

Handling your horse bronze

		Notes for guidance
Safety	<p>I can give examples of appropriate clothing and/or safety equipment to wear or use on a yard</p> <p>I know who to report accidents or incidents to at my yard</p> <p>I can demonstrate a safe lifting technique</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ <i>Appropriate clothing:</i> for general yard duties, leading and handling horses and riding. Includes hat, gloves (hat and gloves not required for general yard duties), suitable boots and clothing suitable to the weather. No flapping or loose clothing; long hair tied back; jewellery kept to a minimum ▫ <i>Reporting accidents or incidents to:</i> we recommend a full yard tour is given as part of the induction to the course. Topics covered to include accident and incident procedure; who to report to, first aiders, location of first aid kit, fire exits and assembly points, not to feed or approach horses without permission/supervision, horses they are not allowed to handle ▫ <i>Safe lifting technique:</i> bend knees and keep back straight, spread weight evenly if possible. Can demonstrate how to pick up a water bucket (without water in), or demonstrate how to carry an object (for example a jump pole) between two people. The correct procedure is important to observe, not how much they can lift.
Handling and leading	<p>I can describe how to approach a horse safely</p> <p>I can approach a horse in a stable</p> <p>I can put on a headcollar and tie a quick release knot</p> <p>I can handle a horse in a stable</p> <p>I can lead a horse out of a stable</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ <i>Approaching a horse safely:</i> approach from side, awareness of horse’s blind spots, walk towards horse, talk gently on approach ▫ <i>Approaching horse in stable:</i> might need to push horse back away from doorway, enter stable and close door behind, approach from side, awareness of horse’s blind spots, walk towards horse, talk gently on approach ▫ <i>Put on headcollar:</i> headcollar should be one that fits the horse but the participant should be able to select the correct buckle holes so the headcollar is comfortable fit. ▫ <i>Quick release knot:</i> any type of quick release knot can be used as long as it is tied correctly and length of rope between horse and tie ring is of suitable

	<p>I can lead and turn a horse in walk</p>	<p>length</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ <i>Handle a horse in a stable:</i> calm actions and gestures, standing to the side of the horse (not directly in front or behind), not in a position where could get trapped between horse and wall, awareness of horse’s movements so do not get trodden on, push horse away from you if wanting to move (either shoulder or hind quarters). Participant should show confidence when handling the horse and moving around ▫ <i>Lead a horse out of stable:</i> participant leading horse from shoulder, aim towards middle of doorway in a straight line, horse is not too close to edge so it could knock the horse, horse turned and door closed behind him ▫ <i>Lead and turn a horse in walk:</i> standing at shoulder, standing on the left side of horse, holding lead rope with right hand under horse’s chin, appropriate length of rope, rope not twisted around left hand or loops dragging on floor, walking by horse’s shoulder, talking to horse, turning horse so leader is on the outside of the turn. Quiet horse or pony to be used for leading in a small, secure environment (ie not an open field).
<p>Tack and equipment</p>	<p>I can identify parts of a bridle I can identify parts of a saddle I can strip clean a bridle and saddle I can check tack for safety I can tack up and untack</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ <i>Parts of bridle:</i> snaffle bridle with cavesson noseband, no martingale. All parts identified; browband, headpiece, cheek piece, cavesson noseband, throatlash, reins, bit ▫ <i>Parts of saddle:</i> general purpose saddle. All parts identified; pommel, cantle, seat, skirt, stirrup leather, stirrup iron/stirrup/iron, saddle flap, girth straps, girth, buckle/girth guards, knee roll ▫ <i>Strip clean a bridle:</i> snaffle bridle, cavesson noseband, no martingale. Bridle taken apart, cleaned, saddle soap applied, and put back together again. If it’s not a bridle they are used to they should make note of the holes currently used so they can put it back together again how it was (size) ▫ <i>Strip clean a saddle:</i> stirrup irons removed and washed, attached back correctly ▫ <i>Checking tack for safety:</i> look for split or cracking leather, worn out

		<p>stitching, rot. Areas of importance to check; around holes or where the leather folds over/under a buckle</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ <i>Tacking up:</i> care should be taken that the tack is hung up/stored/placed in the stable where it cannot be knocked off/scratched. Snaffle bridle with cavesson noseband, no martingale, bridle and saddle should fit the horse. Can be tacked up in any order (bridle or saddle first). Horse must be tied up in the stable. When putting on bridle lead rope untied and headcollar over neck. Headcollar put back in position and horse tied up once on. Care should be taken so the bit doesn't bang on the horse's teeth. Participants are not required to fit a bridle at this level, but should be able to fasten the noseband and throatlash for comfort (two fingers between noseband, four fingers between throatlash). When putting on the saddle, saddle cloth or numnah can be used, saddle should be one that fits the horse. Saddle should be placed slightly higher on the neck, saddle cloth pulled up into gullet and then both slid down into correct position. Saddle cloth should be checked for kinks and to ensure it's not pressing on withers. Saddle cloth attachments should be secured to saddle, girth attached and buckle guards in correct place. Girth gradually tightened for comfort ▫ <i>Untacking:</i> saddle and bridle removed in any order. Throatlash and noseband undone before removing bridle. Bit should be held so it doesn't bang horse's teeth when removed. Headcollar put on before taking reins over head. Before removing saddle ensure stirrups are run up. Care should be given so girth doesn't drop down and bang on horse's leg when undone. Before storing the tack bit should be washed off.
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Knowing your horse bronze

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		Notes for guidance
Identification	I can describe horses using: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) colour b) face markings c) leg markings d) gender 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ <i>Colour:</i> minimum of five colours from the following; bay, chestnut, dun, grey, skewbald, piebald, palomino ▫ <i>Face markings:</i> Minimum of three from the following; star, stripe, blaze, white face, snip ▫ <i>Leg markings:</i> Minimum of three from the following; sock, stocking, ermine mark. White to hock or white to fetlock also acceptable ▫ <i>Gender:</i> should be able to describe the following terms: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Foal:</i> a filly or colt under one year old <i>Filly:</i> a young female horse under 4 years old <i>Colt:</i> a young male horse under 4 years old <i>Mare:</i> an adult female <i>Gelding:</i> an adult male that has been castrated <i>Stallion:</i> an adult male that has not been castrated Candidates are not expected to recognise if a horse is under or over four years of age, but should be able to use the correct term if told the age of the horse
Anatomy	I can identify points of the horse I can identify parts of the foot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ <i>Points of the horse:</i> At least 10 points from; muzzle, nostrils, eyes, ears, poll, crest, mane, neck, withers, back, loins, croup, quarters, tail, point of hip, point of buttock, hock, cannon bone, pastern, gaskin, stifle, barrel, elbow, forearm, knee, cannon, fetlock, coronet band, point of shoulder, throat, chin groove, chestnut, ergot ▫ <i>Parts of the foot:</i> At least 3 parts of the foot from: Bulbs of heel, cleft of frog, bars, wall, point of frog, white line, sole, seat of corn
Health	I can list signs of good and poor health I can carry out routine daily checks I can recognise when and why a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ <i>Signs of good health:</i> At least 6 points from; bright eyes, shiny coat, alert, interested in surroundings, eating normally, drinking normally, droppings are normal and passed regularly; urine normal amount and colour, standing evenly on all four feet or resting a hind limb, no abnormal heat, no abnormal swelling, normal respiration rate (8-16 breaths per minute). Note pulse and temperature

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	<p>horse requires shoeing or trimming I can describe how to reduce the risk of disease on a yard</p>	<p>are covered in Gold</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ <i>Signs of ill health:</i> At least 6 from the following; dull eyes, discharge from eyes or nose, dull coat or standing on end, not interested in surroundings, moved to back of stable or corner of field, not eating normally or at all, not drinking normally or at all, drinking excessively, not passing urine or urine dark colour, not passing droppings or droppings are very hard or very loose, not putting weight on a foot, abnormal heat, abnormal swelling, increased respiration rate at rest ▫ <i>Routine daily checks:</i> Participants to observe a horse in a stable and comment on the health of horse (scenario could be perhaps before turning out, or riding). Should be able to make comment on droppings visible, amount eaten/drank, is horse alert, bearing weight evenly, displaying normal behaviour, signs of injury ▫ <i>Shoeing or trimming:</i> why – hooves continuously grow and to prevent pain or discomfort they require regular trimming, every 4-6 weeks by a registered farrier. ▫ <i>Reduce risk of disease:</i> each horse should have own set of equipment regularly disinfected. Feed and water buckets scrubbed daily. Follow yard procedure/advice if there is a known infection on the yard
<p>Feeding</p>	<p>I can list the rules of feeding I can recognise hay and haylage I can describe methods to provide hay or haylage to a horse I can provide hay or haylage to a horse I can describe how to soak hay I can identify methods to provide water in the stable</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ <i>Rules of feeding:</i> Participants to list; Fresh clean water should be available at all times, feed little and often, feed plenty of fibre, feed according to bodyweight, work and temperament, weigh feeds, feed good quality feed, make changes to diet gradually, do not work the horse straight after a bucket feed, keep to a routine ▫ <i>Hay:</i> should feel dry to the touch, be golden/green in colour ▫ <i>Haylage:</i> damp to touch, distinctive smell, stored wrapped in plastic ▫ <i>Describing methods to provide hay or haylage:</i> advantages and disadvantages of; loose on floor, haynet, hay rack, haybar or floor rack ▫ <i>Provide hay or haylage:</i> participant should be able to follow instructions giving by coach to how to provide hay. Can be asked to weigh the forage. If using a haynet should be able to tie it up appropriately

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ <i>Soaking hay:</i> follow procedure used at the yard. In general a haynet is placed in a trough or tub and left to soak for at least 10 minutes. Drain the water and provide hay to the horse as per yard procedure ▫ <i>Providing water in the stable:</i> advantages and disadvantages of buckets vs automatic water drinkers
Fittening	<p>I can describe why a ridden horse should be fit</p> <p>I can describe signs that may indicate a horse is not fit</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ <i>Why a horse should be fit:</i> one of the following; reducing risk of injury to horse and rider, unfit horses tire quicker, stumble or trip, possible behavioural issues from wanting to avoid work. Fit horses are likely to perform better, enjoy the work and find the work easier ▫ <i>Signs to indicate a horse is unfit:</i> Two signs from; Struggling to go forward and moving slower during work, stumbling or losing balance as you progress through the session, breathing rate may increase quickly compared to the amount of work it is doing, taking a long time to recover his breathing rate to normal at the end of a session. A fit horse should recover its normal breathing rate within about five minutes

Caring for your horse bronze

		Notes for guidance
Behaviour	<p>I can describe the horse's natural lifestyle, behaviours and instincts</p> <p>I can describe a horse's vision and how this may affect their behaviour</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ <i>Natural lifestyle:</i> horses are prey animals, behaviours and instincts evolved from their basic need to survive (find food and water, avoid being eaten, reproduce). If threatened horse natural instinct is flight (run away), if trapped horse will fight (rear, kick, buck). Horses are sociable animals, trickle feeders, natural instinct to eat, pecking order within herd ▫ <i>Horse's vision:</i> eyes set on side of head. Blind spot directly in front and directly behind them – do not walk in front/behind a horse. Not the same colour vision as humans and find it difficult to adjust between light and dark environments – may become nervous going into a dark stable.
Stable care	<p>I can list different types of bedding</p> <p>I can skip out a stable and tidy the bed</p> <p>I can clean and refill a water bucket or water drinker</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ <i>Bedding:</i> three of the following; shavings, straw, wood pellets, flax, hemp, rubber matting ▫ <i>Skip out and tidy bed:</i> horse in or out of stable, using fork (suitable for type of bedding), wheelbarrow or skip bucket and broom. If horse in stable, tie up and work around horse safely, wheelbarrow positioned so horse cannot knock into it. Reshape banks and tidy bed, sweep back front of bed. Retie haynet if too low. Empty muck onto muck heap ▫ <i>Clean and refill water:</i> water bucket or automatic drinker
Field care	<p>I can list suitable fencing for field boundaries</p> <p>I can carry out routine daily field checks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ <i>Fencing:</i> should be able to describe why two of the following are suitable; post and rail, stone wall, hedge, electric fencing. Should be able to describe why the following aren't suitable; sheep netting, barbed wire ▫ <i>Routine field checks:</i> check field boundary, broken rails, gaps in fencing, electric fence still working, electric fence not being earthed by long grass, clean water supply, free from litter, weeds and poisonous plants (at this level only expected to recognise ragwort), gate should close securely, gateway free from poaching, field shelter in good repair

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Rugs	<p>I can identify and describe types of rug and their use I can put on and take off a rug</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ <i>Types of rug:</i> stable rug; turnout rug, cooler and fly rug ▫ <i>Put on a rug:</i> any of the above rugs. Rug should already fit the horse, participant not expected to fit or adjust straps. Coach can advise which holes the buckles do up on at front. Horse should be tied up, rug folded over and placed over withers, front straps fastened, rug unfolded and surcingles and leg straps/fillet string done up. Neck cover fastened last. Once front straps are fastened, order of leg or surcingles doesn't matter ▫ <i>Take off rug:</i> tie the horse up. Undo neck cover, then leg straps and refasten these back on the rug, undo surcingles and front straps. Fold rug in half then slide off over quarters
Grooming	<p>I can describe the benefits for grooming horses I can list items in a grooming kit I can groom a horse I can care for a horse after exercise</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ <i>Benefits of grooming:</i> horse looks clean, remove dust and dirt causing irritation, check horse for lumps, bumps, heat and swelling, promotes circulation, promotes good coat health, learn how your horse responds and interacts, builds a bond between you and horse ▫ <i>Grooming kit:</i> hoof pick, dandy brush, plastic curry comb (plastic/rubber), body brush, flick brush, metal curry comb, sponge, mane and tail comb/brush ▫ <i>Grooming:</i> horse tied up on yard or in stable. Participant should position themselves safely throughout, using the brushes in the correct manner. Use a skip to collect dirt from hooves ▫ <i>After exercise:</i> basic wash off after riding (sponge sweaty areas), knowledge that leaving sweat to dry will cause blocked sweat glands and sores

Lungeing your horse bronze

Note: this award does not require the participant to lunge the horse. The coiling of line and changing of whip should be done without the horse

		Notes for guidance
Lungeing	<p>I can give reasons for lungeing a horse</p> <p>I know how long a lunge session should last for</p> <p>I can list the equipment required to lunge a horse</p> <p>I can tack up for lungeing</p> <p>I can lead a horse in preparation for lungeing</p> <p>I can coil the lunge line</p> <p>I can change the whip over</p> <p>I can untack the horse after lungeing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ <i>Reasons for lungeing: two of the following;</i> to add variety to the ridden horse’s exercise routine, during backing, teach the horse to respond to voice aids, to observe how the horse moves, to highlight areas for further training, warm the horse up before riding, take the edge of a fresh horse before riding, improve strength and fitness, to improve handling and communication with your horse, horse can be exercised in less time, horse can be exercised without being ridden ▫ <i>Length of session:</i> no more than 25-30 minutes. Should be less of horse is new to lungeing, or is unfit ▫ <i>Equipment for lungeing:</i> Tack; lunge cavesson, saddle or roller, lunge line, lunge whip, boots. Handler equipment: hat, gloves, boots. Side reins may be discussed but in depth knowledge not required at Bronze – introduced at Gold ▫ <i>Tack up for lungeing:</i> tack up with; cavesson, bridle, roller or saddle and brushing boots. Side reins not required at Bronze. The tack should already fit the horse, the participant is not required to fit the tack. If using saddle, stirrups should be secured appropriately. If using a roller a pad should be underneath. Bridle should have noseband and reins removed, cavesson can be put under or over the bridle ▫ <i>Lead a horse in lunge tack:</i> participant should be able to lead the horse with the whip tucked under their arm, lash coiled around the whip and pointing down. Participant should be able to bring the horse out from the stable or yard in an active walk, positioned at the horse’s shoulder. The line should be coiled appropriately with the coils not dragging on the floor. Participant should demonstrate leading and turning on the near and off side to prepare them for

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		<p>when they send the horse out when lungeing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▫ <i>Coiling the line:</i> Lunge line does not have to be attached to a horse to demonstrate coiling it up. Should be demonstrated on both right and left hand▫ <i>Changing the whip over:</i> demonstrated without horse present▫ <i>Untack after lungeing:</i> Equipment taken off following safe procedure with horse tied up when necessary. Equipment carried and stored away appropriately after use. Bit washed on bridle and noseband/reins added back onto bridle if required
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