

Because shipping boots are quick and easy to put on, they are sometimes used instead of bandages. They are a good choice for pony owners who do not know how to put on good shipping bandages. However, shipping boots must cover the coronet and heels as well as the tendons. Some shipping boots protect the knees and hocks as well as the lower legs.

LEARNING MORE ABOUT HEALTH CARE

- Be sure to read the books and pamphlets on your USPC reading list.
- You can get excellent information on such things as health care, de-worming and diseases from the Cooperative Extension (part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture), your county agent, the 4-H Horse Club Program, some horse health care companies, and horse books and magazines. Much of the information is free or inexpensive. You may want to start a file of magazine articles, pamphlets and other horse health care information for your Pony Club.
- Ask a veterinarian to come and speak to your Pony Club about such topics as first aid for ponies; which diseases to vaccinate against; de-worming and parasite control; and pony health problems.

NOTE TO PARENTS ON HEALTH CARE

Good health care is essential for the well-being of a pony. This requires visits from the veterinarian and some expense. Try to find a veterinarian who specializes in horses, and develop a good working relationship. If you use the same veterinarian, he will get to know your pony and can give you the best advice on health and pony management problems. Be sure to treat him or her in a professional manner: schedule appointments well in advance; give him all pertinent information in a clear and organized way; have the pony in the barn and be on hand to help when he is due to visit; and above all, pay his bill on time!

Travel Safety and Trailering

Safety is important when you go places with your pony, whether you are riding with friends, going on a trail ride, or taking your pony somewhere in a trailer.

OUT AND ABOUT WITH YOUR PONY Group Riding in an Enclosed Area

When you ride by yourself, you only have to think about yourself and your pony (and sometimes your instructor). When people ride together, everyone must follow certain rules in order to be safe and fair to the others. Here are some simple rules for riding together in a ring or an enclosed area:

- If others are riding in a ring when you arrive, ask permission before you open the gate and come in. If you open the gate suddenly, you could upset someone else's pony.
- Pay attention to your pony and keep him under control. Don't let him wander, crowd up close to other ponies or bother other ponies. Don't let him touch noses with another pony. This often makes ponies stamp and squeal.
- Keep a safe distance of at least one pony length from any other pony. Especially, don't crowd up close behind any other pony. This could make him kick.
- If you need to stop to fix something, go to the center of

the ring. Don't stop on the track, where you would be in the way of other riders.

- If you must pass a slower pony, turn and ride across the ring or circle back to an open space. Never pass close to another pony, or squeeze between another pony and the rail.
- When you are taking a riding lesson, be on time. If you pay attention to the instructor, obey commands promptly, keep good spacing and are ready when it is your turn to perform an exercise, you will make it a better lesson for yourself and others.
- If several people are riding in a small ring, it is easier if everyone agrees to ride in the same direction, with everyone changing direction from time to time. In a large and busy ring, people may ride both ways. When you meet another rider, pass like cars on the highway—left shoulder to left shoulder.
- Always be polite to others. If another rider is having trouble, slow down or stop and give him room. Don't interrupt a lesson or someone who is busy training or jumping. Thank anyone who gives you room or helps you, and remember to thank your instructor at the end of a lesson.

USPC D-1 TEST

Know the basic rules of safe riding in a group in an enclosed area.

Riding on Public Roads

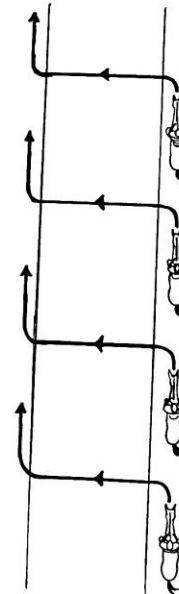
- When you are riding outside, it is best to avoid riding on streets, highways or near auto traffic if you can help it. Some ponies are frightened by traffic, and even a well-trained pony may spook if something unusual happens. Even if you are careful, not all drivers are safe drivers.
- If you must ride along a public road, try to stay well off the pavement, on the shoulder. (However, this does not mean that you may ride on lawns or sidewalks.) Watch out for trash on the edge of the road, and drainage ditches.

Travel Safety and Trailing

Keep to a walk. Going faster is very hard on your pony's legs, and he might slip. In a group, ride in single file, not side by side. The whole group must stay on one side of the road.

- If you see a car coming from the front or the rear, pass a warning down the line to all the riders in front of you or behind you. Pass a warning along if you see a hazard like broken glass, wire, a hole or a hidden ditch.
- If you must cross a road with a group of riders, everyone should line up at a spot where you can see a long way in both directions. The riders at each end of the line look both ways for traffic. When it is clear, they act as crossing guards while all the riders cross at once between them.

CAUTION: It is *not safe* for one or several riders to cross a road, leaving some riders on the other side. Everyone should stay on the same side of the road and cross at one time when it is safe to do so.



Procedure for crossing a road with a mounted group