



PONY CLUB



LOADING

Achievement Badge

Learning Objectives

Be able to explain how to safely load and unload a pony into a horse box or trailer.

Syllabus

- 1 Discuss the types of transport that can be used to carry horses and some advantages and disadvantages to each.
- 2 Discuss what handlers should wear to be safe.
- 3 Understand the importance of protecting the legs when travelling. How might they be protected?
- 4 Explain how to load a quiet pony into a trailer or lorry.
- 5 Explain how to keep helpers safe.
- 6 Recognise when a pony may not be keen to load and know when to get help to remain safe.
- 7 Know that some ponies are excited or frightened by unloading into an unfamiliar environment. These ponies should be held and travel kit removed by an experienced adult.

Teaching Ideas and Resources

- 1 Talk to the group about modes of transport and if possible look at a trailer and lorry to compare.
- 2 Provide a heap of clothes and shoes or boots and ask the members to select what might be safe to wear when loading or unloading. Give each member of the group one piece of unsafe clothing and ask them to explain to the rest of the group why that piece of clothing is unsafe.
- 3 Divide the group into pairs. Give each pair a postcard or piece of

paper. Ask them to write as many reasons as they can think of that it is important that the legs are protected when travelling. Answers should include risk of injury from treads, scrapes from the opposite leg, slipping when loading or unloading, protection if pony falls off ramp.

Legs may be protected by travel bandages or travel boots.

- 4** Teach group the ideal positioning or lorry or trailer. Ensure they know how to fit a headcollar properly. They should understand where to lead by the shoulder. To walk boldly up the ramp looking ahead. To wait until the back bar or partition has been positioned, then to tie up. Explain the dangers of not raising the ramp from the sides and getting under the pony's feet as it hurries down the ramp.
- 5** Use a lorry or trailer. One member to pretend to be the pony, another to lead the 'pony' and another to be the parent who is not used to being around ponies. The 'parent' is to make all sorts of dangerous mistakes, the watching members to call out what they are doing wrong and how to perform more safely. Swap roles several times.
- 6** Ensure that members recognise when a pony is not keen to load, what might the pony be doing? Why is that dangerous to handlers? Explain that reluctance to load comes from fear and frightened ponies are likely to knock over or stand on their handlers. Steer the group to the conclusion that young people should not be helping with a pony that is frightened of loading, it is a job for an experienced adult.
- 7** Ask members if they have seen a pony frightened or excited by an unfamiliar environment? What did the pony do? Why could this be dangerous? Who would they ask for help? Ask if they can name an experienced adult. If they do not know who to ask, suggest that the person who is going to coach them that day, the DC or rally organiser will know who to ask.

Questions

- 1** Give 1 advantage and 1 disadvantage of both a lorry and a trailer.
- 2** Give 3 items of protective clothing that a handler who is loading a pony should wear.
- 3** Describe the safe sequence of events when loading into a trailer.
- 4** Describe the safe sequence when unloading from a front unload trailer.
- 5** Who should they ask for help if they think a pony will be excited or frightened when unloaded in an unfamiliar place.

Answers

- 1** Trailer- low maintenance, easy to keep but no living space or if any, its small.
Lorry- More comfortable for rider and more storage, but more expensive to keep and run.
- 2** Hat, gloves, sturdy footwear.
- 3** Walk purposely forward and up the ramp.
Ask your assistant to put up the back bar, or position the partition.
Tie the pony up.
Exit through the jockey door.
Help the assistant put up the ramp, standing to the side, and then secure ramp.
- 4** Make sure the trailer/lorry is parked where there is plenty of room.
Lower the front or rear ramp.
Untie the pony.
Take down the breaching bar and move to one side and open up front partition if necessary to allow more room. In a lorry open the back doors and the partition.
Carefully walk the horse straight down the middle of the ramp.
- 5** A coach, the rally organiser or the DC will know an experienced adult who will help.