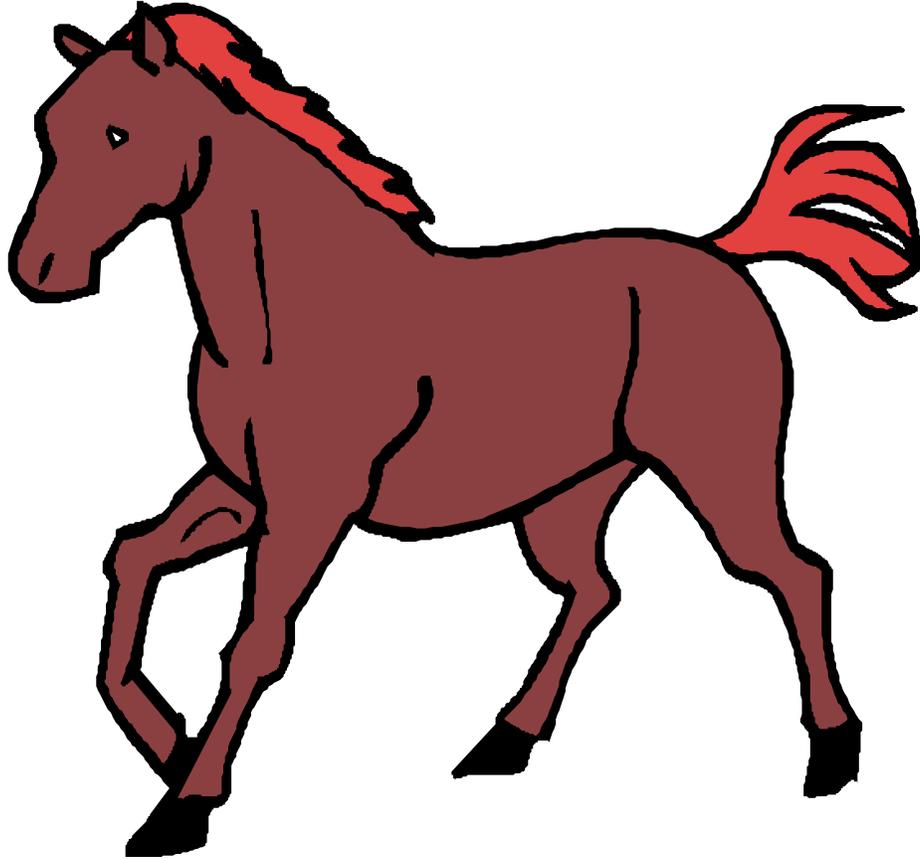


Florida 4-H Mini Horse Horsemanship Level II



Name: _____

Name of Club: _____

Years in 4H _____ Age: _____

Equal Opportunity / Affirmative Action Institution

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 286.26, F.S., persons needing accommodations or an interpreter to participate in the proceeding should notify the University of Florida Brevard County Extension Service no later than 48 hours prior to the meeting at 321-633-1702 or fax 321-633-1890.

**Adapted from Missoula County Montana 4-H Mini Horse Project and
UF IFAS Florida 4-H Horsemanship Levels**

Level II of the 4-H Mini Horse Member Advancement Program will:

- help you develop an understanding of horses and horse care; including caring for, training, handling, and safely caring for your mini horse
- help you select and know a good mini horse
- provide goals for learning
- make your 4-H horse experience more interesting and more fun
- let you progress at your own speed, but challenge you to keep working to become a better horseman and 4-H member

The Novice Horseman Level is the second of three 4-H Horse Advancement Levels. No time limits are set and you are encouraged to advance through the levels at your own speed.

Novice Level requirements are based on three areas; experience, knowledge, and horsemanship abilities. You will be evaluated in each area by your 4-H club leader or trained inspector. You are not in competition with other club members.

For Novice Level activities, older, gentler mini horses are best. Horses that perform natural gaits (walk, trot and canter) are preferable.

Many of the answers to questions can be found in your 4-H project manuals. Additional information may be found in other publications available at your library and elsewhere.

As you complete each option, have your leader or Advancement Program Chairperson (junior leader, parent, or other designated person) initial it. When you have completed this level you will qualify for an attractive Advancement Certificate. Be sure to indicate in your 4-H Record your progress toward completing this level.

Completion Guidelines

To complete this Level and receive your Novice Horseman Certificate you must:

- be enrolled in a 4-H Horse Project
- be at least 10 years old
- be responsible for daily feeding, grooming, stall cleaning and exercise
- have access to the use of a suitable mini horse
- have safe and suitable equipment for you horse including halter and grooming tools.
- complete this book as well as maintain your horse project record book to the satisfaction of your 4-H leader and county Extension agent
- complete the Basic Horseman Level before you complete the Novice Horseman Level. Date you completed the Basic Horseman Level: _____

Handling and hauling your horse safely

How can you or your mini get hurt when loading or unloading your mini in a horse trailer?

What's important to remember when tying your horse in a trailer or to a fence?

Would you tie your horse to a post or to a rail? Why?

Pointers for trailering your Mini

- 1) Most trailers are designed for big horses. Minis may be able to go under dividers. Tie your mini so this does not happen. You may find it safest to remove dividers when hauling minis.
- 2) It is important to tie minis in the horse trailer when hauling more than 1 horse.
- 3) It can be a big step up or down when loading and unloading your mini. Be prepared for your mini to leap in and out of the trailer. Be careful about the footing you are unloading onto.
- 4) Make sure your mini cannot step over his lead rope.
- 5) When tying your mini to your trailer at a show, be aware of hazards. Tie rings are placed for big horses and may need to be modified for a mini.

Pointers for tying your Mini

- 1) Always tie to a post, not a rail, gate, or wire.
- 2) Use a quick release knot when tying your mini.
- 3) Make sure your mini cannot step over the rope when tied.
- 4) Make sure your halter fits your mini properly.
- 5) Check on your tied mini regularly.
- 6) Minis may be small, but leads and halters still need to be sturdy and in good repair. Some items marketed to minis may be cute, but are not safe for tying your mini.

Skills Used in Showmanship

Showmanship is a class judged on the handler's skills and training, fitting, and knowledge of the mini. If you are familiar with showmanship in large horses, many of these skills will be familiar. However, one major difference is that minis are shown on the half-system not the quarter-system.

AMHR Half-System: Presenting your mini to the judge

When showing your mini, your goal is to keep the judge's attention on your horse, and to reduce the time you are between the judge and your mini.

- 1) When leading your horse, always lead from the left side.
- 2) When leading, your shoulder should be even with your horse's throatlatch. You should not be pulling your horse, or being pulled by your horse.
- 3) Your right hand holds the lead below the snap or chain of the lead, and the tail of your lead is coiled in your left hand in a figure-8 (never wrap the lead around your hand).
- 4) Your hands are generally held at waist height.
- 5) You should be beside your horse, not touching or rubbing your horse when leading.
- 6) Keep your eyes on the judge. When you are on the move, you should watch where you are going, but every 3 or 4 steps, look at the judge.
- 7) When asked to line up, make sure there is at least one-horse length between you and the next horse. You should always have at least a horse length between you and the next horse when you are in the arena. This is important when the line stops... make sure you don't crowd the horse in front of you. Watch for red-ribbons. Horses wearing a red-ribbon in there tail are prone to kicking.
- 8) Stop your horse so that his nose is even with the horses in line before you.
- 9) When stopped, set up or "square" your horse's feet. Then look for the judge.
- 10) If the judge is on the right side of your horse, you should be on the left. If the judge is on the left side, you should step around the nose to the right side of your horse.
- 11) Patterns are very common in Showmanship classes. Be prepared to back, trot, turn on the hind legs or answer questions about your mini.

Grooming Your Mini for a Show

It is recommended that you have an adult or experienced horseman help you fit your mini if you have not done this in the past. It is always a good safety rule, to have another person with you when you are working around your horse. For best results on show day, practice several times before the show.

- 1) Bathe your horse before the show using an animal friendly product. You can purchase a shampoo intended for livestock or horses at your local feed store.
- 2) After your mini is dry, you need to clip various spots. Make sure you plan your washing to leave plenty of time for drying and clipping.
- 3) Clip:
 - a. Ears
 - b. Bridle Path
 - c. Fetlocks
 - d. Muzzle
 - e. Jaw
 - f. Other long hair
 - g. Optional is a full body clip
- 4) Mane and tail
 - a. Comb out all snarls
 - b. Can braid both to keep clean until show.
 - c. Braiding the mane can help train it to lay on one side
 - d. Braids are not allowed in the show ring
- 5) Hooves
 - a. Well cleaned of any manure and mud
 - b. Hooves should be properly trimmed
 - c. Hoof polish is option; clear on striped or light colored hooves, black on dark hooves
 - d. Hoof polish should be applied just prior to entering the ring for show (leave enough time for it to dry)
- 6) Cleanliness is essential in showmanship. It is more important to have an impeccably clean horse than a fancy halter or hoof polish.

Preparing Yourself for the Show

- 1) Do I have my show clothes:
 - a. Showmanship pants
 - b. Western shirt
 - c. Helmet
 - d. Boots
 - e. Gloves (required for showmanship)

2) Hair

- a. Hair should not cover the showman's number
- b. Girl's hair should be contained in a neat pony tail, braid or bun. Long hair, even in a braid or ponytail, should be pinned up so the number is visible

3) Cleanliness is Key

- a. It is not important to have fancy clothes or expensive accessories. It is important to be tidy and neat. Iron your shirt and pants and stay as clean as possible before entering the ring.

4) Do I have my show equipment:

- a. Properly fitted box halter with lead. Halter can be a show halter or leather, silver is optional but will not affect judging. Rope halters are not allowed. Nylon halters are not allowed.
- b. Clean your halter and lead rope, and check that they are in good repair/condition.

Reading a Pattern

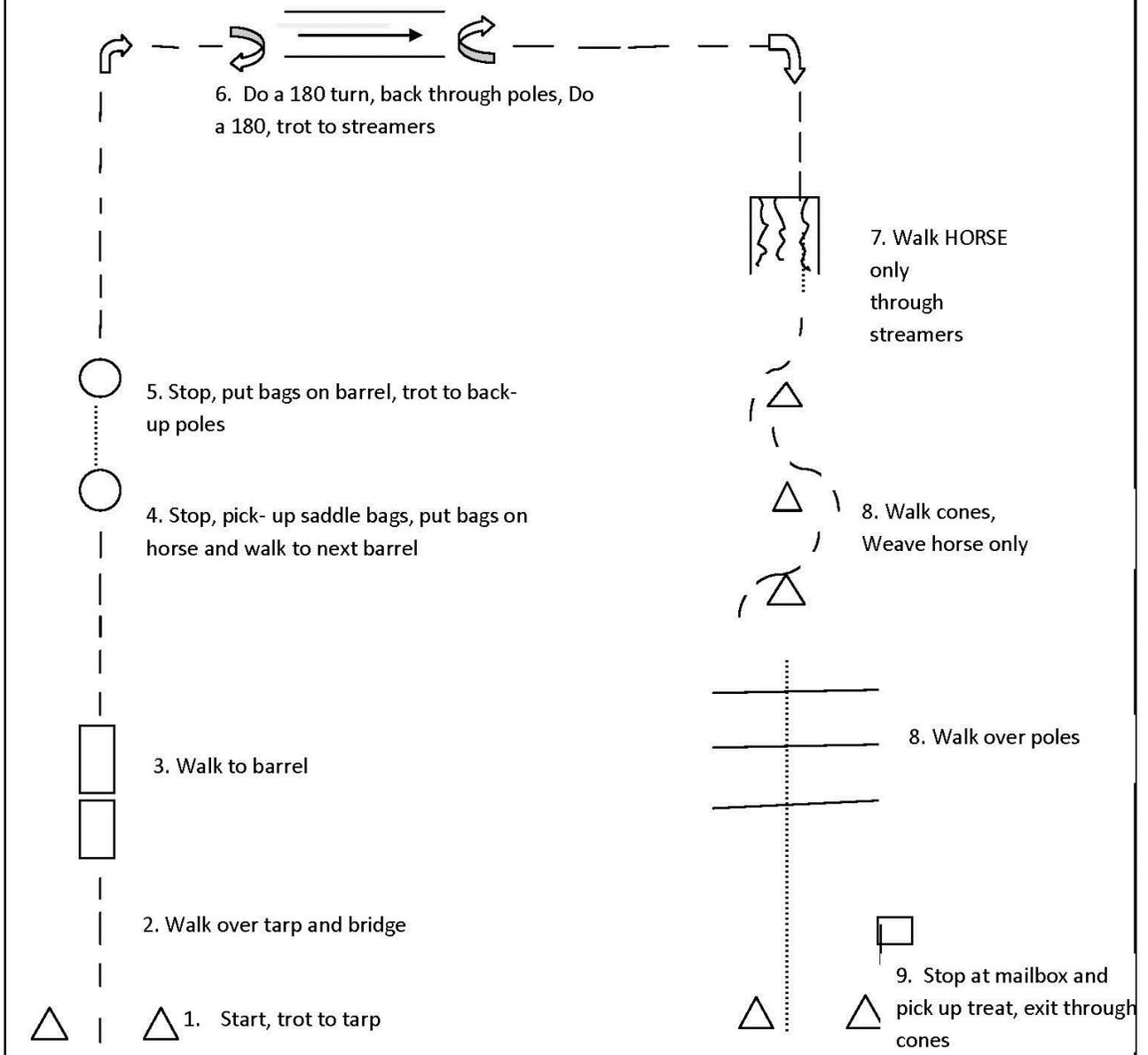
On the next page is an example of a pattern. You can see that directions are clearly marked. Change of pace (walk or trot) are marked, as are the direction you need to move on turns.

Patterns are usually posted at least a few hours before the class. Study the pattern and memorize it. Take the time to walk through a practice or two before you go in the ring.

Don't be fooled by other exhibitors. You should perform the pattern as you learned it. Don't change it because everybody else in front of you does it different. Maybe you're the only one who memorized the pattern right.

MINIATURE HORSE OBSTACLE JUNIOR

STATE 4-H HORSE SHOW 2008



Experience -- Horse Care

Has been responsible for primary care, including feeding, watering, grooming, stall cleaning and exercise of the project horse for _____ days (minimum 90 days).

Parent signature

Leader signature

Horsemanship Record * minimum of 60 hours total

Month	Type of Riding	Hours
September		
October		
November		
December		
January		
February		
March		
April		
May		
June		
July		
August		

Total hours: _____

Events participated in, minimum of three of the following at any level ** horse judging contest * show * horsemanship school or clinic * approved AMHR or AMHA breed show * showmanship, hunter jumper class or driving class * horse bowl contest * tour of a horse farm or stable.

Date	Event	Location

Club Participation ** Number of meetings attended _____ minimum of 6.

Present a satisfactory demonstration on horse care at a 4-H meeting _____
date _____ topic.

Leader signature

Field or educational experience - must do at least two of the following.

√	Program	Name	Date
	See a Horse movie		
	See a slide set about horses		
	Read a horse magazine		
	Visit a horse farm or stable		

Knowledge

1) . *Describe what can happen if a horse gains access to an unlimited grain supply.*

2) . *Describe what can happen if a hot horse is immediately given all of the water he can drink.*

3) . *Identify moldy & dusty feed & discuss the dangers of feeding this to a horse.*

4) . *Briefly discuss basic safety precautions to prevent injury to horse & to handler or rider. Include safety headgear.*

Identify (recognize) a mare, stallion, colt, filly, and gelding.

Date/s identified; _____



Draw or trace front views of four horse heads and draw and label each of these face markings:

star

stripe

blaze

bald

Horse Markings

The distinct markings on a horse are often used to help identify a horse, and are used when preparing documents such as Brand Inspection and Registration papers.

Facial Markings

Facial markings are usually described by shape and location. There may be more than one distinct facial marking and if so, will be named separately. Sometimes, the eye of a horse with a white marking that extends over that eye may be blue instead of brown, though this is not consistently seen in all cases.

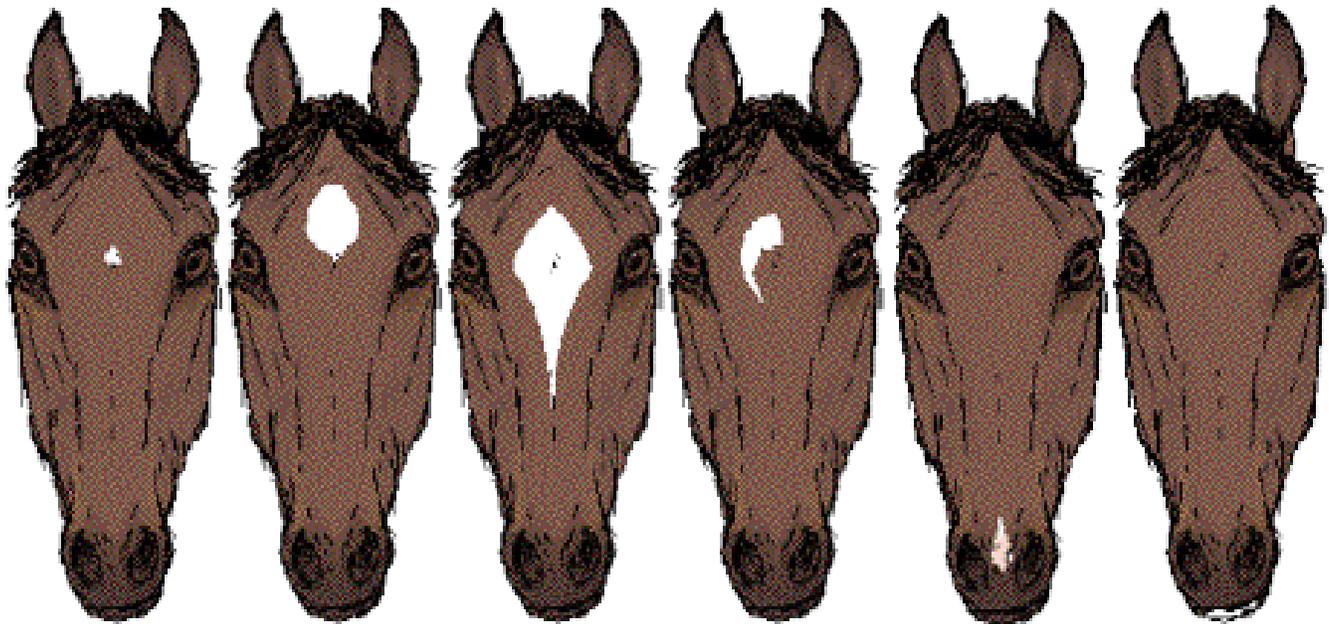
Common facial markings are:

- **Blaze:** a wide white stripe down the middle of the face.
- **Strip, stripe, or race:** a narrow white stripe down the middle of the face.
- **Bald Face:** a very wide blaze, extending to or past the eyes. Some, but not all, bald faced horses also have blue eyes.
- **Star:** a white marking between or above the eyes. If a stripe or blaze is present, a star must be significantly wider than the vertical marking to be designated separately.
- **Snip:** a white marking on the muzzle, between the nostrils.

Additional terms used to describe facial markings include the following:

- **Faint:** A small, yet permanent marking that usually consists of white hairs without any underlying pink skin.
- **Interrupted:** A marking, usually a strip or blaze, that is broken and not solid for the entire length of the face.
- **Connected:** Occasionally used to describe distinctively different markings that happen to be joined to one another
- **Irregular or crooked:** A marking, usually a strip or blaze, that does not have a more or less straight path.
- **Lip markings:** have no specialized names, usually are described by location, such as "lower lip," "chin", etc. Lip markings may indicate presence of the sabino color pattern.

Describe the facial markings of the following horses:



1.

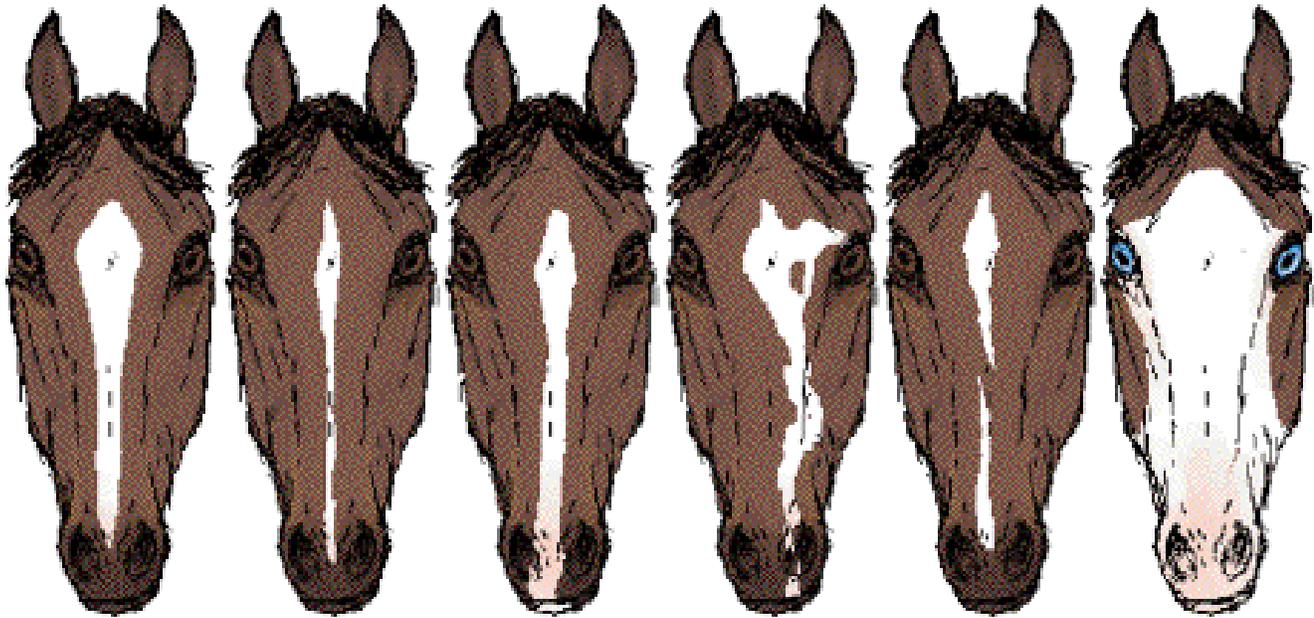
2.

3.

4.

5.

6.



7.

8.

9.

10.

11.

12.

1.	7.
2.	8.
3.	9.
4.	10.
5.	11.
6.	12.

Leg Markings

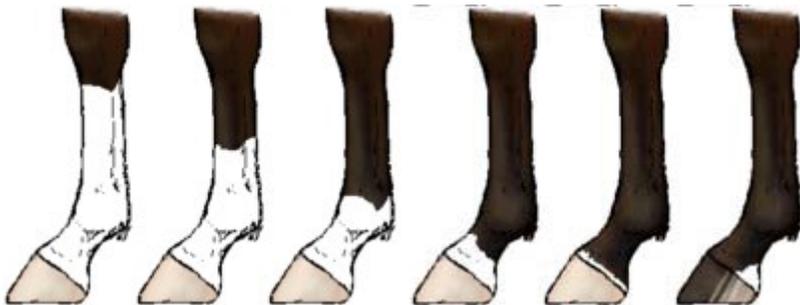
Leg markings are usually described by the highest point of the horse's leg that is covered by white. As a general rule, the horse's hoof beneath a white marking at the coronary line will also be light-colored ("white"). If a horse has a partial marking or ermine spots at the coronary band, the hoof may be both dark and light, corresponding with the hair coat immediately above.

From tallest to shortest, common leg markings are:

- **Stocking:** white marking that extends at least to the bottom of the knee or hock, sometimes higher.
- **Sock or ½ Stocking:** white marking that extends higher than the fetlock but not as high as the knee or hock. This marking is sometimes called a "boot."
- **Fetlock or Sock:** white marking that extends over the fetlock, occasionally called a "boot."
- **Pastern:** white marking that extends above the top of the hoof, but stops below the fetlock.
- **Coronet:** white just above the hoof, around coronary band, usually no more than 1 inch (2.5cm) above the hoof.

Additional terms used to describe white leg markings include:

- **Irregular:** A marking within the broad confines of a given height, but with significantly uneven edges. Indicated by the highest point of the white. Most often used to describe certain types of stockings.
- **Partial:** An irregular marking that only extends up part of the leg to the height indicated, sometimes with the other side of the leg dark. Usually used to describe socks and other short markings.
- **"High White:"** White stockings that extend above the knee or hock, sometimes extending past the stifle onto the flank or belly, considered characteristic of the sabino color pattern.



Label the leg markings

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

Mini Horse Colors

One of the attractions of mini horses is the wide array of coat colors they come in. They even have unique combinations like “pintaloosa” that you won’t find anywhere else. Use your resources, the internet and adult helpers to complete this activity.

1. Deep red to mahogany brown with black legs, mane, tail and muzzle called points are the distinctive markings of the _____ color.
2. _____ are similar to bays in that they have black manes and tails, and black points on the legs, muzzle and ears. The coat color can be deep crème, taupe, sand, or dull gold. They do not have a dorsal stripe, brindle markings, or leg stripes.
3. A _____ can be any shade of red with no black points like the bay. There are many variations in the color.
4. Many _____ horses start out their lives an almost solid color with only a few white hairs. One example of this is the famous Lippizaners who are solid black when born and by the time they have reached the age of 10 or so, are white.
5. _____ come in many shades but their manes and tail are always white. The shade of their coat color can vary from the palest cream to the deepest gold. The coat color is consistent down the legs with no black points. A horse that is white that is patched with irregular areas of color is known as a _____. Occasionally there are three colors--but every two color combination can be found; from black and white to palomino and white. There are many distinctions between the markings such as piebald, skewbald, tobiano and overo.
6. A horse that has a mixture of chestnut and white hairs, sometimes causing a pink color is called a _____.
7. A horse that has a mixture of black and white hairs, evenly mixed on the body, and without dapple rings, is called _____.
8. A pale cream colored horse with blue eyes is a _____.
9. In order to be a true _____, a horse must be this solid color with no browning or lighter color on his points or face.
10. A _____ is marked like a buckskin, however they also have a dorsal stripe, brindle markings or leg stripes.
11. The _____ coat pattern can consist of a base color with a blanket and spots, a snowflake pattern, a leopard pattern or roaning. These horses also have striped hooves and white scleras.
12. The _____ is unique to mini horses and shows both paint patterns and appaloosa patterns in their coat.
13. What color is your mini? _____.

Word Bank

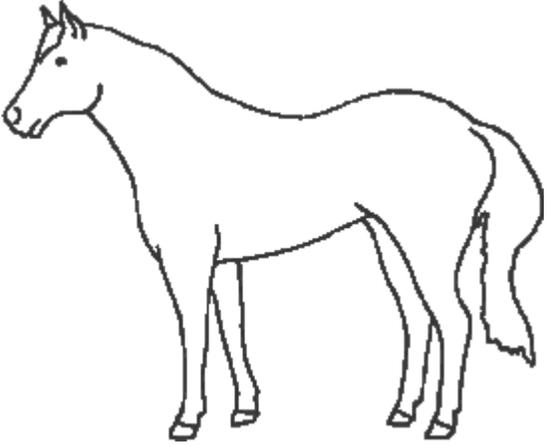
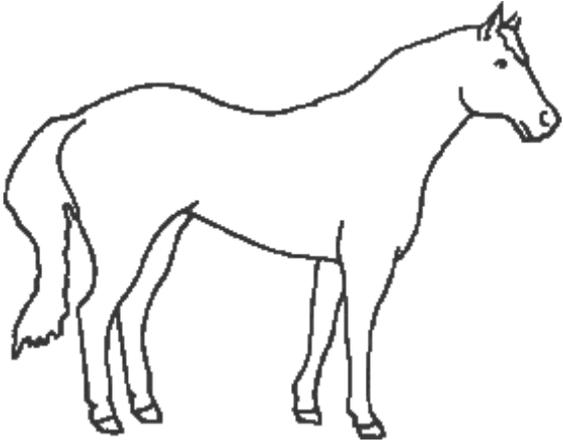
Pinto
Cremello
Palamino

Black
Pintaloosa
Blue Roan

Sorrel
Buckskin
Appaloosa

Bay
Dun
Red Roan

Complete the table to sketch and describe your mini's markings.

Complete the sketch	Describe
	
	
	

Review and follow twelve general feeding and management guidelines:

- 1) Feed at regular times.
- 2) Examine teeth regularly.
- 3) Exercise horses regularly.
- 4) Feed by weight, not volume.
- 5) Keep the feed manger clean.
- 6) Avoid moldy and dusty feed.
- 7) Give small, frequent feedings.
- 8) Do not overfeed, do not under feed.
- 9) Make sure that parasite control is adequate.
- 10) Keep stall and paddock areas clean and safe.
- 11) Make changes in types and amounts of feed gradually.
- 12) Make sure that water is frequently available, fresh, and clean.

Take a feed tag from a bag of horse feed, review and discuss it with a knowledgeable person and reproduce (draw) the tag below:

Briefly study then assign the following feed items to the appropriate categories:

soybean meal -- corn -- oats -- alfalfa hay -- Bermuda grass hay

Energy

Protein

Forage

Dismounted Abilities

Give the date on which you properly demonstrated the following dismounted abilities.

	Date	Leader initial
Clean tack	_____	_____
Put on and adjust a halter	_____	_____
Identify good hay quality	_____	_____
Muck out and bed down a stall	_____	_____
Properly tie a horse (a rail, a tree, & a ring)	_____	_____
Recognize good quality and poor quality pasture	_____	_____
Demonstrate and discuss safety in working with horses	_____	_____
Prepare a horse for a showmanship class (braiding not required)	_____	_____
Demonstrate how to show a horse in a showmanship class	_____	_____
Show how to safely load a mini into a trailer	_____	_____
Ground tie your mini and step away	_____	_____
Lead your horse at a trot	_____	_____
Stop your horse at a trot	_____	_____
Turn your horse on their hind legs (360 ⁰ hind pivot to the right)	_____	_____
Trot through cones or poles	_____	_____
Back your horse in a "L" pattern	_____	_____
Trot over ground poles	_____	_____
Cross a bridge or tarp at a trot	_____	_____
Trot a small circle both directions	_____	_____

Additional tests

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Personal Development * Community Pride Options

- Arrange for a film to be shown at your club meetings.
- Participate in a community service or community pride project.
- Present a demonstration or illustrated talk to a group other than your 4-H group.
- Serve as host for a 4-H meeting. See that everyone is welcomed and made comfortable.
- Lead the Pledge of Allegiance or 4-H pledge at a 4-H meeting
- Serve as chair of a club committee.
- Serve as a camp counselor.
- Help organize and conduct a trail ride.
- Help conduct a horse show.
- Preside at a 4-H project or club meeting.
- Help organize a Horse Bowl.
- Organize and conduct a 4-H judging contest.
- Serve as a counselor to younger 4-H members.
- Serve as clerk, show chairperson at a 4-H show.
- Serve as an apprentice judge at a 4-h horse show.
- Attend a district or state animal science workshop.
- Make arrangements for a tour by your project group.
- Participate in a horse judging or identification contest.
- Obtain three or more new horse members for your club.
- Secure a speaker to talk at one of your project meetings.
- Help organize, train, and participate in a mounted drill team.
- Develop and exhibit a science display which is related to horses.
- Help organize and conduct an educational tour or demonstration.
- Explore a career associated with horses and report on that career to your project group.
- Plan a fun activity for your club or project group that is separate from a regular meeting.
- Prepare a display, pictures, clippings, objects, that can be educational or helpful in stressing: clean air, clean land, or clean water; Conserving natural resources; conserving energy; or practicing safety.

- Participate in a radio or television program.
- Help organize a horse farm tour.
- Help a leader work with a younger member.
- Write a news story for a local paper.
- Serve as a junior leader for a 4-H horse group.
- Demonstrate riding aids to your club.



Select three or more options

Option:

Date passed _____ Approved by _____

This is to certify that

is qualified and has completed all of the Novice Horseman requirements for Level II of the 4-H Mini Horse Advancement Program.

_____	*	_____
4-H Leader		Date
_____	*	_____
Extension Agent		Date

