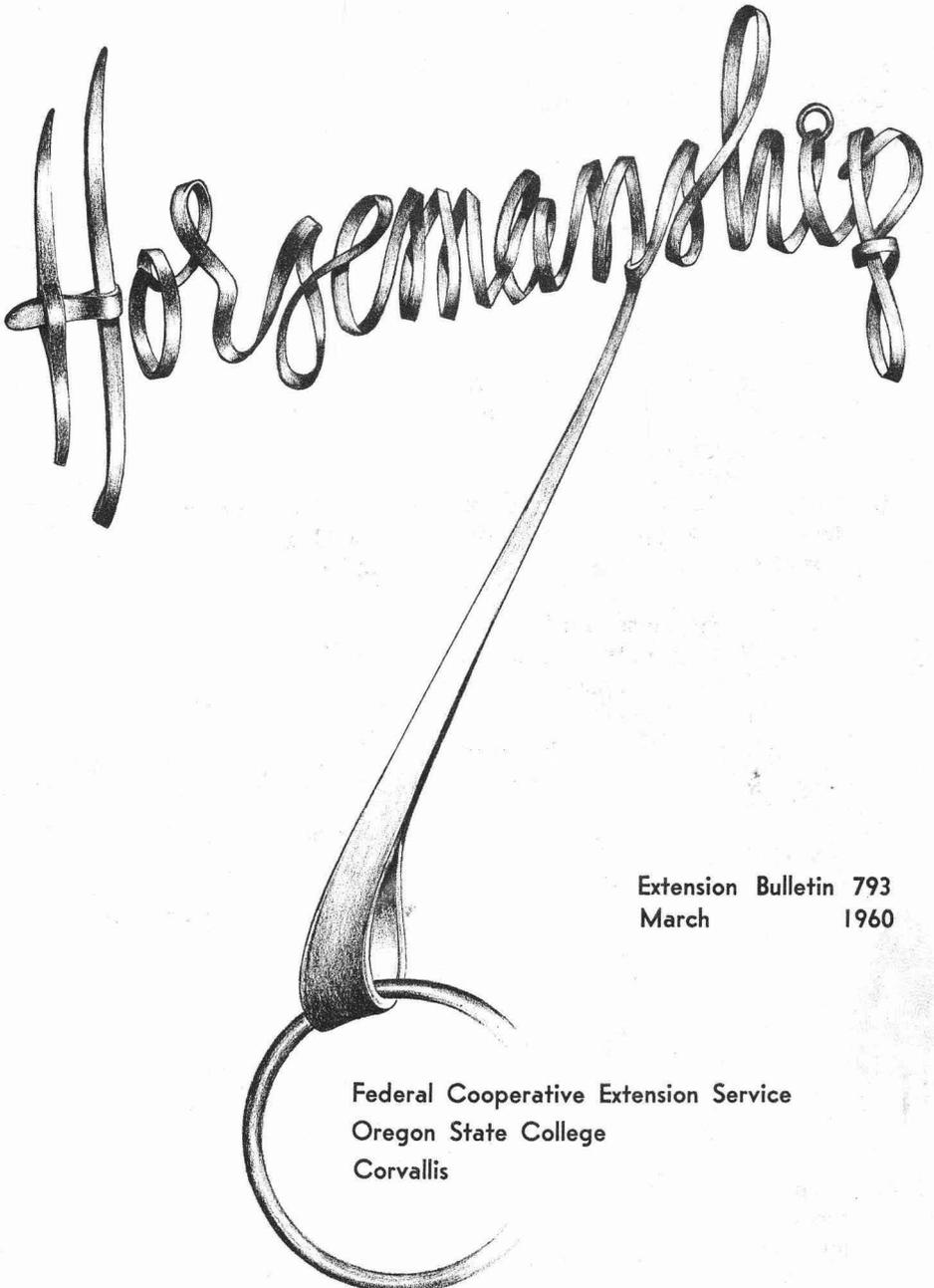


Horsemanship



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Federal Cooperative Extension Service
Oregon State College
Corvallis

Some Rules of Good Horsemanship

Good riders observe the following rules:

1. Mount correctly from the left side; make the horse stand still until the rider is properly seated in the saddle.
2. Ride with the heels kept down; the toes turned out slightly; the head and the chest lifted; the shoulders square; the elbows close to the body; and the ankles, shoulders, arms and wrists flexed.
3. Avoid such habits as "clacking" to the horse or slapping him with the ends of the reins.
4. Warm up the horse slowly; walk him the first half mile and then jog him slowly for another quarter mile.
5. Hold the horse to a walk when traveling over paved streets or roads.
6. Keep to the right side of the road, except when passing, and give right-of-way courteously.
7. Never rush past riders who are proceeding at a slower gait. This startles both horses and riders and frequently causes accidents. Instead, approach slowly and pass cautiously on the left side.
8. Keep the horse under control at all times. Galloping a willing horse not only is poor horsemanship, but the act shows ignorance on the part of the rider.
9. Keep the proper tension on the reins; avoid either tight or dangling reins.
10. Slow the horse down when making a sharp turn.
11. Do not ride too close to the horse in front to avoid danger from kicking. Either keep abreast or a full horse's length behind other mounts.
12. Walk the horse when going up or down hill.
13. Do not force the horse to take a rapid gait for more than a half mile at a time without allowing a breathing spell.
14. Walk the horse when approaching and passing through underpasses and over bridges.
15. Bring the horse in cool; ride at a walk the last mile to the stable.
16. Never allow the mount to gorge on water or feed when he is hot.
17. Groom thoroughly after each ride.
18. Avoid walking behind any horse.
19. Wash the bit off thoroughly before hanging it in the tackroom. Remove any hair or sweat marks from the saddle and girth before putting them on the rack. Wash all leather equipment at frequent intervals with saddle soap.
20. Feed the horse a balanced ration and maintain him in a healthy and spirited condition at all times.

HORSEMANSHIP

*By M. E. Ensminger, Chairman of the Department of Animal Science,
Washington State University.*

Riding cannot be learned by merely reading a set of instructions. It can be mastered only after patient practice under a competent instructor. This bulletin gives some basic principles of horsemanship and information about equipment to help beginners and to refresh the memories of experienced horsemen.

The basic steps in learning to ride are (1) becoming familiar with the horse and equipment and (2) then learning to use that equipment properly. Knowledge of correct grooming and care of the horse, care of equipment, saddling, bridling, and leading is also essential.

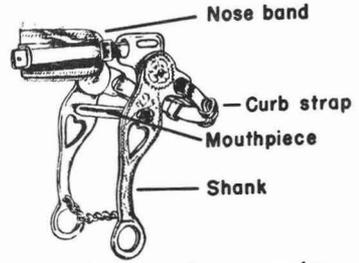
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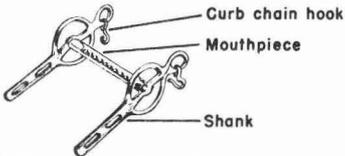
Equipment

BITS

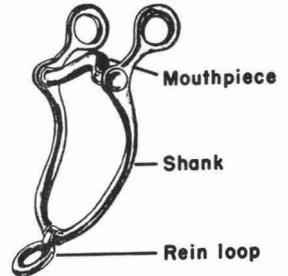
The bit is the most important part of the bridle. In fact, the chief purpose of the headstall is to hold the bit in its place in the horse's mouth. There are many types of bits, but all provide communication between the hands of the rider or driver and the mouth of the horse. The snaffle bit is the most widely used variety.



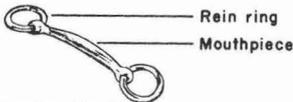
Hackamore: Used on most cow ponies
Bit



Liverpool Bit: A curb bit used on heavy harness horses



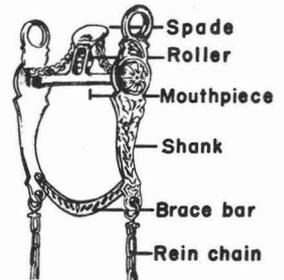
Roper Curved Cheek Bit: Used on many roping horses



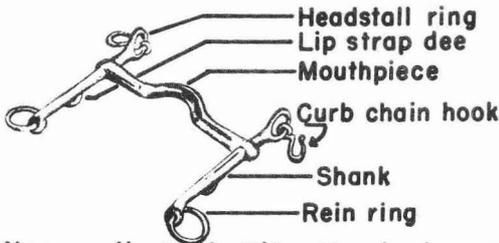
Bar Bit: Used on Trotting Harness Horses, which carry check reins and are driven with a strong hand



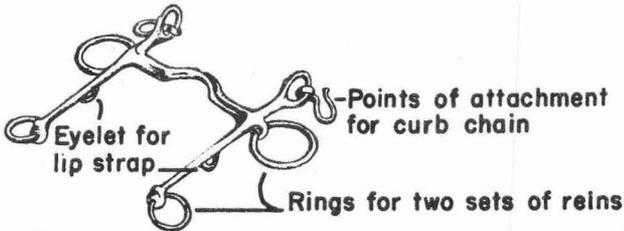
Half-cheek Snaffle Bit: Used on harness race horses, roadsters and fine harness horses



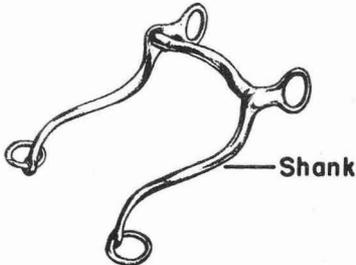
Spade Mouth Bit: Used on many stock horses



Weymouth Curb Bit: Used along with a snaffle bit in a Weymouth Bridle for 3- and 5-gaited horses.



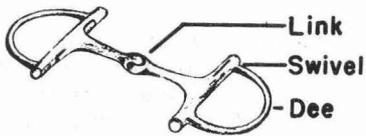
Pelham Curb Bit: — Used in a Pelham Bridle for hunters, polo ponies, and pleasure horses.



Walking Horse Bit: Frequently used on Walking Horses.



Snaffle Bit: The most widely used of all bits.



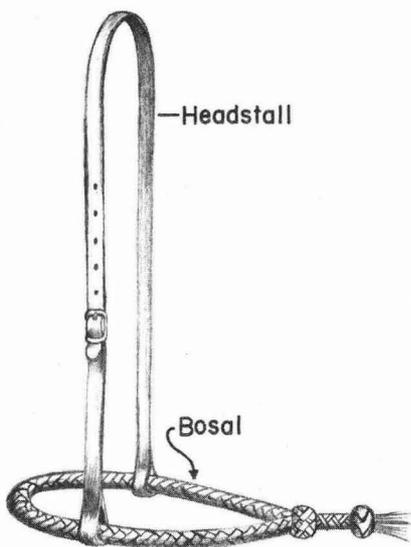
Dee Race Bit: Often used on Thoroughbred race horses.

BRIDLES AND HACKAMORES

Bridles may be single or double. A single bridle has one bit; a double bridle usually has both a snaffle bit and a curb bit, two headstalls and two pairs of reins.

All bridles should be properly fitted. The headstall should neither slide back on the horse's neck nor pull up against his ears. The cheek straps should be adjusted so that the bit rests easily in the mouth without drawing up the corners. The throat latch should be buckled loosely enough to allow a hand to pass between it and the horse's throat.

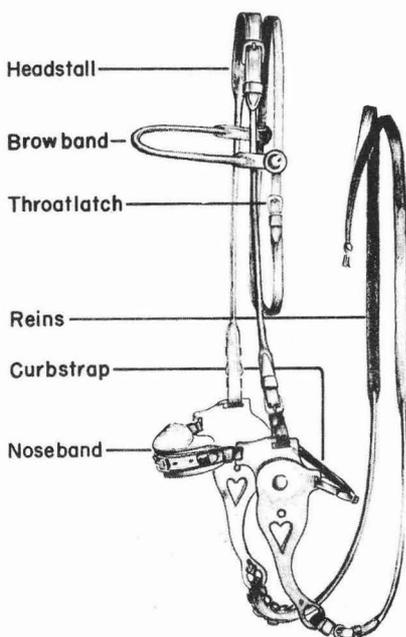
Light bridles and bits usually indicate competent horsemen and well mannered horses.



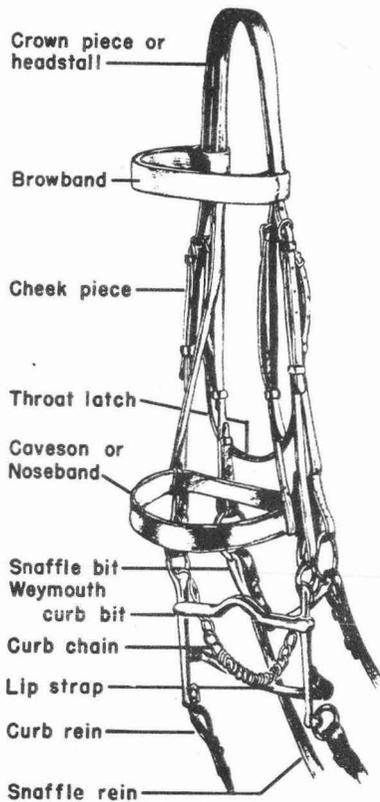
Bosal Hackamore: Which is popular for breaking horses.

The hackamore has a pair of reins and an ordinary headstall that holds a braided-rawhide or rope noseband with a knot-arrangement under the horse's jaw. A hackamore can be used to control and train a young horse without injuring his mouth. It is often used to train cow ponies and polo ponies.

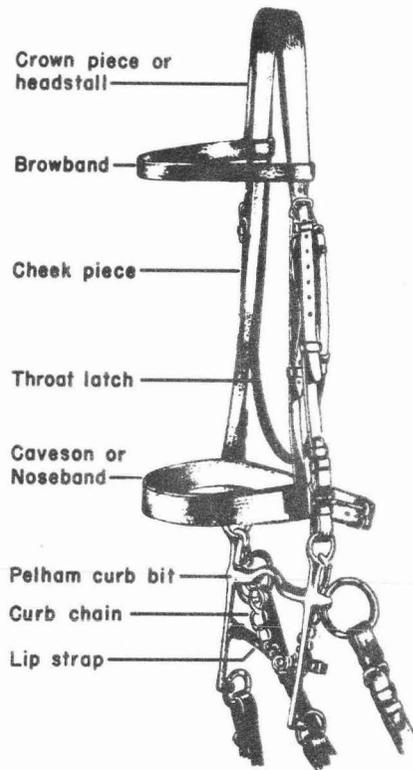
A properly adjusted hackamore rests on the horse's nose, about 4 inches from the top of the nostrils or on the base of the cheek bones. It should be loose enough to allow two fingers to be passed between it and the jaw.



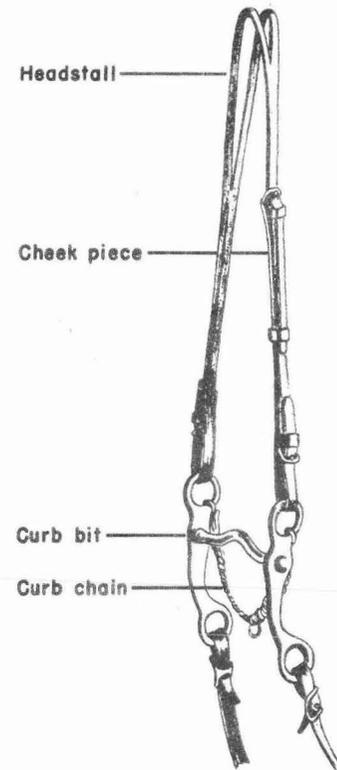
Hackamore Bit Bridle (removable mouth-piece): Used on Western cow ponies, and on young horses when they are being broken because it eliminates the possibility of injuring the mouth.



Weymouth Bridle: A double-bitted, double-reined bridle used in showing three- and five-gaited saddle horses.



Pelham Bridle: A single-bitted, double-reined bridle used on hunters, polo ponies, and pleasure horses.



One Ear (split ear) Bridle: Often used on working stock horses.

SADDLES

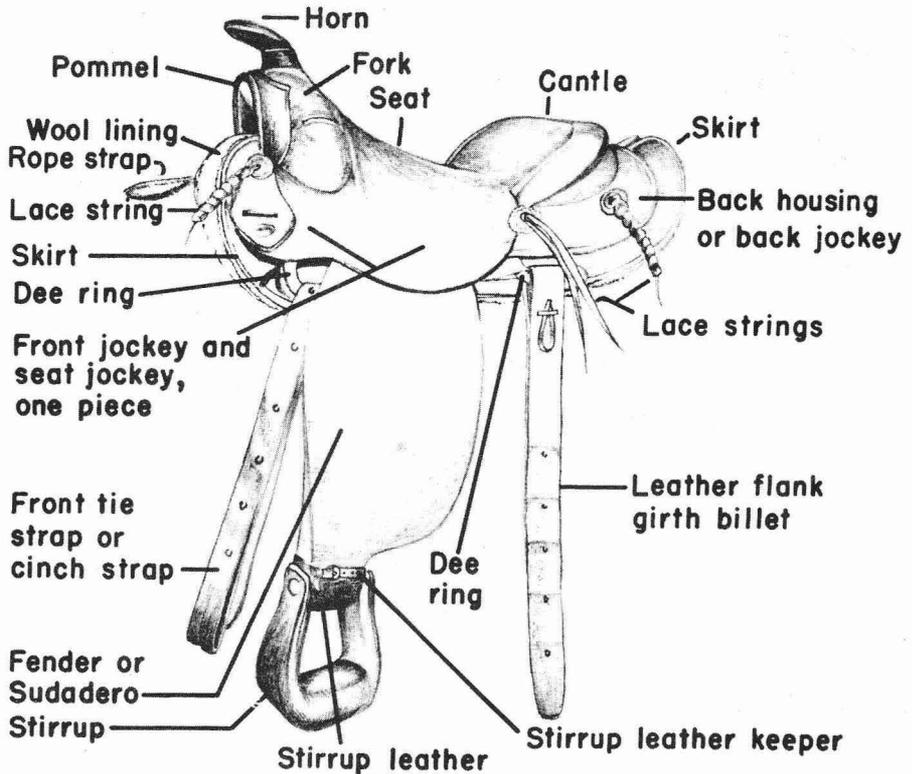
Although there are many different saddles, the English saddle and the Western saddle are the two basic types.

The English Saddle

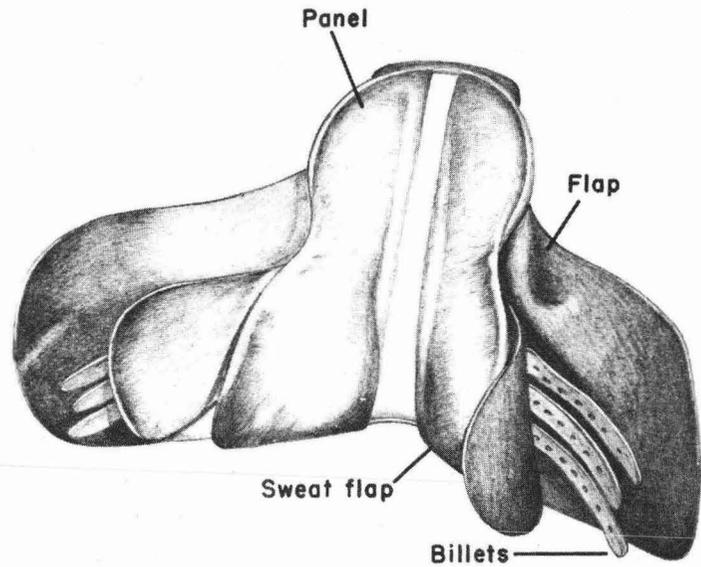
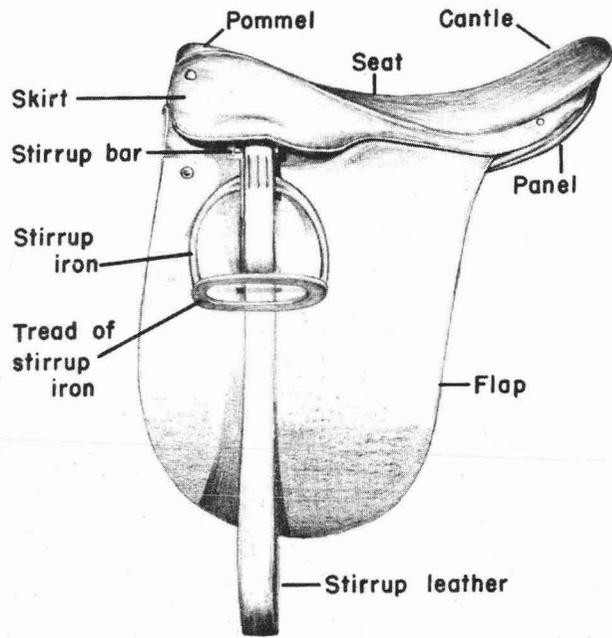
The English saddle includes flat saddles modified for training, racing, jumping, park riding and polo. English saddles always have relatively flat seats and are lightly constructed. This is the saddle commonly used on bridle paths in the city, especially in the East. The English saddle allows the finished rider to show his best in riding form, skill and balance.

The Western Saddle

The Western saddle has a metal or wooden tree; a pommel topped with a horn for roping; a comparatively deep seat; a cantle; heavy skirts and heavy stirrups. The stirrups may be either hooded or open. The Western saddle is primarily a work saddle. It is designed for comfort during all-day riding and to provide enough strength to stand up under the strain of roping. However it is heavy, hot in the summer, and in pleasure riding it tempts the rider to "pull leather" as a substitute for skill and balance. The average Western saddle weighs from 35 to 40 pounds.



THE WESTERN SADDLE



THE ENGLISH SADDLE

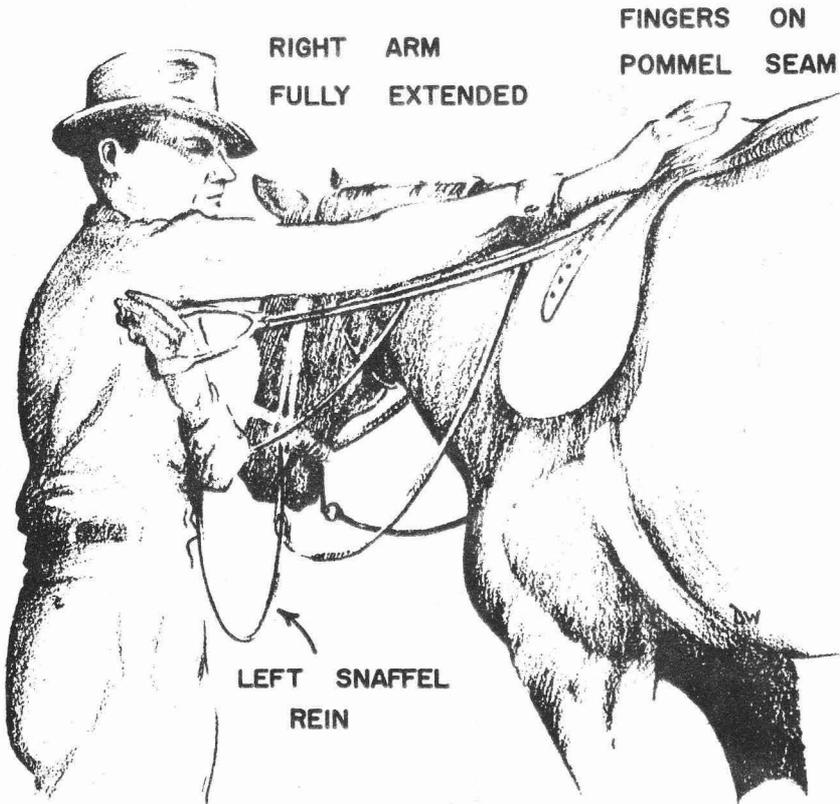
Saddling the Mount

Regardless of the type of saddle, it should be placed on the horse's back so that the girth will come about 4 inches to the rear of the point of the horse's elbow. When first adjusted, the girth should be loose enough to allow a finger between it and the horse's belly. After tightening the saddle, it is always a good practice to "untrack" the horse by leading him ahead several paces before mounting. This untracking does two things. First, if the horse is the kind that blows up so

that he cannot be cinched snugly, the untracking will usually cause him to relax. Second, if a horse has any bad habits, he will often get them out of his system before the rider mounts.

After the horse has been ridden a few minutes, the girth should always be re-examined and tightened if necessary. The saddle should be cinched tightly enough so that it will not turn when mounting, but not so tightly that it causes discomfort to the horse.

The length of stirrups will depend upon the type of riding. The length may



**STIRRUP SHOULD JUST REACH INTO RIGHT ARMPIT.....
ADJUST ACCORDINGLY..... REVERSE ARM ARRANGEMENT
WHEN ADJUSTING RIGHT OR OFF STIRRUP**

vary from very short on running horses to quite long on stock horses. The stirrup leather on English saddles should always be twisted so that the flat side of the leather comes against the leg of the rider.

For correct posting, in English riding, the stirrup straps or stirrup leathers must be adjusted to the right length. If the stirrups are too short, posting will be high and exaggerated. For English riding, the stirrups can be adjusted to near the correct length before mounting by making them about 1 inch shorter than the length of the rider's arm with fingers extended. For Western riding, the length of stirrups will be about right when there is approximately 3 inches clearance between the saddle tree and the crotch of the rider standing in the stirrups.

MISCELLANEOUS EQUIPMENT

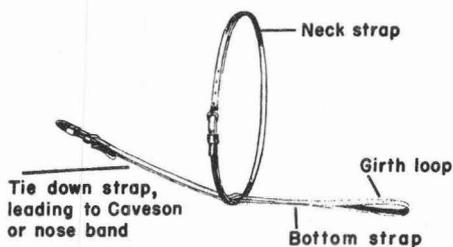
There are so many kinds of equipment that not all can be mentioned, but some of the generally used articles are nosebands, martingales, and breast plates and breast collars.

The Noseband

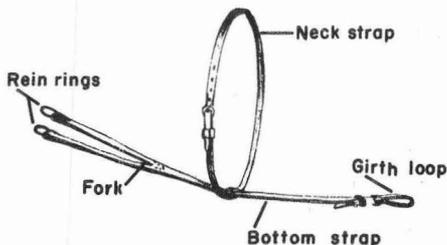
The noseband is a wide leather band which passes around the nose about two finger widths below the cheek bones. It is used to keep the mouth shut and the bit in position, and it may also furnish a point of attachment for a standing martingale. Most riding bridles are equipped with nosebands. The noseband should be adjusted so that it is about 1½ inches below the cheek bone and loose enough so that two fingers may be placed under it.

Martingales

There are two kinds of martingales: standing (sometimes called a tiedown) and running (ring). The standing martingale is a strap that runs between the forelegs from the girth to the noseband. It has a light neck strap to keep the



STANDING MARTINGALE



RUNNING MARTINGALE

martingale from getting under the horse's feet when he lowers his head. This standing martingale keeps the horse from raising his head beyond a certain level without being cramped. It is generally used on saddle horses that rear and on polo ponies and stock horses that throw their heads up in response to a severe curb or a heavy hand.

Some horsemen prefer to use the running martingale on horses that habitually rear. They feel that the standing martingale sets the horse's head too high. The running martingale is not attached to the horse's head. It ends in two rings through which the reins pass. This arrangement keeps the horse from raising his head too high, but allows more freedom of movement so that it can be used in jumping. A running martingale is adjusted correctly when the snaffle reins stretched from the pommel form a straight line from bit to pommel with the horse's head in a normal position.

The Breast Plate; The Breast Collar

The breast plate consists of a short, wide strap that passes over the neck in front of the withers; two adjustable straps that run from the neck strap back to the saddle; two adjustable straps that run down the front of the shoulders to a ring between the forelegs; and another

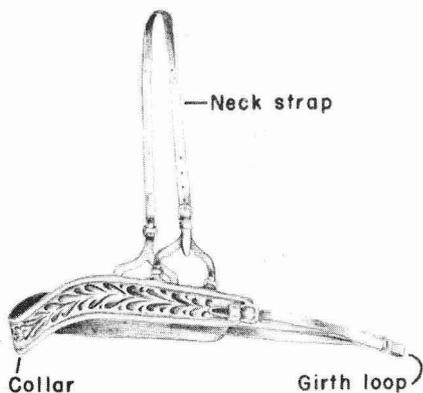
adjustable strap that runs from the ring between the forelegs to the girth. Sometimes the breast plate is equipped with a strap that runs to the noseband and acts as a tiedown.

The breast collar serves the same purpose as the breast plate. On slender-bodied horses a breast plate or breast collar keeps the saddle from slipping to the rear. It should be adjusted as loosely as possible, but still hold the saddle in place. Make allowance for movement of the horse's neck.

CARE OF TACK

Good tack is expensive and deserves good care. If properly treated, it will last for years.

Ideally, each item of equipment should be cleaned after each use and at frequent intervals when not in use. This is not always practical, however. Nevertheless, at regular and frequent intervals, all leather should be cleaned with saddle soap and treated with neat's-foot oil. In addition to extending the life of leather, proper care gives softness and pliability and lessens saddle and harness sores. While cleaning, inspect the bridle reins, stirrup leathers and cinch because the rider's safety depends upon these straps.



THE BREAST COLLAR

Riding

MOUNTING AND DISMOUNTING

Before mounting, take two precautions. Always check the cinch for tightness and the stirrup straps or leather for length. A loose cinch may let the saddle slip down on the horse's side or belly—especially during mounting or dismounting. If the cinch is properly adjusted, you will have to force to get more than the first half of your fingers under it.

The steps in mounting are as follows:

1. Always mount from the left side of the horse. Stand beside the horse's left front leg and face toward the rear. This is safer than mounting while facing the front of the horse since if the horse starts to move, the rider is automatically swung into the saddle.

2. Gather the reins in the left hand. Adjust them so that a gentle pressure that restrains but does not back the horse is applied equally on each side of the horse's mouth. Place the left hand on, or just in front of, the horse's withers.

3. Hold the stirrup with the right hand and shove the left foot into it. Then immediately place the right hand on the cantle at the rear of the saddle. In western riding, put the right hand on the saddle horn instead of the cantle.

4. Keep close to the horse for good leverage and spring up from the right foot. Pause momentarily when you reach a standing position. The left leg should be straight.

5. Swing the fully extended right leg slowly over the horse's croup, being careful not to kick him.

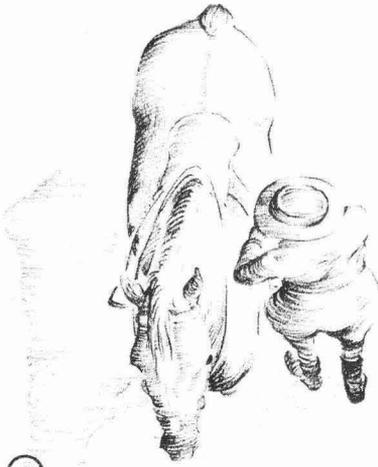
6. Come slowly and easily to rest in the saddle. Avoid punishing or frightening the horse by suddenly dropping the entire weight of your body into the saddle.

7. Without looking, shove the right foot into the right stirrup and properly adjust both stirrups under the ball of the foot. At the same time, gather the reins in one or both hands. If you hold the reins with your left hand, toss the ends of the reins (the "bight") to the right side of the horse's neck. In English style riding, drop your right hand loosely to the side or put it on your left wrist; in western riding, place the right hand on the thigh. Never put it on the pommel of the saddle.

8. Sit easily in the saddle, with legs hanging comfortably, heels well down and the toes turned out slightly. This position permits proper leg contact with the horse and a more secure seat.

Correct dismounting is just the reverse of mounting. First, carefully gather the reins in the left hand which is placed on the pommel or in front of the withers. Kick the right foot free from the stirrup. Transfer your weight to the left foot as you swing your right leg backward across the horse's croup. Grasp the cantle with your right hand (or the horn in western riding), descend to the ground, and remove the left foot from the stirrup.

When properly executed, mounting and dismounting are a series of rhythmic movements. The entire operation is so smooth and graceful that it is difficult to tell when one stage ends and the next begins.



①

MOUNT FROM "NEAR" OR LEFT SIDE



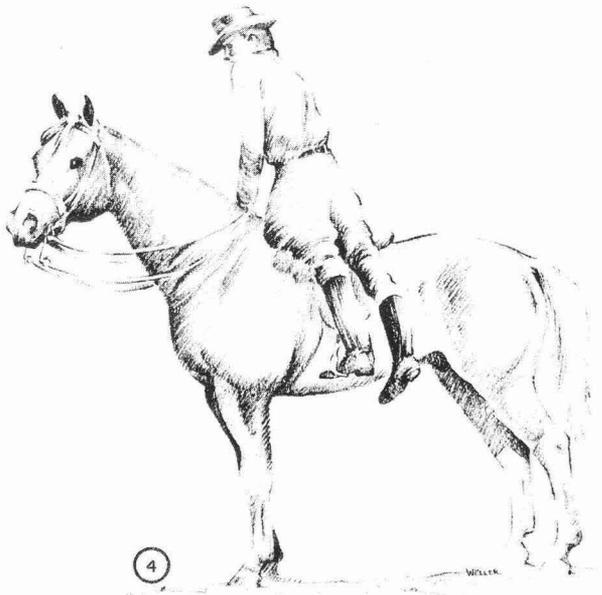
②

GATHER REINS IN LEFT HAND



③

STEADY STIRRUP WITH RIGHT HAND



④

PAUSE MOMENTARILY IN STANDING POSITION



5

SWING RIGHT LEG OVER HORSE'S BACK



6

EASE DOWN INTO THE SADDLE



7

SECURE RIGHT STIRRUP
WITHOUT LOOKING DOWN



8

SIT EASILY, ALERT, HEAD
UP AND HEELS DOWN

HOLDING THE REINS

The rider may hold the reins either in the left hand alone or in both hands. In western riding, only one hand, usually the left, holds the reins.

Rein pressure should never be more than absolutely necessary. And, the reins should not be used to stay on the horse. A horse's mouth is tender, but it can be toughened by unnecessary roughness. Good hands on the reins move in rhythm with the head of the horse. Beginners are likely to let their hands bob too much, thus jerking the horse's mouth unnecessarily. The desired "light hands" exist when a light feeling extends to the horse's mouth via the reins.

THE BALANCED SEAT

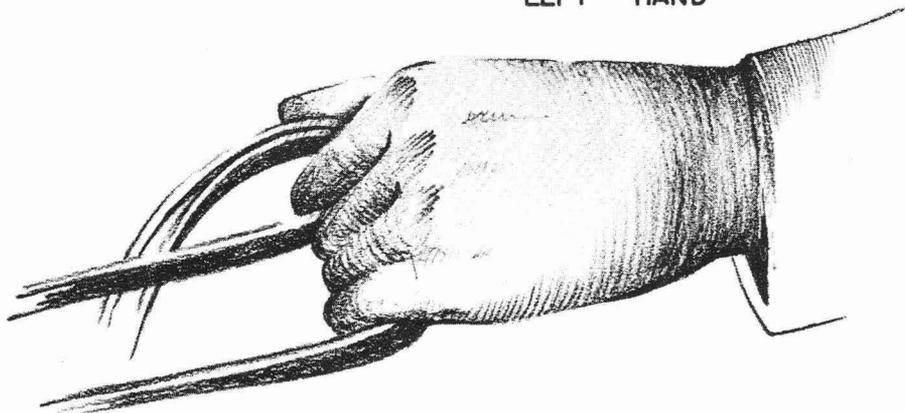
Correct riding includes good rhythm and balance. The rider's movements must be in complete harmony with the horse's movements. This assures greater security for the rider and more freedom of action for the horse.

A balanced seat is essential in correct riding. A balanced seat requires the least effort to remain in the saddle and interferes least with the horse's movements and equilibrium. The rider must be "with the horse," rather than ahead of or behind him.

When a balanced seat is maintained, the center of gravity of the rider is directly over the center of gravity of

HOLDING THE REINS WESTERN STYLE

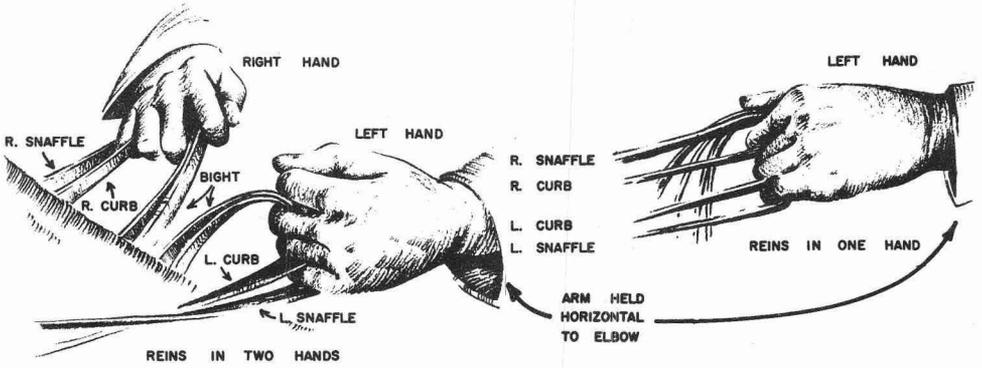
LEFT HAND



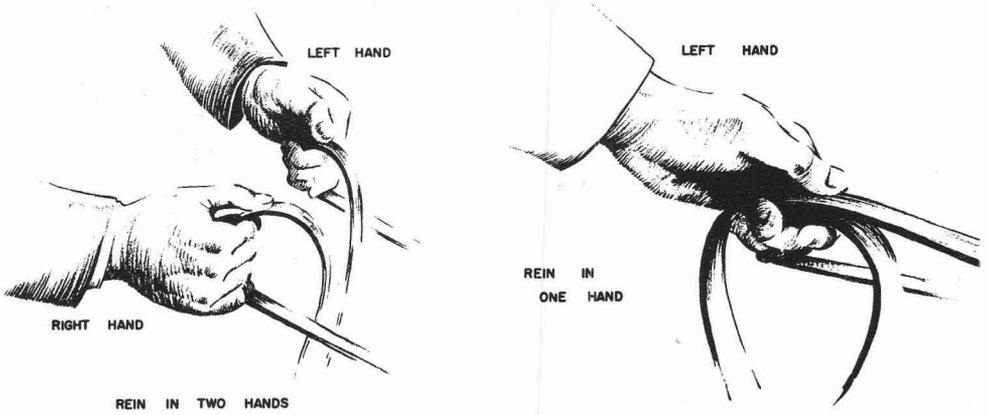
Most western riders hold the reins as shown above, but in American Horse Show Association approved western riding contests, the reins must come out of the hand together with no fingers between the reins.

HOLDING THE REINS ENGLISH STYLE

DOUBLE-REIN BRIDLE



SINGLE-REIN BRIDLE



the horse. With the proper seat, the rider will need only the minimum use of aids to get immediate and correct response from the horse at any gait.

The balanced seat is achieved mainly by shifting the body from the hips up. Knees, legs, ankles and thighs usually stay in a fixed position. The rider will lean forward more or less according to the speed and gait of the horse, but he should always stay in balance over his base of support. The eyes, chin and chest are lifted to permit clear vision ahead and normal posture of the back.

The greater the speed and the inclination of the body forward, the shorter the stirrups. The jockey rides his mount with very short stirrups and reins and a pronounced forward position. He rises out of his saddle and supports himself almost entirely with the stirrups, knees and legs. In steeplechasing, the position of the rider is less extreme than in flat racing since it is necessary to combine speed with security.

STYLES OF RIDING

There are different seats or positions for different styles of riding. Fashion, particularly in the show ring, also decrees that certain forms be followed.

When riding a three- or five-gaited park hack, either on a bridle path or in the show ring, the rider sits erect and in the lowest part of the saddle, with a space of at least a hand's breadth between the back of his breeches and the cantle. The ball of the foot rests directly over the stirrup iron; knees are in; heels are lower than the toes; and the hands and reins are in such position that the horse will carry his head high and his neck arched.

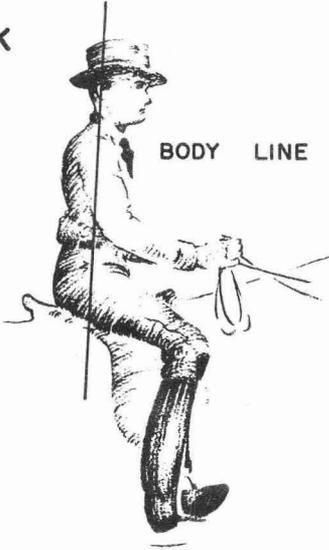
In this position the body is easily erect and balanced on a base consisting of seat, thighs, knees and stirrups. The chest is high and just forward of true vertical. The back is hollow, the waist relaxed, the head erect and the shoulders square.

In riding hunters—including cross country riding—and jumpers, the stirrups are shortened and the foot is shot home with the stirrup iron resting against the heel. The upper part of the rider's body is thrust forward and a comparatively loose rein is kept. The higher the jumps, the shorter the stirrups should be and the more pronounced the forward inclination of the body. Most polo players prefer to use medium length stirrups with feet shot home. This permits good grip when turning at full speed. The stirrups are also short enough to allow the player to stand up in the stirrup irons when making a long reach for the ball.

When using a stock saddle and riding western style, the rider should sit straight, keep the legs fairly straight—or bent slightly forward at the knees—and rest the ball of the foot on the stirrup tread with the heels down. The left hand with the reins should be carried in a relaxed manner slightly above and ahead of the horn. The right hand should be placed on the thigh. "Sitting" the saddle is required at all gaits. Neither posting the trot (jog) nor standing in the stirrups at the trot or canter (lope) is accepted in western style riding. Because speed and agility are frequently required of stock horses, a firm seat and superior balance are important.

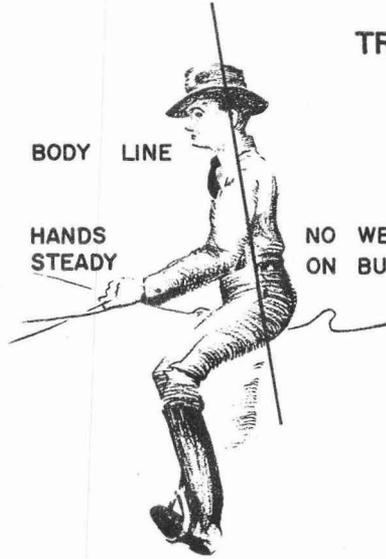
Each of the styles of riding differs in appearance, but the end result is the same—balanced riding. An accomplished horseman or horsewoman can and does change the seat to meet the style of riding.

WALK



BODY LINE

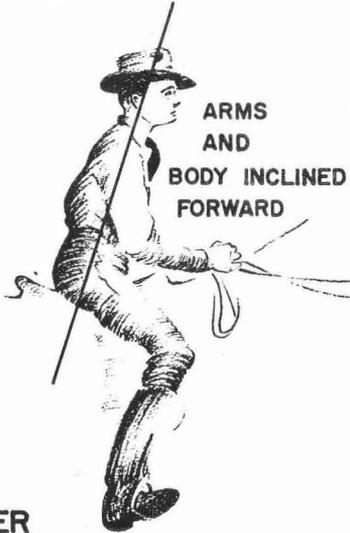
TROT



BODY LINE

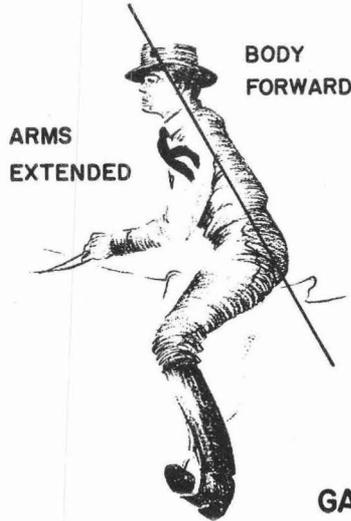
**HANDS
STEADY**

**NO WEIGHT
ON BUTTOCKS**



**ARMS
AND
BODY INCLINED
FORWARD**

CANTER



**ARMS
EXTENDED**

**BODY
FORWARD**

GALLOP

Grooming

Proper grooming is necessary to make the horse attractive and to keep the best health and condition. Grooming cleans the hair, keeps the skin functioning more naturally, lessens skin diseases and parasites, and improves the condition and fitness of the muscles.

Grooming should be rapid and thorough, but not so rough or severe as to cause irritation—either of the skin or the temper. Take special care to keep all parts of the body clean and free from any foulness.

Horses that are stabled should be groomed thoroughly at least once each day. Those that are worked or exercised should be groomed both before leaving the stable and immediately upon their return.

The recommended grooming procedure for heated, wet or sweating animals is as follows:

1. Wipe off and put away equipment used as fast as possible.
2. Remove excess perspiration with a sweat scraper and rub briskly with a grooming or drying cloth to dry partially the coat.
3. Blanket and walk the horse until cool. Give him a couple of swallows of water every few minutes while cooling out.

Idle horses that are on pasture do not need daily grooming, but an occasional brushing of their coats is desirable.

GROOMING EQUIPMENT

There is hardly any limit to the kinds and styles of grooming equipment. However, the articles shown here are as good as any and are adequate.

Rubber or metal curry comb: Used to groom animals that have long, thick coats; to remove caked mud; to loosen matted scurf and dirt in the hair; and to clean the brush. Use gently in small circles rather than with pressure and in long strokes. The metal curry comb should never be used below the knees or hocks, about the head, or over bony prominences. Likewise, it should not be used on animals that have been recently clipped or that have a fine, thin coat of hair. A wisp of hay or the grooming cloth can be used on animals with fine, thin coats.

Body brush: Principal tool used for grooming. It can be used for brushing the entire body.

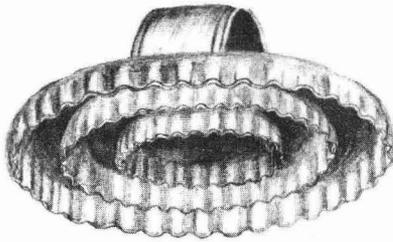
Dandy brush: Made of stiff fiber, usually about two inches in length. It can be used instead of the curry comb for removing light dirt from the skin and is excellent for brushing the mane and tail.

Mane and tail comb: Convenient for combing out a matted mane or tail.

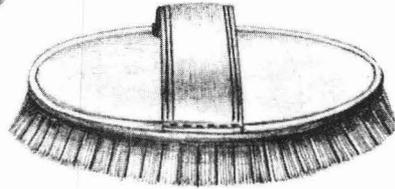
Grooming cloth, drying cloth: A suitable grooming cloth can be made from old toweling or old blankets. A convenient size is 18 to 24 inches square. The grooming cloth is used to remove dirt and dust from the coat; to wipe out the eyes, ears, nostrils, lips and dock; and to give the coat a final sheen or polish. Also, it may be used to dry or ruffle the coat before brushing. A suitable drying cloth can be made from an ordinary burlap bag. It is used to dry partially the coat of horses that have been worked.

Sweat scraper: Used to remove excess perspiration from heated, wet and sweating animals.

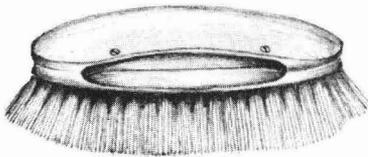
Hoof pick (or hook): Used to clean out the feet.



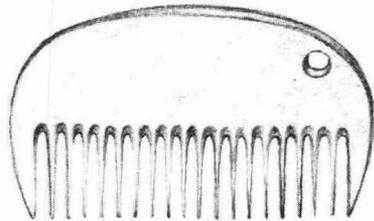
Curry Comb



Body Brush



Dandy Brush



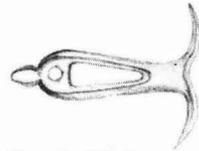
Mane & Tail Comb



Sweat Scraper



Grooming Cloth



**Hoof Pick
(or hook)**



GROOMING PROCEDURE AND METHOD

To be sure that the horse will be groomed thoroughly and that no body parts will be missed, follow a definite order of grooming. The grooming procedure may be varied somewhat to suit individual preferences; however, the following procedure may be as good as any:

1. *Clean out the feet:* Use the hoof pick. Work from the heel toward the toe. Be sure to clean out thoroughly the depressions between the frog and the bars. While cleaning the feet, inspect for thrush and loose shoes.

2. *Groom the body:* With the curry comb in the right hand and the brush in the left hand, curry and brush the left side of the horse. Begin on the neck, then proceed in order to the breast, withers, shoulders, foreleg down to the knee, back, side, belly, croup and hind leg down to the hock. Then brush from the knee and hock down toward the hoofs. At frequent intervals, clean the dust and hair from the brush with the curry comb and knock the curry comb against your heel or the back of the brush to free it from dirt.

Some horsemen prefer to curry first and then to follow with the brush, rather than to use both tools at the same time.

Curry gently, but brush vigorously. To brush, stand well away from the animal, keep a stiff arm and throw the weight of the body against the brush. Brush the hair in the direction of its natural lay. Brush with care in the regions of the flanks, between the fore and hind

legs, at the point of the elbows and in the fetlocks.

After you finish grooming the left side of the horse, transfer the brush to the right hand and the curry comb to the left and groom the right side of the animal in the same order as the left side.

3. *Brush the head; comb and brush the mane and tail:* Use the body brush to brush the head. Then use the mane and tail comb to comb out the mane and tail. Then brush the mane and tail with either the body brush or the dandy brush. Brush the mane downward. Clean the tail by brushing upward, a few strands of hair at a time. Occasionally, the tail should be washed out with warm water and soap.

4. *Wipe with grooming cloth:* Use the grooming cloth to wipe about the ears, face, eyes, nostrils, lips, sheath and dock, and to give a final polish to the coat.

5. *Check the grooming:* Check the thoroughness of grooming by passing the fingertips against the natural lay of the hair. If the coat and skin are not clean, the fingers will be dirtied and gray lines on the coat will show where the fingers passed. Also check for cleanliness in such frequently neglected areas as the ears, face, eyes, nostrils, lips, sheath and dock.

6. *Wash and disinfect grooming equipment:* Grooming equipment should be washed with warm water and soap often enough to keep it clean. It should be disinfected when necessary as a precaution against the spread of skin diseases.

Showing Light Horses

There is no higher achievement than that of breeding and showing a champion horse—an ideal animal—which has been produced through intelligent breeding and then trained and fitted to perfection.

SHOWING TO HALTER

Breeding classes are shown "in hand," which means that they are exhibited at the halter, preferably, or when wearing a bridle. The halter should be clean, properly adjusted, and fitted with a fresh-looking leather or rope lead. If the horse is shown when wearing a bridle, the leader should avoid jerking on the reins so hard that the horse's mouth will be injured.

The guiding principles followed by most successful horsemen when showing to halter are as follows:

1. Train the horse early.
2. Groom the horse thoroughly.
3. Dress neatly for the occasion.
4. Enter the ring promptly and in tandem order when the class is called. Line up at the location requested by the ringmaster or the judge, or, if directed, continue to move around the ring in tandem order.
5. Stand the horse squarely on all four feet, and with the fore feet on higher ground than the hind feet. The standing position of the horse should vary according to the breed. For example, Arabians are not stretched, but American Saddle horses are greatly stretched. Other breeds are generally placed in a slightly stretched position between these two extremes. When standing and facing the horse, hold the lead strap or rope in the left hand, at least 10 to 12 inches from the halter ring and so that the horse takes a head-up position.

6. Unless the judge requests otherwise, when called, the horse should first be shown at a walk and then at a trot. To move the horse, work as follows:

A. Either reduce the length of the lead strap by a series of figure-8 folds or coils held in the right hand, or hold the upper part of the lead strap in the right hand and the folded or coiled end in the left hand and lead from the left side of the horse. If the horse is well mannered, give him 2 to 3 feet of lead so that he can keep his head, neck and body in a straight line as he moves forward. But, keep the lead taut so that there is continuous contact between the leader and the horse. Do not look back.

B. Move the horse forward, smartly and briskly, in a straight line for 50 to 100 feet as directed, with the head up.

C. Turn to the right. That is, turn the horse away from the leader. If the horse is turned to the left, he is more apt to step on the leader. Make the turn as effortless as possible and in as small a space as is practical. Oldtime draft horsemen, who have no peers in showing to halter, make the horse pivot around the leader. When showing at the trot, bring the horse to a walk and ease slightly to the left before turning.

D. Show some knee action—by the leader—when exhibiting the horse, without overdoing it.

E. Trail with a whip if permitted or desired. Most light horses are given early schooling by trailing with the whip, but custom decrees showing them without this aid. If it is done, the trailer should follow at a proper distance, keep the animal moving in a straight line, avoid getting between the judge and the horse, and always cross over in front of the horse at the turn.

7. After walking down about 50 feet and walking back, and trotting down about 100 feet and trotting back (to save time the judge may have each horse walk down and trot back) set the horse up with reasonable promptness in front of the judge. Then, after the judge has given a quick inspection, move to the location in the line indicated by the ringmaster or judge, observing the rules mentioned in point 5 above.

8. Keep the horse posed at all times. Keep one eye on the judge and the other on the horse.

9. When the judge signals to change positions, back the horse, or, if there is room, turn him to the rear of the line, and approach the new position from behind.

10. Avoid letting the horse kick when close to other horses.

11. Keep calm, confident and collected. Remember that the nervous showman creates an unfavorable impression.

12. Work in close partnership with the animal.

13. Be courteous and respect the rights of other exhibitors.

14. Do not stand between the judge and the horse.

15. Be a good sport. Win without bragging and lose without squealing.

SHOWING IN PERFORMANCE CLASSES

The performance classes for horses are so many and varied that it is not possible to describe them in a bulletin of this type. Instead, see the official rule book of the American Horse Show Association and the rules printed in the programs of locally approved horse shows.

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