

PATH Intl. On-Site ESMHL Practical Horsemanship Skills Test

Criteria for participants

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Verbal Greeting is given to horse
- 1.2 Demonstrate appropriate method of approach
- 1.3 Demonstrate safe space position in stall/paddock
- 1.4 Quiet, effective, timely approach especially if horse has rear end facing person

2. Haltering

- 2.1 Demonstrate proper placement of halter on horse
 - Candidate does not stand in front of the horse, stands on the left side of the horse
 - Halter is placed on the horse correctly, not too tight or too loose
- 2.2 Demonstrate caution around horse's eyes and ears
- 2.3 Demonstrate safe method of securing the horse while in the stall/paddock
- 2.4 Safety

3. Exiting and Entering Stall/Paddock

- 3.1 Demonstrate spacing for both leader and horse during exit/enter of stall or paddock
 - Open stall or paddock door completely when exit/entering
- 3.2 Demonstrate appropriate release of horse
- 3.3 Demonstrate method of maintaining visual observation of horse while exiting stall
- 3.4 Close gate to paddock or stall door only if center/situation requires it
- 3.5 The horse does not leave stall before the leader
- 3.6 Turn horse towards the front of stall/paddock prior to release
- 3.7 Security while releasing and haltering the horse, gate or stall door closed prior to release/catch

4. Leading

- 4.1 Demonstrate method of holding lead with both hands (unless praising or cueing horse)
- 4.2 Demonstrate method of holding lead in a folded or figure 8 manner
- 4.3 Demonstrate skills of leading
 - Candidate is not too far in front or behind horse
- 4.4 Demonstrate correct position of leader at halt, walk and turn
- 4.5 Demonstrate proper hand placement on lead rope, not grabbing buckle of lead rope or halter
- 4.6 Rhythm of active walk is maintained throughout testing and in serpentine
- 4.7 Demonstrate smooth, timely transitions
- 4.8 Demonstrate wide, smooth turns
- 4.9 Leader does not contribute to horse stress level (throwing head up, pulling up)
- 4.10 Leader promotes straightness of horse
 - Horses' head is not bent or being pulled toward the leader
- 4.11 Demonstrate correct position leading over cavaletti
- 4.12 Organization, effective use of aids and body position shown during ¼ turn in box

5. Aids

- 5.1 Demonstrate use of clear voice aids with different inflection for upward & downward transitions
- 5.2 Demonstrate tone of voice that influences horse
- 5.3 Demonstrate ability to read horse's mood & respond
- 5.4 Demonstrate body language according to horse behavior
- 5.5 Walk with eyes forward and head up except when going over poles or cavaletti
- 5.6 Demonstrate use of aids
 - Voice, body and energy sticks can be appropriate aids and must be used appropriately
- 5.7 Demonstrates use of touch aid when appropriate
- 5.8 Demonstration of praise/appreciation for work done by equine

6. Safety

- 6.1 Closes gate when entering working ring/arena
- 6.2 Overall Safety
- 6.3 Planned carefully and safely conducted

7. Automatic Failures

- 7.1 Abrupt or rough handling of horse
- 7.2 Lead rope allowed to drag on the ground
- 7.3 Lead rope draped over shoulder
- 7.4 Lead rope tightly wrapped around hand
- 7.5 Halter is put on backwards or incorrectly positioned on horse
- 7.6 Failure to close gate when entering working ring/arena
- 7.7 Consistently dropping lead rope
- 7.8 Kneeling on the ground
- 7.9 Approaching horse from blind spot