

Stage 1 – Study Plan

GROOMING - Groom a horse. Put on a tail bandage
CLOTHING - Put on various types of rugs including a New Zealand. Fit a roller, surcingle and cross surcingles and understand their various uses. Take off horse clothing safely.
SADDLERY - Put on a saddle, a numnah and a snaffle bridle (with appropriate noseband with martingale/breastplate). Check tack for safety and comfort of horse and rider. Remove tack and understand immediate aftercare. Recognise worn or ill-fitting saddle, being aware of the dangers involved. Name parts of the saddle and bridle.
HANDLING - Put on, fit and care for headcollars, halters and lead ropes. How and where to tie up a horse, in the stable and outside. Be practical and workmanlike.
HORSE HUSBANDRY - Types of bedding. Mucking out. Bedding down. Skipping out. Setting fair. Building and maintaining a muck heap. Keeping all areas swept and tidy.
FOOT AND SHOEING - Know how to maintain the horse's feet in good condition. Be able to recognise overgrown feet, risen clenches, worn, loose or 'sprung' shoes.
ANATOMY AND HANDLING - Know the main external areas (forehand, middle, hindquarters). Basic points of the horse, their colours and markings. How to stand horse up correctly in the stables and/or outside. How to lead and turn horses at walk and trot. How to hold a reasonably quiet horse for treatment, shoeing and clipping.

Squirrels Riding School

“it's not just for kids!”

HEALTH AND SAFETY - Know the importance of physical fitness in order to carry out yard work efficiently without stress and strain, use correct methods for stable tasks, lifting, moving heavy weights. How to fill, weigh and tie up a haynet.
HORSE HEALTH - Know the signs of good health in horses and ponies recognise when they are off-colour and the importance of an immediate report.
HORSE BEHAVIOUR - Show knowledge of the horse's natural life-style, instincts, actions and reactions.
BASIC GRASSLAND CARE - What to look for in and around the field. Daily inspections. How to turn out a horse, how to catch him and bring him in from the field. Recognise a horse sick field.
WATERING AND FEEDING - General principles and the importance of cleanliness. The various types of fodder in general use, and recognise good and bad quality. Suitable feeding of horses and ponies in light work.
GENERAL KNOWLEDGE - Know the risks and responsibilities involved when riding and leading on the public highway. Know the correct procedures in the event of an accident. Safety Rules and Fire Precautions. Knowledge of the British Horse Society's aims.