

## GIVE ONE REASON TO PICK OUT HOOVES

**Instructor:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Club/Center:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Region:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Year:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Topic:** An introduction to equine foot care.

**Level/Certificate:** D-1

**Class Size:** 1-10

**Arena Size needed:** Not applicable, no riding involved

**Time:** 10 minutes, up to 15 minutes (with #6, Additional Ideas)

**Objective:** Give one reason to pick out hooves.

**Equipment Needed:**

Hoof pick (with brush-optional)

**References:**

USPC D Manual, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, pp. 214-221

**Safety Concerns:**

None. This can be completed indoors or out, away from horses

**Safety Check:**

- Medical armband/bracelet
- Appropriate Footwear-if done with live horse

## Lesson Procedure

### 1. Introduction of Self/Students

*“Good morning, my name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am a \_\_\_\_\_ certified member from \_\_\_\_\_ Pony Club or Riding Center. I’d like to go around the room and have each of you introduce yourself, and tell us if you have taken a Pony Club Certification yet, or if you are Unrated.”* Allow the students to do this and give each one a name tag.

### 2. Verbalize Objective of Lesson

*“Today we are going to learn about the purpose of picking out your pony’s feet, and you will be able to give a reason for picking out hooves. Having good, sound feet is very important to your pony. As you develop a relationship with your mount, you will see how necessary it is to make sure his or her feet are well-cared for. Some of the care will be provided by a farrier, or horseshoer, who will trim or shoe the pony’s feet (or both) on a regular schedule. Sometimes there are problems with a mount’s feet that require the expertise of a veterinarian. The good news is that most of the everyday care of your mount’s feet can be done by you!”*

### 3. Ask Prior Knowledge of Topic

*“How many of you know how, or have been learning how, to pick out your mount’s feet? How many of you have watched somebody else pick out a mount’s feet? For those of you who have picked out feet, how often do you do it, or does somebody else do it? How often do you think it should be done?”*

## 4. Demonstrate/Discussion:

*“Although this is not always possible, the best advice is to pick out your pony’s feet every day, even when you are not riding. There are two main reasons for picking out the feet; cleaning them and checking them. Soon you will understand why those two reasons are closely related.*

- *Let us first talk about cleaning:*

*A foot that is not cleaned, that is, a foot that is packed with dirt and manure for a long time, keeps the foot too moist and allows bacteria and sometimes fungus to grow in the tissue of the foot. This can also occur when a horse stands in wet bedding for a prolonged period of time, or even wet paddocks or pastures. This kind of infection is called “thrush”, which oozes black pus and smells terrible. Thrush attacks the frog [show in the picture that this is the soft center part of the foot] and causes the frog to rot. That is why another name for “thrush” is “foot rot”. Picking out your pony’s feet daily, and keeping his stall clean and dry, is the best way to prevent thrush.*

- *Checking the hooves is also very important, and to get a good look, they should be clean.*

*When the hooves are covered with mud or dirt, we have just discussed how this creates a moist environment for thrush to grow. Muddy hooves also detract from a well-turned-out appearance. In addition, picking out the hoof and cleaning off the mud gives you the opportunity to check the condition of the feet. You will be making sure that there are no nails or puncture wounds on the bottom of your pony’s foot [show the bottom of the hoof in the picture], and you will check for stones that might have become stuck in the commissure of the hoof [show in the picture]. It can be painful for the pony, and it can cause bruising, to have a stone lodged in the commissure.*

*Picking out the feet also gives you the chance to check your pony’s shoes, if he wears shoes. If a shoe is loose, a nail is bent, or if the feet are growing too long or starting to crack, you will need to call the farrier.”*

## 5. Application of the activity:

*“Now, let’s review what we have learned.*

- *Does anybody have any questions about what we have discussed?*
- *Who can tell me why it is important to keep your pony’s feet clean?(keep clean and check them)*
- *Why is it important to keep the feet dry? (thrush)*
- *What is thrush?(a smelly foot infection caused by bacteria)*
- *Who can come up here and show us where thrush is found? [frog]*
- *What is another reason for picking out the foot and cleaning mud off of the hoof wall? [call on someone, discussion may vary somewhat depending on the answers you get] Yes, you are correct; it is to enable us to check the feet and the shoes, if the mount is wearing shoes. What kinds of things do we check for? [Ask questions until you get several possible answers, including checking for anything abnormal, such as a wound, a nail or sharp object, stones, thrush, cracks in hoof wall, or problems with the shoes. If answers about checking shoes are not specific, go on to the next question.]*
- *What kinds of things might we see going wrong with the shoes? [pony could be missing a shoe, shoe(s) could be loose, foot might be growing such that the shoe is too far forward, nail(s) could be bent or missing]*
- *Who would like to come up here and show us on this diagram the most likely place where you might find [have one person come up for each of the following] :*
  - thrush [frog]*
  - nail [sole usually, but could be anywhere on the ground surface of the hoof]*
  - wound or cut [could be any of these: heels, frog, sole, coronary band]*

stone [commissure]  
cracking [hoof wall]”

## 6. Additional Ideas if time allows:

*“Since we have a little bit of extra time, let’s talk about what we do if we find any of these abnormal conditions that we have discussed. What do you do if:*

- *You see a stone stuck in the commissure of the hoof?* [remove it with your hoof pick]
- *You suspect thrush?* [If your horse is at home, call vet or farrier for medication and instructions. If your horse is at a boarding facility, discuss with owner or manager; they may have other horses being treated]
- *If there is a nail or sharp object in your pony’s foot?* [this is an emergency; do not remove it yourself; call veterinarian immediately]
- *If there is a wound or cut in your pony’s foot?* [call veterinarian]
- *Hoof is growing long and may be cracking?* [call farrier]
- *Hoof is growing long and shoe may be too far forward?* [call farrier]
- *Shoe is loose or horseshoe nail is loose/bent/missing?* [call farrier]
- *Shoe is missing* [call farrier]”

## 7. Conclusion:

[Ask the following questions to make sure the students have met your objectives for the lesson]: *“How often should you pick out your mount’s feet?* [before/after riding, and every day, if possible] *What are the reasons for doing this?* [keeping foot clean and as dry as possible to help prevent thrush, checking for abnormalities such as a wound, a nail or other sharp object, a stone, or the need for farrier care. The need for farrier care could be indicated by a missing shoe, loose shoe, long foot, cracking hoof, or bent horseshoe nail]

*I am so pleased that you all learned so much today and I want to thank you for coming. I hope this lesson will help you in taking the best possible care of your pony’s hooves!*

## Tell Whether Your Mount Wears Shoes or Not

**Instructor:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Club/Center:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Region:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Year:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Topic:** How to know whether your mount wears shoes

**Level/Certificate:** D-1

**Class Size:** 1-10

**Arena Size needed:** Not applicable, no riding involved

**Time:** 5 minutes, or can be up to 10 minutes depending on how much you are able to draw the students into the discussion.

**Objective:** Students should know whether or not their mount wears shoes, and they should be able to look at someone else's mount and be able to tell if it is wearing shoes

**Equipment Needed:**

- Name tags and marker
- Four poster boards showing each of the following: a shod and unshod foot, each shown from a side view and a ground-surface view.
- Same diagrams (as above) on a single handout for the students to take home
- A sheet of paper and a pen or pencil to jot down notes (for yourself)

**References:**

USPC D Manual, 2nd Edition pp. 216, 221  
USPC C1-C2 Manual, 2nd Edition p.247

**Safety Concerns:** None. This can be completed indoors or out, away from horses

**Safety Check:**

- Medical armband/bracelet
- Appropriate Footwear

## Lesson Procedure

**1. Introduction of Self/Students** [name tags will be available; have each member write their name and put on their name tags as they join the group]

*“Good morning, my name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am a \_\_\_\_\_ certified member from \_\_\_\_\_ Pony Club or Riding Center. I'd like to go around the room and have each of you introduce yourself. Let's start right here. [indicate where]”*

[As each of them introduce themselves, ask them, one at a time, addressing them by name:]

*“\_[name]\_\_\_\_, who do you ride for Pony Club lessons? Does \_[mount's name]\_\_\_\_ wear shoes?”*

[As each of them answers, make a note of their name and whether their mount does or does not wear shoes, or if they do not know. This could vary a lot depending on the age of the students and the degree to which they are involved in tacking up their own horses in preparation for lessons]

**2. Verbalize Objective of Lesson**

*“The main purpose of today’s lesson, is to make sure that all of you know whether or not your own horse, or the horse that you usually ride, is wearing shoes or not. For anyone who isn’t sure, we are going to demonstrate how you can tell if your horse, or any horse, for that matter, is wearing shoes.”*

### **3. Ask Prior Knowledge of Topic**

*“I am going to ask some of you how you know, or how you can tell, that your horse is or is not wearing shoes.*

*For those of you who know [or, alternatively, say:]*

*Since all of you knew, I’d like to ask how you became aware that your horse is or is not wearing shoes.”*

Depending on the number of students present, you may ask just a few, several, or all of them the following question:

*“ \_\_[name]\_\_\_\_\_, how did you know that your mount wears (or does not wear) shoes?”*

[Answers could vary from “I don’t know” to “My instructor told/showed me” to “I saw them”, “you can see them when you pick up the foot”, “I’ve seen the horseshoer put on the shoes”, etc. All of these are valid answers]

### **4. Demonstrate/Discussion:**

[Although the main objective of this lesson is simply that they know whether their mount is wearing shoes or not, you want to make sure that everyone can recognize whether other horses are wearing shoes.]

*“Today I have a diagram showing two hooves from the side view, and the same two hooves from the ground surface.*

*The clearest way of determining that a horse has shoes is to look directly at the shoes from the bottom, or the ground surface, of the foot [show the unshod and shod foot in the diagram]. Although there are different materials of which shoes can be constructed, and there are different ways to attach them to the foot, almost all of the shoes that we will see are metal—either iron or aluminum—and are nailed on. Look at how, on this foot, which does not have shoes, you can see the hoof wall [indicate the sides and toe of the foot], and on this foot, which has a shoe, you can see the metal shoe [tracing around it with your finger] and how it is nailed on [point out the nail heads].*

*Looking at these feet from the front or the side, there are two more indications that the horse is or is not shod.*

*Often you can see the shoe itself under the hoof wall [run your finger along it]. This is especially obvious when the horse is newly shod, and when he is standing on hard ground. Sometimes, if he is on sand or soft footing, or it has been a while since he was shod, it is a little more difficult to see the edge of the metal shoe under his hoof. The other indication that the horse is wearing shoes is the appearance of the clinches on the hoof wall—the end of the shoe nail that is bent over. Do you see these little dots in the picture? On a live horse, you can see that they are metal. These are more visible after you brush the dirt off the hoof wall using the little brush on the end of your hoof pick. These are the ends of the horseshoe nails that have come through the hoof wall and have been bent and flattened into the hoof wall (with a tool called a ‘clinch*er’).

### **5. Application of the activity:**

*“Now I would like to review what we have discussed. How do you know if a horse is wearing shoes?”*

*Raise your hands*” [call on them until you have the three indications of shoes: seeing them from the ground surface view, seeing them under the hoof, or seeing the metal clinches]

*“Yes, we can see shoes from the bottom of the foot (when we pick it up), we can see the shoe under the hoof wall, on the sides and front of the foot, and we can recognize the clinches which are the endings of the horseshoe nails that hold the shoe in place.*

*Who would like to show us the shod and the unshod hooves in these diagrams, and share with us how you can tell?* [call on some of them and ask them which is the shod hoof, which is the unshod hoof, and how do they know]

*Perfect! That is great.”*

**6. Additional Ideas if time allows:** [If this lesson was too easy for this group, you might discuss in very general terms the reasons why some horses need shoes and others may be left barefoot]

*“Since we can all recognize whether a horse is wearing shoes or not, I’d like to touch on some of the considerations involved in determining whether or not a horse needs shoes. Ultimately this is something that you will decide with your veterinarian and your farrier. Does anybody have any ideas of why some horses need shoes more than others?* [call on them, modify their answers so that you can summarize the following principles:]

*In summary, some of the issues that determine whether or not a mount needs shoes are:*

- *How often they are ridden, and the condition of the ground where they are ridden—shoes can provide protection*
- *How strong their hooves are*
- *The condition of the ground if they are turned out on pasture*
- *If they are ridden on grass or slippery surfaces, they can be shod with shoes that provide traction (keep them from slipping)*
- *Certain unsoundnesses, or lamenesses, can be helped with a special kind of shoe for that condition. We call that corrective shoeing.*

## **7. Conclusion:**

*Are there any questions?*

*What will you look for in order to determine if a mount is wearing shoes? Raise your hands.* [answers]

*If you wanted to know why your mount is not wearing shoes, who would you ask? Raise your hands.*

[answers] *If the horse belongs to somebody else, you would ask the owner. If your mount belongs to you or your parents, you can ask your farrier. You will want to periodically confirm with your farrier that the mount is still doing fine without shoes.*

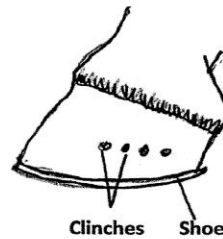
*I want to thank you all for coming today; it has been great working with you. Please pick up a handout on your way out, so that you can remember when we discussed today.”*

## How a horse's hoof looks with and without shoes

### OUTSIDE OF HOOF



Without shoes



With shoes

### GROUND SURFACE OF HOOF



Without shoes



With shoes





Unshod Hooves



Shod Hoof



← Unshod Hoof

Shod Hoof →



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## REASONS FOR DAILY HOOF CARE

**Instructor** \_\_\_\_\_

**Club/Center** \_\_\_\_\_ **Region** \_\_\_\_\_ **Year** \_\_\_\_\_

**Topic:** Daily hoof

**Level/Certificate:** D-2

**Class Size:** 1-8

**Time:** 20-30 min, depending on how many kids

**Objective:** D-2 Foot and Shoeing: know reasons for daily hoof care.

**Equipment Needed:**

Hoof pick  
Hoof dressing  
Thrush medication  
Horse (with shoes not mandatory)

**References:**

USPC D manual, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition pp 182-184, 214-220, 221.

**Safety Concerns:**

Tolerance of horse being used.  
Calmness of kids being taught.  
Kids crowding too close to horses legs.  
No sitting on the ground when looking at the hoof.

**Safety Check:**

Medical armband or bracelet  
appropriate footwear

## Lesson Procedure

**1. Introduction of Self/Students:**

*"Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am a \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_ Pony Club or Riding Center. Let's go around the group and tell me your name and tell us if your pony wears shoes or not."*  
Allow the students to do this and give them a name tag.

Child speaks..... *"Thank you \_\_\_\_\_ next person"*

**2. Verbalize Objective of Lesson:**

*"Today we are going to talk about the reasons for daily hoof care."*

**3. Ask Prior Knowledge of Topic:**

*"Raise your hand if your pony or horse wears shoes." Can anyone tell me why it might be important to clean out your horses hooves?"*

Let them answer.

#### 4. Demonstrate/Discussion:

*"There is nothing more important to your pony than good, sound feet. If his feet are not properly cared for, he will be uncomfortable and he may go lame or stumble, and you will not be able to ride him. Good hoof care includes picking out and checking your pony's feet every day, conditioning the feet, and having a farrier trim or shoe his feet on a regular basis"*

If kids can't tell you anything, move on to the next section and begin teaching the material.

1. *"Can anyone tell me one reason to pick out a pony's hoof daily?"*

Typical answers: Could have a rock or nail stuck or lots of caked mud in the hoof

2. *"Can anyone tell me another reason to pick out a pony's hoof daily?"*

1.) *"Yes \_(name of child)\_\_\_\_\_, if your pony has a rock or nail in it could cause his foot to hurt and cause him to go lame."*

2.) *"Yes, \_(name of child)\_\_\_\_\_, if your pony's feet are left full of dirt and manure for too long, or if he stands in a wet, dirty stall or pen that is not cleaned often enough, he could get a foot infection called thrush. This is caused by a fungus or bacteria that live in wet, dirty feet. Thrush attacks the frog and makes it rot. It looks like black ooze and has a very bad odor."*

3. *"Can anyone tell me what a puncture wound is?"* Give them a chance to answer

*"A puncture wound is caused by something sharp, like a nail or stick, getting stuck in your pony's hoof and can be quite serious. Don't try to remove it yourself, call your vet or farrier. "*

- *The condition of your pony's feet can change, depending on his health and the conditions he lives in. If he lives in a dry, dusty place, his feet become dry and hard and sometimes crack. You can help by applying hoof dressing around the coronet and heels. It is not necessary to apply it to the whole hoof. If your pony lives in wet, swampy conditions all the time, his feet may become too soft. The hooves may break off easily and it will be hard for him to keep his shoes on. So even though your horse may have worn shoes in the past, he might not need them now. Or, he could have been barefoot all his life and because his circumstances have changed and he made need shoes now."*

*"Any questions?"*

#### 5. Application of the activity:

*"Now let's look at this horse's hooves and discuss what we see."*

- A. *Now I will demonstrate how to pick out the front and hind hoof.*
- B. *This is the area where we apply hoof dressing.*
- C. *If your pony's hoof has thrush, this is where you would apply thrush medication*

*Now we will look at several pictures that will show us some things to look for*

## 6. Additional Ideas if time allows:

Have them each clean out a hoof

Look at other horses and determine if they need to be cleaned or have thrush.

## 7. Conclusion:

*“Why is it important to clean your pony’s feet out every day?”* (So there are no stones or things in the feet that may hurt them. To clean out packed dirt or snow so that they can be ridden. To clean out dirt, manure and mud so they don’t get thrush.)

1. *“Are there any questions?”*
2. *“Can each of you give one sign that you remember to look for when caring for your pony’s feet?”*
3. *“Thank you for coming today.”*

## Photos:

### Proper way to pick out horse’s hoof



### Proper way to apply hoof dressing



### Thrush



### Puncture wound in hoof

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## FARRIER CARE

**Instructor** \_\_\_\_\_

**Club/Center** \_\_\_\_\_ **Region** \_\_\_\_\_ **Year** \_\_\_\_\_

**Topic:** Farrier care

**Level/Certificate:** D-2

**Class Size:** 1-8

**Time:** 20-30 min, depending on how many kids

**Objective:** D-2 Foot and Shoeing: give two reasons why the farrier regularly checks your mount.

**Equipment Needed:**

Hoof pick  
Horse (with shoes not mandatory) or  
Pictures of horses needing trimming or reshod

**References:**

USPC D manual, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition pp 182-184, 214-220, 221.

**Safety Concerns:**

Tolerance of horse being used.  
Calmness of kids being taught.  
Kids crowding too close to horses legs.  
No sitting on the ground when looking at the hoof.

**Safety Check:**

Medical armband or bracelet  
appropriate footwear

## Lesson Procedure

**1. Introduction of Self/Students:**

*"Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am a \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_ Pony Club or Riding Center. Let's go around the group and tell me your name and tell us if your pony or horse wears shoes or not."* Allow the students to do this and give them a name tag.

Child speaks..... *"Thank you \_\_\_\_\_ next person"*

**2. Verbalize Objective of Lesson:**

*"Today we are going to talk about the reasons for the farrier to check your pony or horse regularly."*

**3. Ask Prior Knowledge of Topic:**

*"Raise your hand if your mount wears shoes. How often does your farrier come to work on your mounts hoofs?"* Let them answer.

**4. Demonstrate/Discussion:**

*"There is nothing more important to your pony or horse than good, sound feet. If his feet are not properly cared for, he will be uncomfortable and he may go lame or stumble, and you will not be able to ride him. Good hoof care includes picking out and checking your pony's feet every day, conditioning the feet, and having a farrier trim or shoe his feet on a regular basis"*

If kids can't tell you anything, move on to the next section and begin teaching the material.

- *"Your pony should have his feet checked by a farrier every 6 to 8 weeks, whether he is ridden or not to see if his feet need to be trimmed or his shoes to be reset (redone). A farrier is an expert on trimming, shoeing and balancing ponies' feet. He can tell if your pony's feet are in good condition, and if they are balanced correctly so that your pony can move without strain on his legs. You should get to know the normal shape of your pony's hooves and notice any cracks or changes.*
- *Everyone should know that not every horse or pony needs to wear shoes all the time. The decision on whether or not your horse wears shoes should be made by the farrier. He/she will determine the need for shoes based on the type of work your horse does, the condition of your horse's hooves and by watching your horse move at the walk and trot.*

*"Any questions?"*

## **5. Application of the activity:**

*"Now let's look at this horse's hooves and discuss what we see."*

- A. *If your horse is barefoot, this is where you would look for any wear and the condition of his feet*
- B. *If your horse is shod, this is where you would look if there are signs of needing new shoes*

*Now we will look at several pictures that will show us some things to look for that will tell us that we need to call the farrier.*

### **Barefoot –**

**Long toes** – *this is usually the first sign that your horse needs to have his hooves trimmed. Long toes can cause your mount to trip and stumble. This will also cause extra strain on the back of your horse's legs.*

**Uneven** – *this is caused by the horse not landing evenly on his feet when he is moving. Sometimes the horse will wear one side of his hoof more than the other. This causes strain on the sides of your mount's leg.*

**Cracked and shelly hoof** – *this happens when the hoof wall is weak and is easily cracked or chipped, much like your finger nails. This can be caused by dry conditions and not conditioning the hooves, but some horses are born with weaker hoof walls and softer or shelly hooves.*

### **Shod hoof –**

**Shoe too far forward** – *the toe has grown too long causing the shoe to sit further down the foot away from the heel. This will cause pain as the shoe presses on the wall.*

**Risen clinches** – *cause by the hoof grows out the end of the nails will begin to rise and will no longer be smooth. Your horse could possibly cut himself on the other leg if they stick out too far and are sharp.*



***Shoe over grown by hoof*** – the wall of the hoof grow over the edge of the shoe.

***Loose shoe or missing nail*** – the nails have loosened enough that the shoe begins to move on the horses hoof. You can sometimes hear the loose shoe flopping.

***Lost shoe*** – caused by a loose shoe finally falling off or can happen when the horse overreaches with his hind foot and rips it off.

#### **6. Additional Ideas if time allows:**

Go to various horses and have them determine the condition of their hooves and if the farrier needs to come and why they think so.

#### **7. Conclusion:**

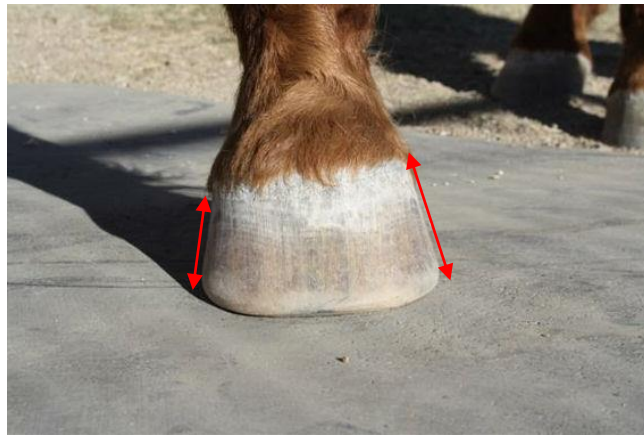
*“A pony’s hoof grows all the time, like your fingernails – about  $\frac{1}{4}$ ” a month. Some ponies’ hooves wear down faster than they grow. They need shoes to protect their feet and keep them from becoming sore. Other ponies’ feet grow faster than they wear down. They get long feet, which puts strain on their legs and can cause them to stumble. And other ponies wear their feet uneven. It is unsafe to let a pony’s feet get too long, cracked, sore or badly out of balance and he can’t be ridden that way. Ponies who are shod usually get reset (new shoes) every 6 to 8 weeks.*

1. “Are there any questions?”
2. “Can each of you give one sign that you remember to look for when caring for your pony’s feet?”  
“Thank you for coming today.”

#### **Photos: Problems of unshod hooves**



Long Toes



Uneven wear



Shelly hoof wall



Cracked wall

### Problems of shod hooves



Long toe with shoe moved forward



Risen or loose clinches

Risen clinches



Overgrown hoof wall



Loose Shoe

Missing nail



Missing nail



Missing shoe

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## TIME FOR THE FARRIER

Instructor \_\_\_\_\_  
 Club/Center \_\_\_\_\_ Region \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

**Topic:** How do you know it is time for the farrier

**Level/Certificate:** D-3

**Class Size:** 1-8

**Time:** 15 minutes

**Arena Size needed:** none

**Objective:** D-3 Foot and Shoeing: Describe obvious signs of a hoof needing shoeing or trimming.

**Equipment Needed:**

Horse (s), hoof pick, handout

**References:**

USPC D Manual, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, pp 220-221

**Safety Concerns:** If using a horse/pony, one that will tolerate having hoof lifted/looked at with small group of people around, and will easily have hoof (hooves) picked up.

**Safety Check:** medical armbands or bracelets, safety check of the area (no unnecessary items), and safety check of the horse/tack. (Some barns require that helmets be worn while working around horses).

## Lesson Procedure

### 1. Introduction of Self/Students

*"Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am a \_\_\_\_\_ member from \_\_\_\_\_ Pony Club or Riding Center. Let's go around the room and you can tell me your name, certification, and if your horse wears shoes or is barefoot."*

Allow the students to do this and give each one a name tag. You could even keep a list of bits-in your notes or write it on the board so all can see.

### 2. Verbalize Objective of Lesson:

*"We are going to discuss if the horse needs to have a farrier come to trim its feet or if the shoes need to be reworked or replaced."*

### 3. Ask Prior Knowledge of Topic:

*"Does your horse wear shoes? Who comes to do your horse's feet if they get long or need work? Have you ever watched your farrier work on your horse? How often does your farrier come to work on your horse?"*

### 4. Demonstrate/Discussion:

*"We have a horse here for us and looking at the feet, how can you tell if it is time to have his feet done again? [allow for answers] Great, you came up with some good things. It is time for the farrier when:*

- *The feet are too long. Usually the toes grow faster than the heels, so the angle changes as well. This can be hard on their tendons and long toes cause them to trip.*
- *They may have chips, cracks or wear unevenly so they are not balanced.*

- *The shoe could be loose, twisted, or even off*
- *The hoof may have overgrown the shoe and doesn't seem to fit right any more*
- *The clinches will stand up from the wall and will no longer be smooth.*

#### **5. Application of the activity:**

*"Now that we have gone over the signs, who can point out any of these on this horse? Great spotting those things. Now let's just go around the group and each name one sign that it is time for the farrier, who should come about every 6 weeks"* (Give everyone a turn to name some sign, and clarify if needed.)

#### **6. Additional Ideas if time allows-share and discuss:**

- Look at other horses in the barn and evaluate them.
- Have pictures of horses needing to be trimmed or reshod and have a discussion about them.
- Provide additional learning:
- Horses hooves grow at different rates
  - They wear differently depending on the surface they are on and each individual horse
  - Shoes protect their feet and can help with traction
  - It takes about one year for the hoof to grow out and be replaced
  - They usually see a farrier every 6-8 weeks.
  - Be sure to schedule your next appointment when the farrier is there as sometimes they are busy and may not be able to come at the last minute when your horse needs it.

#### **7. Conclusion:**

*"Let's go around the group and each one of you tell one sign that it is time for the farrier to come? It is important to call your farrier well in advance as they get busy and can't always come when you want. Does anyone have any questions? Thank you for coming today and working so hard."*

#### **8. Diagrams/dimensions/distances:**

Bring a twisted shoe and a worn out one.

Bring various pictures that show signs that the horse needs a farrier





Long toe, low heel, cracked and broken hoof



Long toe, clinches risen, shoe too far forward



Shoe overgrown by foot, bent and missing nails, shoe loose



## FOOT AND SHOEING

**Instructor** \_\_\_\_\_

**Club/Center** \_\_\_\_\_ **Region** \_\_\_\_\_ **Year** \_\_\_\_\_

**Topic:** parts of the hoof.

**Level/Certificate:** D-3

**Class Size:** 1-8

**Time:** 15-20 minutes

**Arena Size needed:** none

**Objective:**D-3 Foot and Shoeing; Name three parts of the hoof

**Equipment Needed:**

Quiet horse

**References:**

USPC D Manual, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, pp 214-216

**Safety Concerns:** If using a horse/pony, one that will tolerate having hoof lifted/looked at with small group of people around, and will easily have hoof (hooves) picked up.

**Safety Check:** Appropriate footwear, medical armbands, and safety check of the horse/tack. (Some barns require that helmets be worn while working around horse or pony).

## Lesson Procedure

**1. Introduction of Self/Students** Name tags can be helpful—give one to each student.

*“Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am a \_\_\_\_ member from \_\_\_\_\_ Pony Club or Riding Center. Please tell me your name, your certification, and your favorite activity with your pony/horse.”*

**2. Verbalize Objective of Lesson:**

*“We are going to learn parts of the horse’s hooves.”*

**3. Ask Prior Knowledge of Topic:**

*“Does anyone know any parts of the hoof? What parts do you know?”*

**4. Demonstrate/Discussion:**

*“Look at the handout and let’s look at the parts of the hoof and talk about them. How many parts do you see in the pictures (8)? Good. I am going to say the part and you repeat it after me as I point to it. (Say all 8: heels, cleft, bar, white line, sold, wall, frog, commissure). Great. The sole is concave and protects the foot, but it can be bruised. The wall is the outer part, protects the inner sensitive structures, and is very hard. It takes about one year to grow a new wall. The frog is the softer part shaped like a triangle and its job is to provide traction, help absorb the shock, and pump blood back up the leg each time the horse steps down. It helps with circulation. The cleft is in the center of the frog. The commissures or the grooves are on either side of the frog and you have to be sure to clean them very well. Here are the bars, the heels and the white line.*

*Now we have a horse so let’s take a look at this horse’s foot while he is standing and what part of the*

*hoof can you name? Now I am going to pick up the foot and let's see what other parts we could find and name. (Point out each of the 8 parts on the horse, describe them, and answer questions). Now that we have looked at all the parts I am going to point to them and you tell me their names. (Do all 8 parts). Great job everyone."*

**5. Application of the activity:**

*"Using the handout and the picture of the hoof that does not have the parts labeled, I want you to find a partner and see if they can name all the parts, and then they will ask you all the parts."*

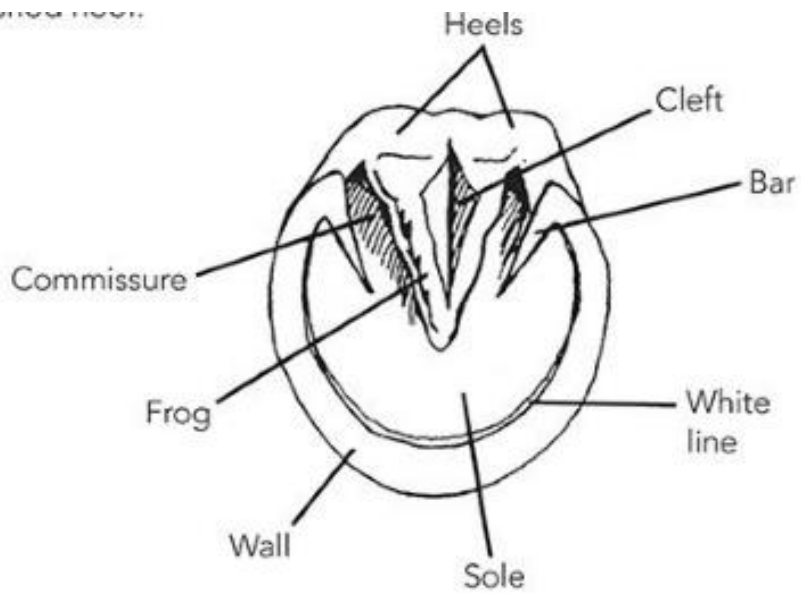
**6. Additional Ideas if time allows:**

Make sure they know the 8 parts and then you can talk about function.

**7. Conclusion:**

*"Let's go around the group and see if we can name all 8 parts. Great. When you go home be sure to look at your horse's feet and practice learning all the parts of the hoof. Thank you for coming and working so hard today."*

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## THRUSH

**Instructor** \_\_\_\_\_

**Club** \_\_\_\_\_ **Region** \_\_\_\_\_ **Year** \_\_\_\_\_

**Topic:** Thrush

**Level/Certificate:** D-3

**Class Size:** 1-8

**Arena Size needed:** none

**Time:** 15-20 minutes

**Objective:** D-3 Foot and Shoeing; Discuss signs of thrush

**Equipment Needed:** Diagram of foot

**References:**

USPC D Manual, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, pp 214-216,

**Safety Concerns:** none, unless you have a horse with thrush.

**Safety Check:** medical armband or bracelet

### Lesson Procedure

**1. Introduction of Self/Students** Name tags can be very helpful.

*"Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am a \_\_\_\_ member from \_\_\_\_\_ Pony Club or Riding Center. Please tell me your name, your horse/pony's name), certification, your favorite activity with your pony/horse."*

**2. Verbalize Objective of Lesson:**

*"Today we are going to learn about an infection that horses get in their feet. It is called thrush."*

**3. Ask Prior Knowledge of Topic:**

*"Has anyone ever heard of thrush before? Do you know anything about it?"*

**4. Demonstrate/Discussion:**

*"Thrush is a foot infection that is caused by a fungus or bacteria. It lives in dirty feet. If the feet are not cleaned regularly, especially if they are standing in wet, dirty areas, they can get thrush. It attacks the frog and makes it rot. It looks like black ooze. It is easily identified by its bad odor, even when first developing. The best way to prevent this is to clean their feet daily and keeping his stall or area clean."*

**5. Application of the activity:**

*"Let's take a look of the picture of a hoof. Who can show me where thrush develops? Yes, thrush is in the frog, but you can also see problems in the commissures, especially if you don't clean them out really good. So, what two areas can we see thrush? Yes, frog and commissures (point to them in pictures). Who can tell me why a pony would get thrush? Yes, two reasons. You don't keep the feet clean and your horse is standing in dirty areas. Knowing that, what can we do to prevent thrush? You are right. Clean their feet daily and the area they live. How do you know if your horse has thrush? Yes, there are three*

*signs: frog rots, stinky, oozing from frog. Does anyone think their horse has had thrush?"*

#### **6. Additional Ideas if time allows:**

Discuss what to do if you horse has thrush.

#### **7. Conclusion:**

*"How do you know if you horse has thrush? (frog rots, stinky, oozing from frog)*

*What can you do to prevent thrush? (clean feet and living area daily)*

*Why do horses get thrush? (dirty feet and dirty living area)*

*Is thrush a injury or an infection? (infection)*

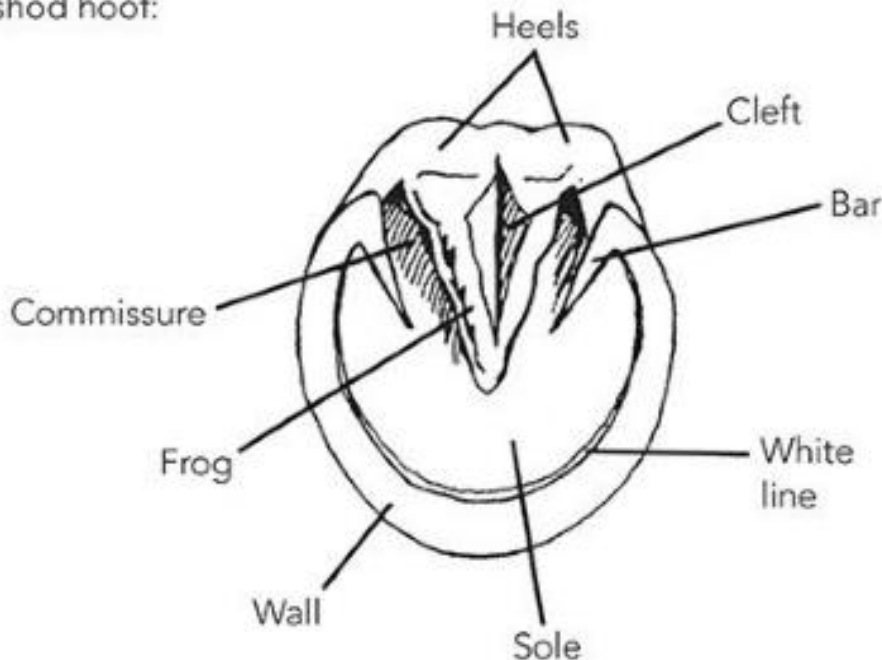
*Is thrush caused by a cut, bacteria or fungus? (bacteria or fungus)*

*Who can show me on the foot picture where I would find thrush? (frog and commissure)*

*Thank you for coming today and working so hard!"*

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Ground surface of  
unshod hoof:



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