



PONY CLUB



ACHIEVEMENT BADGES

FIELD SAFETY

Achievement Badge

Learning Objectives

Understand that some ponies may behave badly in a field, how to minimise the danger of being hurt by this behaviour.

Syllabus

- 1 Be aware that poor weather can influence ponies' behaviour in the field. How might they behave?
- 2 Understand how to give hay in the field.
- 3 Understand how to give bucket feed in a field.
- 4 Be aware of the dangers of other ponies when catching a pony from the field.
- 5 Be aware of the dangers when turning out a pony.
- 6 Recognise that adding a new pony to the field may cause the other ponies to behave out of character.

Teaching Ideas and Resources

- 1 Individually ask members to act out a pony in the wind, or rain, or cold, or flies.
- 2 Explain that there must be more piles/hay nets than there are ponies, so if a pony is pushed off one pile of hay there is always another to go to. Outside, each member to represent one pile of hay, let them, (with support in necessary), decide how far apart the pile should be. Know it can be dangerous putting down the piles and adult help may be needed to hold some of the ponies.
- 3 Ask class why it is dangerous to give one pony a bucket, what could happen? The pony being fed must be removed from the field, or if possible, all of the ponies tied up before any buckets are brought into the field. Discuss this point.

- 4** Make a list of the possible dangers when catching a pony from the field, and opposite, the factors that make it safer.
- 5** Discuss dangers. Teach how to turn out by turning pony to face gate. Explain to class how to demonstrate how far a pony can kick back. If turning out two ponies how far apart should they be? What signal will the members use to ensure both ponies are let go at the same time?
- 6** How might ponies behave if a new pony is added to the field. One member to take the part of a new pony, the rest of the group to pretend to be other ponies in the field. Explain that new ponies should only be turned out by an experienced adult until all the ponies have settled down.

Questions

- 1** How might a pony behave in a field if it is windy and cold?
- 2** How can you keep yourself safe giving hay in the field?
- 3** Why is it dangerous to feed a pony in a bucket in a field?
What is the safest way to feed?
- 4** How might other ponies be dangerous when you go to catch a pony from a field.
What can you do to be safer?
- 5** What are the dangers when turning ponies out?
- 6** What might ponies do if you put a new pony into a field?
What can you do to stay safe?

Answers

- 1** Ponies may canter about, pushing each other, may turn and kick, may push over the person in the field.
- 2** Put the hay out before the ponies are turned out, or take an adult to hold one or more ponies. Put out hay quickly and with more piles than ponies. Wear a hat.
- 3** The other ponies will be jealous and want the feed, so they may kick or chase the fed pony who can knock over the person with the bucket. It is safer to take the pony out of the field to feed it, or tie all the ponies up before any buckets are taken into the field.
- 4** They may crowd around hoping for a treat. They may try to drive your pony away from you. They may try to barge through the gate.
Listen, watch, never take food into the field, catch bossy pony first, have someone to help with the gate. Wear a hat, gloves and suitable footwear.

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- 5** They might try to pull away and give you a rope burn. They can knock you over by barging. They can whip around and kick back. When turning out two they can kick or one pulls away to join the released friend.
- 6** They might canter around barging and kicking.
Always ask an experienced adult to help turning out a new pony.