



Mile Hi Pony Club  
**D-2 Rating Prep Guide**  
(Revised for January 1, 2002 Standard)

## How to Use This Guide

There are two sections to the Guide to help you prepare for your rating.

**Riding Expectations.** This section tells you the riding skills you will be tested on at your rating. You may want to take this list to your instructor and make sure you are comfortable with all aspects of the riding skills needed for your rating.

**Horse Management.** This section has all the horse management standards you will need to know for your rating. There is space for you to fill in the blanks and answer the questions. Be complete as possible, and share the information with your other Pony Clubbers. Feel free to have the DC, or higher level members help you completely fill in the answers. This is a study guide for you, so you have the complete picture on each aspect of horse management. For sections that have multiple parts, like unsoundness, horse parts, etc., try to make a complete list, rather than just writing down a few answers.

When you are done with the rating, keep your Prep Guide. Each rating builds on the other, so you will see similar standards for the next level, just more detail, or a different aspect of the subject.

Best of luck on your rating!

## Riding Test Expectations

### Overall Position

Candidate should ride without leadline, demonstrating **control**,

*Key Point: You can handle the pony you are riding*

while **maintaining** a safe, **basic balanced position**

*Maintaining means more often than not*

*Proper "position" which includes heels down, legs under hip, straight back, elbows in, head up, etc.*

at the walk and trot and **should begin to develop the canter**

*You can show that you have done this before, but might not feel confident yet*

and **jumping** position

*You can get in galloping position, weight goes into heels when you rise, you stay safely on the horse in this position.*

*NO NEED TO CANTER OVER FENCES*

### Instructor Comments on Overall Position

<b>Instructor Name</b>
<b>Date</b>
<b>Comments</b>

## Riding on the Flat

Skill to be Demonstrated	Instructor Comments
Mount and dismount independently (using mounting block if necessary).	
Shorten and lengthen reins at halt and walk.	
Perform balancing and suppling exercises for rider at halt and walk. Give two reasons for doing balancing/suppling exercises.	Reasons for balancing and suppling. 1.  2.
Ride at the walk, performing simple turns and large circles.	
Ride without stirrups at the walk.	
Ride at the trot on the correct diagonal, performing simple turns and large circles.	

<b>Skill to be Demonstrated</b>	<b>Instructor Comments</b>
Ride at the canter in both directions in an enclosed area and be aware of leads.	
Discuss performance with Examiner indicating whether or not pony was on correct lead.	
Rider should demonstrate control while maintaining a safe basic balanced position at the walk and trot.	

## Riding Over Fences, Riding in the Open

<b>Skill to be Demonstrated</b>	<b>Instructor Comments</b>
<b>Riding over Fences</b> Maintain jumping position at the trot, on the flat, and over ground poles.	
<b>Riding over Fences</b> In an enclosed area ride a simple stadium course of four to five obstacles not to exceed 18". Discuss with Examiner ways to improve ride.	
<b>Riding over Fences</b> Rider should demonstrate control while developing a safe basic balanced position over fences. (No need to canter over fences.)	
<b>Riding in the Open</b> Ride safely and considerately on public and private property, in a group, at the walk and trot. Ride with control, up and down hills at the walk and trot.	

<b>Skill to be Demonstrated</b>	<b>Instructor Comments</b>
<p><b>Riding in the Open</b>            Discuss two or three things to do to show "good manners" or courtesy while riding on someone else's property. (i.e., regarding gates, planted rows in fields, etc.)</p>	<p>1.</p> <p>2.</p>
<p><b>Riding in the Open</b>            Jump simple natural obstacles, not to exceed 18".</p>	

## Horse Management Expectations

The candidate should be able to demonstrate simple skills with assistance if necessary, and should understand the basic reasons for the everyday routines of caring for his or her own pony.

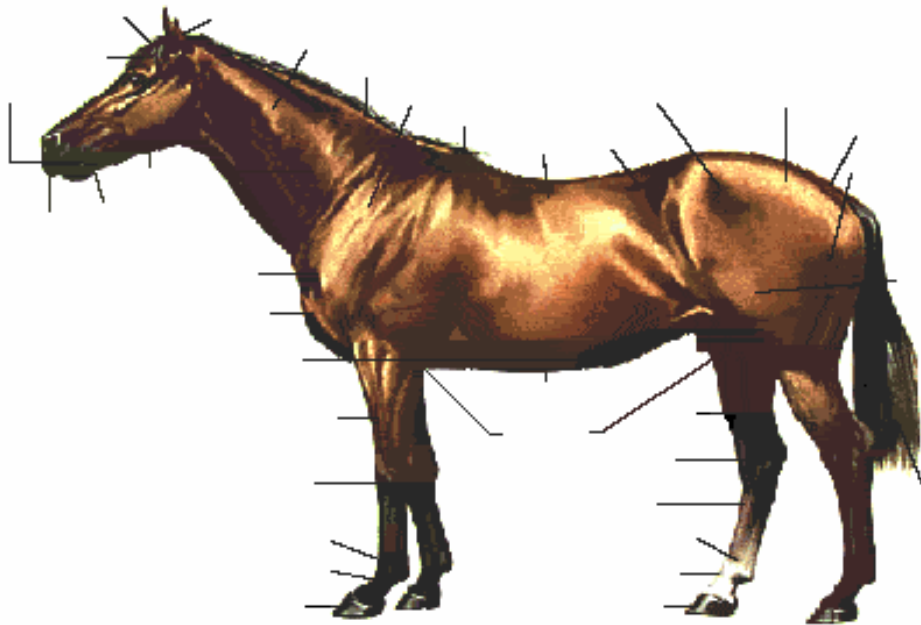
Horse Management Expectation	Answers
<p><b>Turn-Out</b> Rider in safe and neat attire.</p>	<p>Wear your Pony Club polo or any other shirt with a collar and sleeves.</p> <p>Wear riding breeches or jodhpurs, no chaps. If wearing jodhpurs, be sure to have knee garters or elastic under shoes. If you are wearing riding breeches, you should have high boots.</p> <p>Wear a properly fitted ASTM helmet.</p> <p>Wear appropriate boots – smooth sole with a heel.</p> <p>Wear your Pony Club Pin.</p> <p>For girls: Your hair should be neatly pulled back in a hair net (no show bows), or braided.</p> <p>No extra jewelry. Stud earrings are OK.</p> <p>Other Tips:</p>
<p><b>Turn-Out</b> Pony to be clean and neatly groomed, with feet picked out, showing farrier care.</p>	<p>Pony should be brushed, with no dirt or sweat marks showing.</p> <p>Mane and tail should be clean, with no dandruff.</p> <p>Nose and dock should be wiped clean.</p> <p>Hooves should show no dirt anywhere.</p> <p>Hooves picked out and perfectly clean. Shoes in good repair. If pony does not have shoes, know why and if they are put on certain times, etc.</p> <p>Other Tips:</p>

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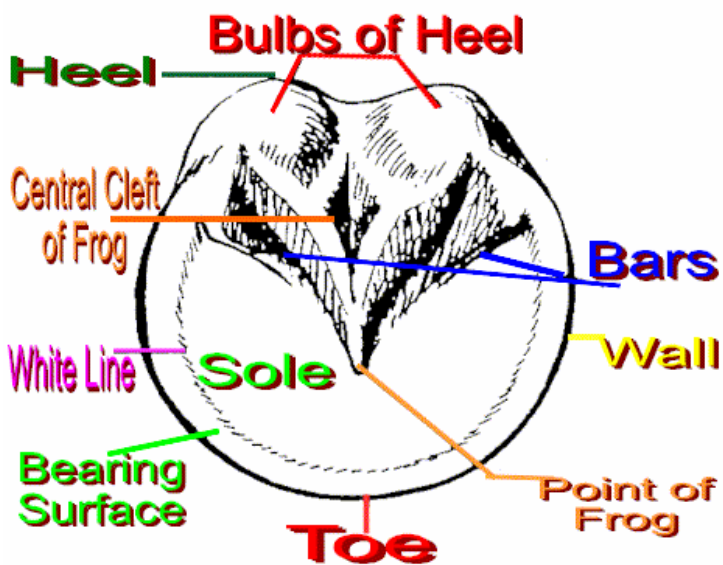
<p><b>Turn-Out</b> Tack to be safe and clean, with attention to stitching, girth, stirrups (properly adjusted by Examiner if necessary).</p>	<p>Bridle should fit properly with noseband and cheek piece correctly fitted. No dirt, dust or jockeys should show.</p> <p>Pad should show no dirt (get as clean as you can) and fit with the saddle.</p> <p>Saddle should properly fit horse. If school tack explain any fit problems.</p> <p>Saddle should be clean (no jockeys, dirt or dust), well-conditioned and supple. If the saddle is new, explain to instructor what you have done to condition it so far.</p> <p>If you are using a martingale, it should be clean and properly fitted. Take it off for flat work.</p> <p>Leathers should be adjusted for flat work. They should show no signs of wear or breakage.</p> <p>Stirrups should be shining. Pads should be white.</p> <p>Other Tips:</p>
<p><b>Conditioning/Nutrition</b> Know basic condition of pony</p>	<p>Is pony fit and ready for work?</p> <p>What kind of work can the pony do?</p> <p>Are there any special things you need to watch for with this pony (jumping limitations, etc.)</p>

<b>Horse Management Expectation</b>	<b>Answers</b>
<p><b>Conditioning/Nutrition</b> Name three to five rules for feeding.</p>	<p>1.</p> <p>2.</p> <p>3.</p> <p>4.</p> <p>5.</p>
<p><b>Conditioning/Nutrition</b> Explain feeding schedule for pony.</p>	<p>When is the pony fed?</p> <p>How is he fed?</p> <p>What is he fed?</p>
<p><b>Conditioning/Nutrition</b> Describe ways to know if your pony is properly cooled out.</p>	

Horse Management Expectation	Answers
<b>Parts of Pony</b> Name and locate any 15 parts of the pony.	Fill in diagram below.



Additional picture of foot (FYI)



<b>Horse Management Expectation</b>	<b>Answers</b>
<p><b>Parts of Pony</b> Name and describe six colors of ponies.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.</li> <li>2.</li> <li>3.</li> <li>4.</li> <li>5.</li> <li>6.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Parts of Pony</b> Name and describe five markings on ponies.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.</li> <li>2.</li> <li>3.</li> <li>4.</li> <li>5.</li> </ol>

<b>Horse Management Expectation</b>	<b>Answers</b>
<p><b>Parts of Pony</b> Name four horse or pony breeds.</p>	<p>1.</p> <p>2.</p> <p>3.</p> <p>4.</p>
<p><b>Stable Management</b> Tack and untack independently.</p>	<p>Describe each step you do to tack up your horse.</p> <p>Describe each step you do to do untack your horse.</p>



<b>Horse Management Expectation</b>	<b>Answers</b>
<p><b>Stable Management</b> Name five grooming tools and explain how to use them.</p>	<p>1.</p> <p>2.</p> <p>3.</p> <p>4.</p> <p>5.</p>
<p><b>Longeing &amp; Leading</b> Lead pony in and out of stall safely, tie up in appropriate place with quick release knot.</p>	<p>What side of the pony should you be on?</p> <p>Where should your hands be?</p> <p>How should you hold the lead rope?</p> <p>How do you turn your pony?</p>
<p><b>Longeing &amp; Leading</b> Lead pony correctly in hand and tacked up.</p>	
<p><b>Longeing &amp; Leading</b> Do walk-halt-walk transitions in hand.</p>	



<b>Horse Management Expectation</b>	<b>Answers</b>
<p><b>Veterinary Knowledge/Bandaging</b> Apply (with assistance) protective boots and bell boots appropriate to pony's leg.</p>	<p>Have boots available to apply on horse.</p> <p>Know what the boots protect and why those areas need protection.</p>
<p><b>Foot &amp; Shoeing</b> Know reasons for daily foot care.</p>	
<p><b>Foot &amp; Shoeing</b> Give two reasons why the farrier regularly checks your pony.</p>	<p>1.</p> <p>2.</p>

<b>Horse Management Expectation</b>	<b>Answers</b>
<p><b>Travel Safety</b>            Know the basic rules for riding on public roads in your state.</p>	<p>Should you ride facing the cars, or with your back to the cars?</p> <p>Other laws:</p>
<p><b>Travel Safety</b>            Name two ways you can help your pony be safe in the trailer.</p>	<p>1.</p> <p>2.</p>