



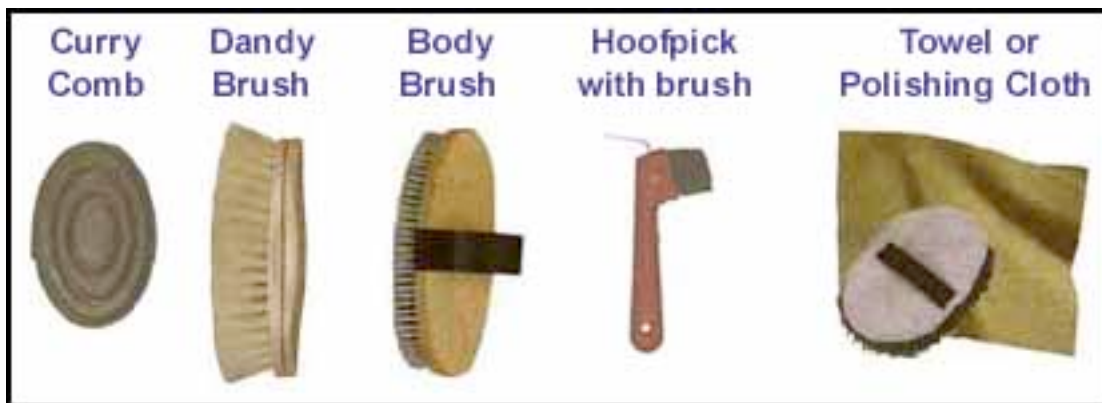
Pony Care and Management

Resources: USPC Manual of Horsemanship D Level p168-176
Materials: Grooming Kit, Breakaway Halter, cotton lead

D Standards:

- ❑ Groom mount, pick out feet with assistance if needed
- ❑ Name 5 grooming tools and explain how to use them
- ❑ Lead mount in and out of stall/paddock safely, tie up in appropriate place with quick release knot

Ponies need to be groomed regularly to be clean and comfortable, condition their skin and keep their coats shiny. Grooming time provides the opportunity to check your mount for injuries or skin problems. Grooming should always be done before saddling to remove loose dirt from under the tack and saddle and prevent sores.



The Grooming Kit: Each item should be labeled with name, team/club, and competitor number and kept in a labeled tack box

Curry Comb: flexible **rubber** for loosening caked mud and dirt Metal curry combs are only for cleaning out other brushes!

Dandy Brush-- stiffer oblong shaped brush used with short “flicking” strokes to remove heavy dirt and dried mud. Can be used on mane/tail.

Body Brush--softer brush with shorter bristles set close together used with long strokes to remove bits of dirt, dust, dried sweat and dandruff.

Face Brush--(optional) super soft for around the eyes and nostrils

Hoof Pick--for picking out the feet Some have a hoof brush at one end.

Hoof Brush-- small stiff brush for cleaning the feet.

2 Smaller Sponges for cleaning eyes, nose, lips and dock. One marked face and one marked dock. Baby/wet wipes are an acceptable alternative.

1 Large Body Sponge for washing the pony

Mane comb or hairbrush (optional) for untangling the mane and tail

Rub rag or Polishing Cloth to remove stains/ sweat marks or final polish

Cotton balls or wet wipes for cleaning around eyes, nostril

Scraper for removing sweat/water

Wash Bucket marked Wash Only.

A Grooming & “Pony Check” Routine

When removing your pony from his stall or small paddock, check for manure. Being familiar with your mounts normal quantity, consistency, and color will allow you to quickly recognize when he is having digestive trouble. Look to see how much water your pony has had. Most healthy ponies drink 20-30 gallons per day.

Use a **leather or breakaway halter** and **cotton lead rope** to lead your pony. Soft cotton leads are less likely to cause rope burns to you or your pony. Cotton is easier to cut in an emergency. **Never loop** the rope around your hand or fingers. Tie your pony using a **quick release knot** to a secure railing to prevent him from wandering off and possibly injuring himself or others.

Use a **soft face brush** and small face sponge or wet wipes for your pony’s face. Be observant of any changes. Is there discharge from the his nose/eyes? Are the gums pink? Does your pony seem alert? Gently wipe any drainage or crust from the eyes and make sure your mount’s ears don't have anything in them. Carefully wipe any crust/dust from the nostrils.

Start your grooming with a **flexible rubber curry comb** using circular motions remove loose hair, dry mud, dead skin, and dirt. Rubbing promotes healthy circulation of the blood. Begin at the top and work your way down. As you go, look for any cuts or bumps that need treatment. Check for skin problems.

Next use the oblong shaped stiffer longer bristled **dandy brush** in short strokes to flick out heavy dirt. The **dandy brush** can also be used for the mane/tail. For thin or very short manes/tails, a **plastic mane/tail comb** is useful. Plastic combs break less hairs than metal. Conditioner or detangler in a thick or tangled mane and tail can be helpful.

Now you’re ready for the **body brush** -- used in firm long strokes to go over the entire body, including belly and legs. Don’t miss the area between the front legs. Remember to clean the area under the dock. Disposable wipes work well for this.

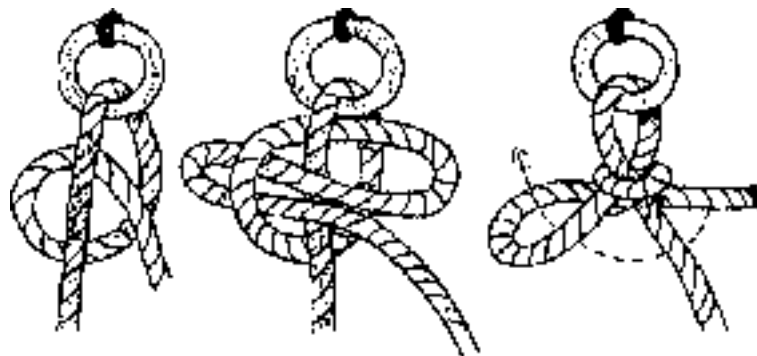
Run your hands down the pony’s legs to feel for any swelling/heat. Use a **hoof pick** and **hoof brush** to remove dirt/ rocks from the hooves. Check for abscesses or other hoof /frog abnormalities. A foul smell could indicate thrush or infection.

You may want to use spray or wipe fly repellent over the entire body. Be careful to avoid the eyes and your own skin. Wash your hands afterwards!

Use the **rub rag/polishing cloth** to rub out sweat or dirt marks or polish for a nice shine at the end of your grooming session

Quick Release Safety Knot

1. Use a breakaway or leather halter and cotton lead rope to lead your pony to the ring or secure post/rail you intend to tie to,. Never tie to a trailer that doesn't have the tow vehicle attached. Tie at about the level of the pony's withers or slightly higher. Your pony should be able to hold his head normally, too loose and he will be able to get his leg over the rope.
2. Take the end of the rope and feed it through the tie ring, or over and around the rail.
3. Hold both sections of the rope in your left hand.
4. With your right hand, take a section of the tail end of the rope and make a fold in it.
5. Cross the fold (which in knot language is called the *bight*) over the two ropes you are holding in your left hand.
6. Bring the bight up through the middle of the loop you have just formed.
7. Grab the tip of the bight with your right hand and pull, tightening the knot.
8. To undo the quick release knot, pull on the loose end and the knot will come undone.
9. If your clever mount likes to undo the knot on his own, pass the end of the rope loosely through the bight.



Important Safety Consideration: Even with quick release snaps/quick release knots, your pony can get tangled up in the rope. He could get a hind foot caught in the halter or flip over backwards. You should have a knife to cut away a rope or halter. The blade needs to be long enough to do the job. A Marlin Spike knife has a spike that can be used to loosen over tightened knots.

Hoof Picking (D Manual Page 199+)

Your pony's feet should be picked out every day, whether your ride or not. To prevent lameness, you need to remove stones and look carefully for puncture wounds. Keeping your pony's feet clean and dry will prevent him from getting a fungal infection called thrush.

Your pony should be tied when you clean the hoof. Stand just past the shoulder near the horse's elbow. Lift the hoof by applying pressure to the fetlock or pastern while leaning your body weight into him. This should cause the pony to lift his hoof. You may rest the pastern on your knee or hold the fetlock joint between the knees while cleaning the hoof.

Use the hoof pick remove packed dirt/ manure on the hoof sole by applying pressure with a light down and outward pulling motion. If the pony is shod, make sure nothing is caught between the shoe and hoof sole. If the horseshoe is loose, contact your farrier. Once the debris is dislodged, look for anything that may be stuck around or in the groove by the frog of the hoof. Insert the tip of the hoof pick in the groove around the frog with light pressure. Remember, the frog is the most sensitive area of the hoof. Scrape from heel to toe to dislodge any debris from the frog canal. Be observant of any unusual moisture or odor that could indicate and abscess or infection.

Check for sole bruises, puncture wounds, and the presence of any heat in the coronary bands. If a reddish bruise is apparent on the hoof without the horse showing any signs of lameness, it means the pony has had some sort of trauma to the hoof. If heat is present in the coronary bands of the hoof a more serious condition may be present and a vet or farrier should be consulted.

The saying, "**no hoof, no horse**" is serious . Clean your pony's hooves regularly!



The Pony Club Grooming Kit

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 C W H S U R B Y D O B I A L Y T O P K F V S U O S
 M G C U N U A F T S M A D Z M C C R M R D C X K N
 S E N R R M C T I J A F B D G M U A S K F Q M K I
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 K O C F V C K E Q L A D N V G H U T P O A V F J W
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 I W S H M D M X Z O W J D V C O C S D O A G X I V



BABY WIPES
 COTTON BALLS
 FLY SPRAY
 MANE COMB
 SOFT FACE BRUSH

BODY BRUSH
 COTTON LEADROPE
 HOOF BRUSH
 RUBBER CURRY COMB
 STIFF DANDY BRUSH

BODY SPONGE
 DOCK SPONGE
 HOOF PICK
 RUB RAG
 SWEAT SCRAPER

BREAK-AWAY HALTER
 FACE SPONGE
 HOOF TREATMENT
 SHEDDING BLADE

Pony Club Rally Grooming Kit

	A. BABY WIPES	
	B. BODY BRUSH	
	C. BODY SPONGE	
	D. COTTON BALLS	
	E. DOCK SPONGE	
	F. FACE SPONGE	
	G. FLY SPRAY (Optional)	
	H. GROOMING KIT TOTE	
	I. HOOF PICK/HOOF BRUSH	
	J. METAL CURRY (for cleaning brushes)	
	K. MANE COMB (Optional)	
	L. RUBBER CURRY COMB	
	M. RUB RAG /CACTUS CLOTH	
	O. SOFT FACE BRUSH	
	P. STIFF DANDY BRUSH	
	Q. SWEAT SCRAPER	