



Pony Club Queensland

State Chief Instructor Medal

GOLD Criteria





PCAQ SCI GOLD MEDAL CRITERIA

On The Ground

Demonstrate

- Correct safety equipment for riding and ground handling work
- Letting a horse go in a yard and paddock (with and without other horses)
- Lead the horse correctly
- Tie up a horse safety
- Stop and go responses while leading your horse
- Turning horse left and right
- Turning the horses shoulders left and right
- Move horses quarters left and right
- A Junior Handler Workout
- Leading with accurate stop, step back and slow from light signals and step back
- Park and head down
- Voice cue
- How to voice cue is trained
- Difference between steps and strides
- Knowledge of the shaping process throughout groundwork

Show knowledge/understanding of

- Need for gloves, boots, helmet, long pants, long sleeves, shirt tucked in, lead rope held correctly when working around a horse

Under Saddle

Demonstrate

- Saddle and bridle a horse
- Correctly fit nosebands and martingales
- Mount and dismount safely and handling reins in a safe manner
- Hold rein correctly
- Two (2) rein holds
- Correct riding position
- Riding without stirrups at walk, trot and canter
- Turning and riding on straight (between two (2) points)
- Ride a pattern – change of direction, walk, trot and canter, halt.
- Fluent diagonal changes and development of feel for the correct diagonal
- Canter and recognise leading leg
- Demonstrate riding on the correct diagonal
- Walk, trot (rising & sitting) and canter in an open area.
- Stop / slow, go forward and turn the horse at walk, trot and canter
- Riding with reins in one (1) hand at walk, trot and canter in a closed and open area
- Shortening and lengthening reins whilst riding one (1) handed
- Alter stirrups and girth while mounted (at halt)
- Riding a strange horse
- Riding a sporting event with control
- Warming up and cooling down
- How to manage the horse when they first start going to events/competition/new location and have a clear understanding of safe practices in this situation

Show an understanding/knowledge of

- Rules and setup of the demonstrated sporting event
- Footfalls at walk, trot, canter, gallop and reinback
- The importance of clear, obedient responses on the ground



Horse Management

Horse Care

Demonstrate

- Knowledge of the Five Freedoms of horse welfare
- Knowledge of feeding and living conditions and the daily horse checklist (water, fences, gates, pasture, rug, horse).
- Knowledge of the daily paddock checklist (water, fences, gates, pasture, rug, horse)
- Paddock checklist
- Daily checklist for paddocked horses
- Care requirement for both paddock and stabled horse
- Knowledge of feeding guidelines
- Knowledge of different types of hay and basic feeds appropriate to the local area and assess value and quality
- Of the main rules for feeding horses
- Letting the horse down for spell
- The process of getting a horse fit after a spell
- An understanding of the relationship of feed to the type of work the horse is doing
- Knowledge of
 - parts of the horse: nostril, mane, wither, forelock, knee, flank, fetlock, ears, forehead, throat, elbow, pastern, dock, coronet, hips, hock, stifle, ribs, cheek, knee, flank, hock, stifle, wall, sole, frog, heels, poll, point of hip, hind quarters, gaskin, flank, jowl, breast, ribs, cannon bone, forearm, chestnut, and ergot, bars of the hoof
 - horse colours - chestnut, bay or brown, black, palomino and grey
 - markings - star, blaze, star, snip, blaze, stripe, socks, stockings and socks
- Knowledge and understanding of what the horse requires to be healthy - roughage, water, shade, shelter, friends.
- Knowledge of the horse's digestive system. Peculiarities including stomach capacity, large and small intestine, grazing habits.
- Understanding of feed requirements
 - Types.
 - Qualities.
 - Purchasing.
 - Methods of feeding..
 - Protein.
 - Fats.
 - Carbohydrates.
 - Fibre
 - Vitamins and minerals.
 - Calcium : phosphorus ratio
- Know feeding and conditioning programs for different types of horses for specified work, e.g. One Day Event, Endurance Riding, Pony Club or Centre Camp, horse returning after a spell etc.
- Feed programs for their horse and be able to describe feed for
 - Horse not in work.
 - Horse in light work (3-4 days per week)
 - Horse in full competition work for all disciplines
 - Rest day
- Preparation of a horse for strenuous work eg. Pony Club One Day Event
- Care of the horse before, during and after strenuous work including knowledge of feed program on the day of the event

Stabling

Demonstrate

- Stable routine
- Recognition of signs of ill health
- Demonstrate how to care for the fully stabled horse to maintain its standard of training and health.
- Show knowledge of stable complex design including dimensions, materials, ventilation and drainage.
- Understanding of fire precautions in stables.
- Understand the siting of and building a manure heap.
- Explain storage of bedding, hay, and hard feed.
- Discuss construction and use of yards.
- Discuss stable routine for horses in work.
- Be able to deal with a cast horse, with assistance.
- Stable bedding types and their maintenance
- Stable vices and their causes – windsucking, weaving, crib biting, kicking



Transport of horses

Demonstrate

- Parts of the float or truck needing regular maintenance
- Requirements for safe transport of horses
- Maintenance of brakes, lights, floor, ramp, tyres, hitch and ball, breeching bar or safety chains
- Appropriate rugging and horse protection for transport of horses
- Preparation for travelling horses by road, air or sea
- Load and unload your own horse

Discuss

- Tyre and pressure (including spare), condition of bearings.
- State border, international requirements and travel documentation
- Adjustment of feed and exercise in relation to travel
- Rugging for travel
- Protective equipment for travel and demonstrate preparation of horse
- How to monitor for travel sickness and dehydration during and after the trip
- Introduction of feed and work after a lengthy trip.
- Methods of loading difficult horses

Grooming, Trimming, Clipping

Demonstrate

- Correct use and safe use of grooming tools – dandy brush, body brush, curry comb, hoof pick, include brushing horse's tail.
- How to neatly plait a mane and tail
- Grooming efficiently and effectively to show ring standard
- Care of clipped horse.
- Trimming and clipping styles.
- The reasons for not trimming horse feathers and vibrissae (wiskers)
- Knowledge of care for the clipped horse and understand the different types of clip.
- Identify types of clip (full, belly, trace, hunting and blanket) and benefits of each
- When, why, and how to wash a horse's sheath.
- Pull a mane and tail. Describe how to hog a mane.
- Demonstrate or discuss how to clip.
- Describe care of the clipping machine before, during and after use.

Hoof Care

Demonstrate

- Principles of shoeing and recognise a well shod hoof.
- Knowledge of the parts of the hoof and how they function (heel, bulbs of heel, cleft and point of frog, bars, wall, toe, white line, coronet band and the bone structure)
- Knowledge of the structure of the hoof
- Recognising changes in the hoof and likely cause, i.e. neglect, poor shoeing, disease.
- Knowledge of corrective shoeing - reasons and application of, for example, feather.
- Knowledge of edged shoes, grass tips, bar shoes and pads.
- Use of screw-in studs and care of same.
- Remove a shoe, trim the foot and refit a shoe under supervision of a farrier.

Health, Ailments, Injuries

Demonstrate

- Taking observations for the Vet – heart rate, respiration rate, temperature, manure.
- Use of items in a first aid kit
- Bandage for a minor leg wound
- Administer a worm paste
- Application of a pressure bandage and figure of eight bandage
- Knowledge of signs of a healthy horse
- How to treat: a girth gall, sore back, sore mouth
- Parasite management and control appropriate to the local area
- When to call the Vet
- Dental care for horses
- Telling a horse's age
- Know how to care for the horse's teeth and recognise potential problems. For example, undershot and overshot jaw.



- Contents of a well-stocked first aid kit
- How to treat a deep wound and skin disorder
- Vaccinations for tetanus, strangles, plus other vaccinations need for the local area
- Care for horse's teeth and recognise potential problems
- Internal and external parasites
- Life cycle of large and small strongyles, bots, ascarids, tape worm and pin worms
- Recognising and treating lice, ringworm, ticks, onchocerca
- Symptoms, identification and treatment of
 - Azoturia
 - Heat stress / dehydration
 - Hoof abscess
 - Stomach ulcers
 - Pharyngitis.
 - Colds.
 - Quittor.
 - Corns.
 - Rain scald.
 - Fistula.
 - Seedy toe
 - Greasy heel.
 - Strangles.
 - Tetanus.
 - Laminitis
- Administration of medication, including intramuscular injections.

Handling

Demonstrate

- Correct and safe picking out of the hooves
- Measuring a horse/pony

Soundness

Demonstrate

- Detection of lameness
- A trot up inspection (Vet inspection)
- Good and poor conformation of the horse and the effect of this on soundness and action.
- Conformation faults affecting a horse's performance and longevity.
- Discuss the following causes of unsoundness:
 - Bog spavin
 - Bone spavin
 - Curb
 - Navicular disease
 - Ringbone
 - Sidebone
 - Splints
 - Tendon problems
 - Thoroughpin
 - Windgalls
 - Broken wind
 - Roaring and whistling

Discuss

- The approach to buying and selling a horse, including documentation.
- Breeding and care of the young horse.
- Breeding procedures and stud **management**.



- Service of mares.
- Period of gestation.
- Birthing.
- Foal first handling.
- Weaning of the foal.
- Health and condition of the growing horse.

Tack and equipment

Demonstrate

- Identification of tack: bit, reins, cheek strap, brow band, nose band, throat lash, saddle, girth, stirrups, pommel, leathers, seat, crupper, surcingle, cantle, waist, gullet, stirrup bar, sweat flap, cantle, waist, gullet, sweat flap
- Fit a martingales, breast plates, surcingle, crupper
- Correct fitting of a rug
- Safe rugging
- Bandage a horse's leg for travel, exercise
- Fit leg protection to the horses legs
- Identify different types of bits
- How to clean and manage tack
- Demonstrate fitting five (5) groups of bits/bridles and their actions: snaffle, pelham, double, gag, bitless etc.
- Leather stitching
- Rope splicing

Show knowledge/understanding of

- Bits suitable for pony club
- Storage and care of tack for an extended period of time

Paddocking

Demonstrate

- Management of paddocks appropriate to the area including harrowing, rotation, fertilising
- Knowledge of noxious weeds and poisonous plants
- Knowledge of suitable pasture
- Understand the management of a number of horses at grass including water, feed and fencing
- Assessment of the quality of pasture in a paddock

Breaking In

Demonstrate

- Having assisted a horse breaker throughout the breaking in of a horse including halter breaking, tying up
- A clear picture of how the breaking-in is carried out
- Safe practice
 - Lead a horse in hand on near and offside for showing and veterinary inspection.
 - Use of twitch, knee hobbles, and other methods of restraint.
 - Apply a twitch and knee hobbles.

Discuss

- The general handling of foals and weanlings.

Lunge

Demonstrate

- Correct attire, tack required for lungeing
- Fit tack for lungeing
- Correct and safe lungeing practices
- Bandage or boot all four legs and may use overreach boots
- Starting a horse off correctly



- Warm up phase without side reins
- Control of horse at walk, trot and canter
- Lengthened stride of walk and trot
- Work session with side reins correctly attached
- Cool down without side reins
- Lungeing horse obeying use of voice

Show a knowledge/understanding of

- Principles and benefit of lungeing
- Location for lungeing – why
- Potential hazards of lungeing

Long Reining

Demonstrate

- Fitting of equipment
 - Snaffle bridle with either a noseband or lungeing cavesson with reins removed
 - Roller with several levels of rings
 - Roller pad
 - Reins to be approximately 10m long and slide easily through the rings
- Bandage or boot all four legs and may use overreach boots
- A good understanding of the reasons for long-reining
- The steps and equipment which may be used when starting off a young horse
- A very sound knowledge of safety issues which must be observed
- A competent technique lungeing with two (2) reins in a circle
- Control of horse at walk, trot and halt.

Journal

One journal entry per month for Twelve (12) months via Electronic/Hard Copy with your Medal Leader

New skill component

Participant to spend 10-15 hours developing a new skill. This should be equestrian or related in some way. Skills could include PCQ Level E/D/D*/C Junior Coach, Volunteering to pencil for a judge, working with a Course Designer, clipping, volunteering at your club, float maintenance, technical large animal emergency rescue training. Other skills that will benefit Pony Club could also be proposed, such a First Aid certificate.