse/pony safely	Participant is to enter the stall, approach the horse/pony safely and put the halter on. They can then lead the pony or horse out of the stall properly, turn them correctly, take the horse/pony back into the stall and remove the halter. A lead line (without chain) should be attached correctly and the participant must not lead the horse without a lead attached.
	Put on a halter	
	Identify different parts of the halter	
	Identify different types of lead ropes	
	Lead a horse forward and stop them	
	Turn a horse in hand	
	Remove halter	
4	Groom a horse/pony using the following tools	General knowledge of the order of grooming tools and the basics of how and where to use them on the horse/pony's body is to be evidenced. Evaluator may assist with hoof picking if the participant needs help.
5	General impression and safety	Safety and a willingness to learn about the horse/pony should be emphasized at this level.

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LEARNtoCARE – LEVEL 2 RUBRIC

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PRACTICAL REQUIREMENTS			EVIDENCE
1	Identify and describe colour and face and body markings of own horse/pony or a horse/pony selected by the evaluator		Participant should use appropriate horse terminology when referring to both the body parts and the markings of the chosen horse/pony.
	Identify 20 parts of candidate's own horse/pony		
	Discuss breed of candidate's own horse/pony		
2	Describe own horse/pony's diet and housing		Participant should describe how and when the horse is fed (e.g., the horse gets a hay net morning and night and supplements at dinner). Participant should be able to describe whether the horse/pony lives in a paddock, walk-out stall, field, etc. and what type of bedding is used in their stall (if applicable).
	Discuss what tools candidate would need to clean their horse or pony's stall/paddock		
3	Groom a horse/pony using the following tools:	Hoof pick	General knowledge of the order of grooming tools, how and where to use them on the horse/pony's body is to be evidenced.
		Curry comb	Tools that were used in Level 1 (Hoof Pick, Curry Comb, Dandy Brush, Body Brush) should now show greater evidence of skill development in their use. If using a grooming kit that does not have all the tools new to this level (sponges, mane comb, tail brush, towel), evaluators should gather evidence through discussion with the candidate about the methods and objectives of using these tools without penalizing the candidate.
		Dandy brush	
		Body brush	
		Sponges	
		Mane comb	
		Tail brush	
		Towel	
4	Describe how many beats are in a walk, trot/jog, and canter/lope.		Participant should be able to describe by counting or clapping the walk, trot/jog, and canter/lope rhythm.
5	Tie a quick-release knot		There are slightly different methods that are all acceptable.
6	General impression and safety	Turnout	Turnout should be neat, well fitted, and professional looking. Comfortable, secure, tidy clothes, which permit enough freedom of movement to move quickly and easily along with low heeled boots and long hair tied back are encouraged.
		Overall confidence	
		Awareness of safety and equine body language	

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LEARNtoCARE – LEVEL 3 RUBRIC

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PRACTICAL REQUIREMENTS		EVIDENCE
1	Put on and remove a stable sheet that has belly straps and leg straps	Candidate must put on a blanket, with leg straps and belly straps, and remove the blanket.
	Identify three types of blankets and one reason for the use of each	Candidate should be able to identify three different types of blankets, sheets or coolers in the stable and give examples of when they are used.
2	Discuss ways to restrain a horse	Candidate should identify 2-3 methods of restraint and discuss when they would be used.
3	Discuss how to safely turn out a horse	Candidate should show an understanding of how to safely turn out a horse and how to groom horses living outdoors. Stall fittings can be discussed instead of identified if none available.
	Discuss rules for grooming horses who live outside	
	Identify stall fittings	
4	General impression and safety	Turnout
		Overall confidence
		Awareness of safety and equine body language

Turnout should be neat, well fitted, and professional looking. Comfortable, secure, tidy clothes, which permit enough freedom of movement to move quickly and easily along with low heeled boots and long hair tied back are encouraged.

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LEARNtoCARE – LEVEL 4 RUBRIC

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PRACTICAL REQUIREMENTS		EVIDENCE
1	Show how to measure a horse's height	Candidate should show how to use a measuring stick as well as being able to discuss considerations when measuring a horse/pony (how the horse/pony is standing etc.).
2	Apply a stable bandage to a front and hind leg	The bandage should go from just below the knee and either wrap to support under the fetlock or a stove pipe wrap maybe used. If bandaging below the fetlock there should be an inverted V centred on the bottom of the front of the fetlock. If masking tape is used over the Velcro, the tension of the tape should not be greater than the tension of the bandage. Candidate must be able to discuss the size and fit of the materials, and the materials should be clean and in good repair. The bandage must end at the top of the leg and the Velcro should be on the outside of the leg.
3	Demonstrate how to take temperature, respiration, and pulse and know normal values	Candidate should know the normal values of temperature, respiration, and the heart rate of a horse/pony and be able to demonstrate safe procedures for taking both.
4	Discuss methods of restraining a horse	Candidate need only <i>discuss</i> methods of restraining a horse (as if assisting a vet).
5	General impression and safety	Turnout should be neat, well fitted, and professional looking. Comfortable, secure, tidy clothes, which permit enough freedom of movement to move quickly and easily along with low heeled boots and long hair tied back are encouraged.
	Turnout	
	Overall confidence	
	Awareness of safety and equine body language	

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LEARNtoCARE – LEVEL 5 RUBRIC

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PRACTICAL REQUIREMENTS			EVIDENCE
1	Demonstrate jogging a horse in-hand as per a veterinarian's assessment		Evaluator may assist the horse to trot.
4	Shipping bandages	Candidate will need to put on two shipping bandages – one on a front and one on a hind leg	Bandages should be applied with even tension, covering from just below the knee down the leg and covering the bulbs of the heels. Knowledge of the proper length of cotton and bandage as well as the bulk of the cotton is needed. The tension should be neither too tight nor too loose. All bandaging materials should be clean and in good repair. The Velcro should end on the outside of the leg near the top of the bandage. If tape is used the tension must not be greater than the tension of the bandage.
5	Lunging	Presentation of handler and horse tacked with proper fitting saddle, bridle, and boots. Identify equipment and their purpose correctly	Horse to wear saddle and bridle, protective boots and/or bandages, halter over the bridle is acceptable. The purpose is to introduce lunging early. Candidate should lunge for 5-10 minutes only and may share a lunge horse if needed.
		Lunging safety: Handler's use of lunge line and whip	
		Discuss a change of direction (no need to demonstrate)	
		Lunging technique: Use of body language and confidence while lunging at walk and trot/jog	
6	General impression and safety	Turnout	Turnout should be neat, well fitted, and professional looking.
		Overall confidence	Comfortable, secure, tidy clothes, which permit enough freedom of movement to move quickly and easily along with low heeled boots and long hair tied back are encouraged.
		Awareness of safety and equine body language	

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LEARNtoCARE – LEVEL 6 RUBRIC

During the LearnToCare Practical Evaluation, participants with a disability may demonstrate, direct, and/or discuss tasks as needed.

PRACTICAL REQUIREMENTS			EVIDENCE
1	Apply a foot bandage and discuss its uses		There are a few different methods to secure a foot bandage. Candidate should be able to discuss why they have chosen the method they are using and why they might apply a foot bandage.
2	Demonstrate cleaning a stall	Efficiency and effectiveness	Candidate should ensure that all manure is removed and the wet spot is removed. Every attempt to preserve clean bedding should be made by throwing clean bedding up against a wall in order to separate clean from soiled bedding. Turning bedding over in the corners, under the feed tub and under the water bucket should not be overlooked.
		Discuss proper management of manure and used bedding	Once all soiled material has been removed from the stall, the candidate should pull all the existing bedding back down into the middle of the stall, leaving 30-60 cm. of rubber mat clean at the front of the stall. Add fresh bedding to the stall as needed. Scrub the feed tub, first removing it if it is movable, and check the salt lick.
		Technique and safety when using equipment	Sweep or rake in front of the stall. Hang water bucket and feed tub (if it is removable) back in stall. Check for any rough edges, chew marks, loose boards, or other potentially harmful things. Dump the wheelbarrow and put away other tools. All of this should take no longer than 15 minutes.
3	Point out and discuss 3 potential sites on a horse of common blemishes or unsoundnesses		Candidate should have a basic knowledge of common blemishes or unsoundness and be able to discuss the management of them.
4	Lunging	Horse to be presented with boots and bandages on all four legs, overreach boots, bridle, saddle and side reins	Candidate should show their comfort with the fit and use of side reins. They can discuss the need to change direction and they show more comfort with lunging a safe reliable horse. Lunging skill at this level is still being acquired, so the candidate may not show a great deal of finesse, however their technique should be safe and effective. Candidate need only lunge for 5-10 minutes at walk and trot/jog.
		A lunging cavesson, halter over bridle or Barnum method is acceptable	
		Knowledge of fit and use of side reins.	
		Ability to keep horse active and moving forward, lunging on a circle that does not get too small or handler wanders	
		Understanding of free forward movement and ability to recognize horse behind the bit or over-bent	
		Understanding the need to change direction	
		Effective use of voice commands and tone of voice, safe technique	
5	General impression and safety	Turnout	Turnout should be neat, well fitted, and professional looking.
		Overall confidence	Comfortable, secure, tidy clothes, which permit enough freedom of movement to move quickly and easily along with low heeled boots and long hair tied back are encouraged.
		Awareness of safety and equine body language	

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LEARNtoCARE - LEVEL 7 RUBRIC

During the LearnToCare Practical Evaluation, participants with a disability may demonstrate, direct, and/or discuss tasks as needed.

PRACTICAL REQUIREMENTS			EVIDENCE
1	Demonstrate and discuss the application of a tail bandage		Candidate will demonstrate the application of a tail bandage and discuss the purposes of its use. Candidate should also demonstrate the removal of the tail bandage.
2	Demonstrate and discuss the application of a figure-eight bandage on either a knee or a hock		Candidate will demonstrate the application of a figure-eight bandage on either a knee or a hock and discuss the purposes of its use. Candidate must begin by applying a stable bandage to the leg they choose.
3	Discuss own horse's feeding program in relation to their requirements		Candidate should be able to discuss what, when, and why their horse is on the feeding routine that they are.
4	Discuss udder and sheath cleaning		Candidate can discuss the importance of udder and sheath cleaning and the general method for doing so.
5	Lunging	Horse to be presented with boots and bandages on all four legs, overreach boots, bridle, saddle and side reins	Candidate can demonstrate their comfort with the fit and use of side reins. They can demonstrate the change direction and they are beginning to show a great degree of comfort with the equipment. Lunging skill at this level is nearing consolidation and shows a greater degree of technique as well as being safe and effective. Candidate can discuss how to create a safe and positive environment for a green or inexperienced horse when lunging. Candidate need only lunge for 5-10 minutes at walk and trot and briefly lunge at the canter with an experienced horse.
		A lunging cavesson, halter over/under bridle, lunge line as a noseband, or Barnum method is acceptable	
		Knowledge of fit and use of side reins	
		Ability to keep horse active and moving forward, lunging on a circle that does not get too small or handler wanders	
		Understanding of free forward movement and ability to recognize horse behind the bit or over-bent	
		Demonstrate the change direction using safe and effective technique	
		Emphasis at this level is on the understanding of how to ensure a safe positive environment for a green or more inexperienced horse.	
6	General impression and safety	Turnout	Turnout should be neat, well fitted, and professional looking.
		Overall confidence	Comfortable, secure, tidy clothes, which permit enough freedom of movement to move quickly and easily along with low heeled boots and long hair tied back are encouraged.
		Awareness of safety and equine body language	

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PRACTICAL REQUIREMENTS		EVIDENCE
1	Demonstrate and discuss the application of a Spider Bandage	Candidate will demonstrate the application of a spider bandage on either a knee or a hock and discuss the purposes of its use. Candidates must begin by applying a stable bandage to the leg they choose.
2	Name and locate 5 sites of unsoundness – discuss possible prevention and treatment	Candidate should be able to discuss and locate 5 sites of common unsoundness and discuss the possible prevention and treatment of them.
3	Lunging Horse to be presented with boots and bandages on all four legs, overreach boots, bridle, saddle and side reins A lunging cavesson, halter over/under bridle, lunge line as a noseband, or Barnum method is acceptable Knowledge of fit and use of side reins Ability to keep horse active and moving forward, lunging on a circle that does not get too small or handler wanders Understanding of free forward movement and ability to recognize horse behind the bit or over-bent Demonstrate the change direction using safe and effective technique Lunging at this stage should be consolidation	Candidate can demonstrate their comfort with the fit and use of side reins. They can demonstrate the change direction. Lunging skill is consolidated and shows a great degree of technique as well as being safe and effective. Candidate need only lunge for 5-10 minutes at walk and trot/jog and briefly lunge at the canter/lope with an experienced horse.
4	General impression and safety Turnout Overall confidence Awareness of safety and equine body language	Turnout should be neat, well fitted, and professional looking. Comfortable, secure, tidy clothes, which permit enough freedom of movement to move quickly and easily along with low heeled boots and long hair tied back are encouraged.