

Sample Lesson plan

Feeding Pony Safely/Stall Safety

Time: 30 Minutes

Level: Unrated & D1

Ages: 7-10

- Equipment: Small blanket for back half of pony
Signs: "Door", "Corner", "Water", "Grain"
Small tarp to save floor, if indoors
Large hammer and spike nail
2 Buckets
Screw Eye
Double end snap
Baling twine
Salt block
1 cup of grain or pellets
On owner: helmet and sandals
Lead shank
Hay net with one flake of hay in it
Carrots
- Personnel: 1 Discussion Leader
5 Older Pony clubbers
 2 to be the pony – front and back portions
 1 to be the owner
 1 to be the corner of the stall
 1 to be the door of the stall
- Location: Any room or stall if available.
- References: USPC Manual of Horsemanship D Level, pp 283-284; 186-193; 141-144; 179-180
- Objectives: To understand safe and unsafe ways to give a pony water, grain, hay, and tidbits.
- Role Play: Door, Corner, and Gorse are in place, with tarp on the floor. Rider, wearing helmet and sandals, approaches the horse in stall, carrying the spike and hammer. Horse is not secured, and crowds the rider, teeth bared. Rider gives the spike to the Corner person to hold, and pretends to pound it into the wall, at about the Corner's waist level. Horse continues to get in the way. Rider goes to door, which is holding the lead shank, and gives the snap end to the horse to hold. She ties the other end to the spike with an elaborate knot, NOT quick-release. Then rider hangs a water bucket on the spike.

Rider leaves the stall, returns with grain bucket containing grain, and places it on the tarp. Horse immediately kicks over bucket, paws, gets front foot caught in bucket. After much thrashing about, child gets it off the foot. Picks up grain off the floor and feeds it to the horse by hand.

Leaves again, returns with hay net and salt block. Hangs hay net on spike without tying it up, so it is at horse's knee level. Puts salt block on floor. Pulls carrot out of pocket; holds it in a fist with the thumb on top. Horse crowds forward, kicks back into hay net, and simultaneously bites the rider's thumb. Rider jumps up and down, "ow-ow"owing".

Group Leader Then Takes Over:

Questions for specific unratets (call on them by name to be sure that all participate, not just the normally verbal ones.

1. How should we hang our buckets in a stall? (Show screw eye, double ended snap) Discuss convenience and safety of each method.
2. If it's very hot and the pony is going to be in a stall all day, is it all right to use more than one water bucket?
3. Do we ever use nails in a stall?
4. Why don't we leave buckets on the floor of the stall?
5. Can we throw hay on the stall floor? What's good about doing that? What isn't so good?
6. Where is a good place for salt block in a stall?
7. Did you see something unsafe about what the rider was wearing?

Questions For Specific D1s (Working toward D2)

1. How much hay does your pony get at each feeding? How many times a day? How much grain? At what times of the day? Why?
2. Do you give him water before you feed him? What might happen if you give him water last?
3. Does he have salt available all the time? Where?
4. What might happen if your pony gets the same amount of food when he has a week off as when he is being worked daily?

Extension Activity

Question: Do you know how to tie a quick-release knot? (If someone does, have them demonstrate. If not, show how to do this.) Have all students practice.