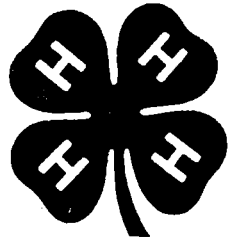


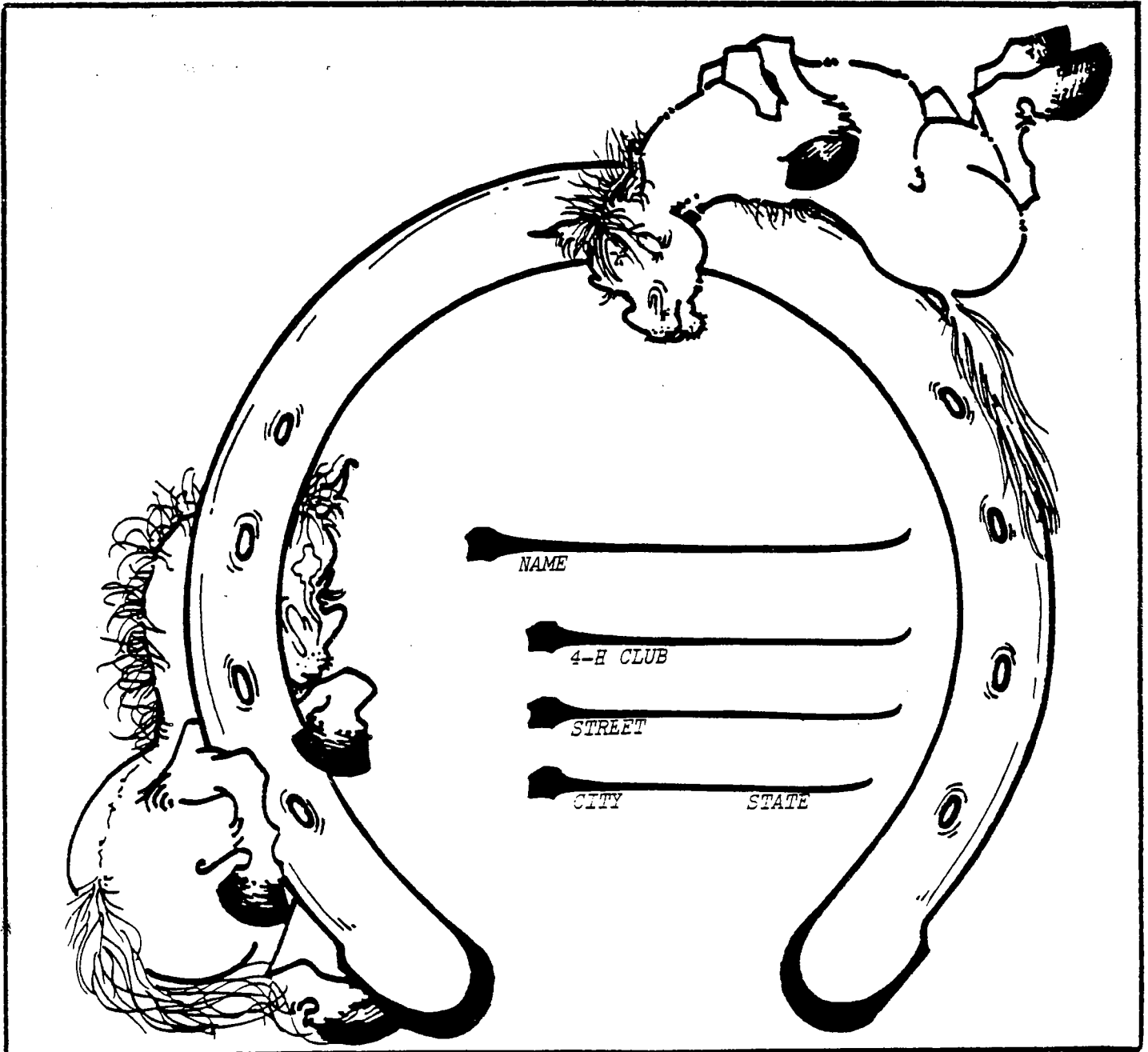
LET'S LEARN ABOUT HORSES



Cooperative Extension Service

Colorado State University

Fort Collins



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Appreciation is expressed to the following committee members who helped develop the materials in this manual: Janelle Helling, Adams County; Janette Arends, Adams County; Dixie Frick, Adams County; Janina Miskiewicz, artist; and Ginger Rich, Extension Horse Specialist. Special thanks to Joyce Jordeth, 4-H Youth Specialist, for editing and supervision of this manual.

Mention of companies, brands or products is made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement implied by the Cooperative Extension Service.

Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension Work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture. Lowell H. Watts, Director of Extension Service, Colorado State University.

By law and purpose, the Colorado State University Cooperative Extension Service is dedicated to serve all people on an equal and non-discriminatory basis.

LET'S LEARN ABOUT HORSES

For the Parent or Helper

This book is planned for mini 4-H members. Because many of these children do not read, most of the text will be on the left side of the book. Fun activities and important things to remember will be on the right side.

Your job, as helper, is to study the text and share as much of it as the members are ready for at that time. It is probably best to read the text several times before you read the book with the members. Then decide how much of the information they need to know to do the activities. How much more will they want to know? This will depend upon their age and interest. You have the opportunity to adapt the material to each child's needs and abilities.

But that is what this book is for: to open between helper and child the potential for growth that exists in human beings of all ages.

If the members can read, they may want to read the text. That's all right.

Have fun as you "Learn About Horses."

For the 4-H Member

"Learn About Horses"

as you look at the
right side of the book

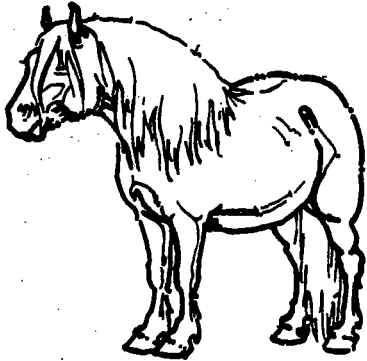


TYPES OF HORSES

Horses are divided into three general types: ponies, light horses and draft horses.

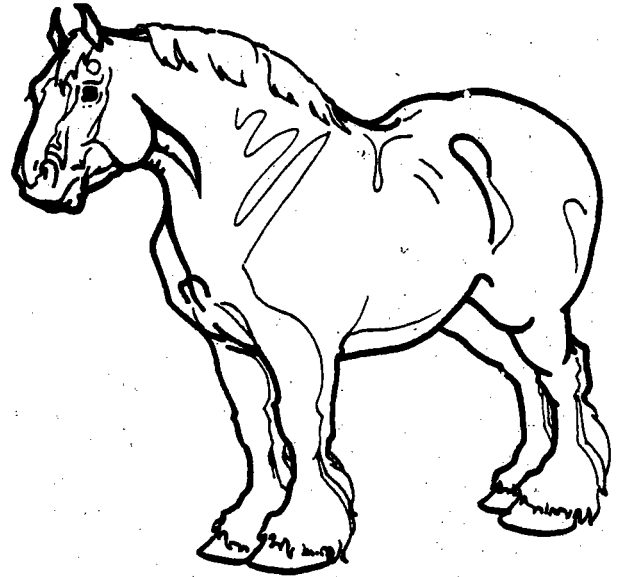
Ponies

Ponies are less than 56 inches in height. Most ponies weigh less than 800 pounds.



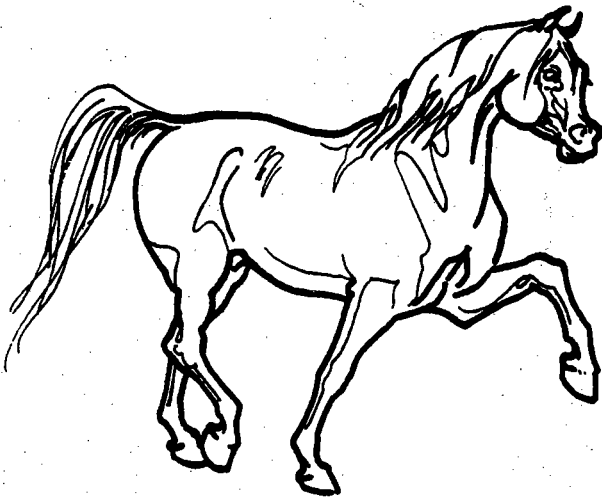
Draft Horses

Draft horses are large and sturdy. Many weigh more than 2,000 pounds.



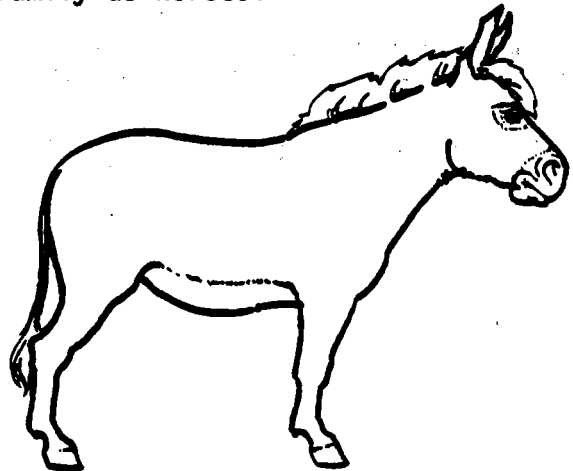
Light Horses

Light horses are medium-sized. Most of these horses weigh less than 1,200 pounds.

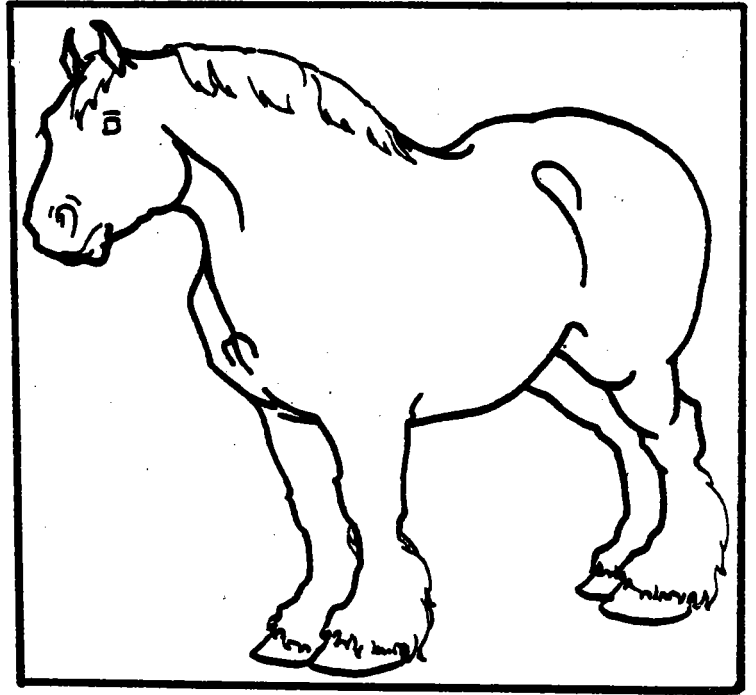


RELATIVES TO THE HORSE

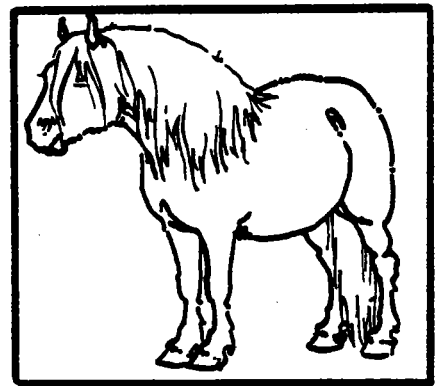
Some animals such as the donkey, mule and zebra come from the same animal family as horses.



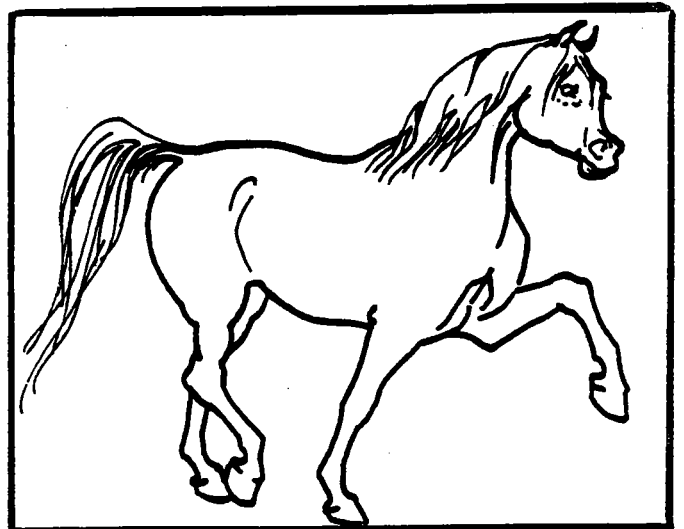
Ponies are small.
Draw a line to the
pony.



Light horses are bigger
than ponies.
Draw a line to the light
horse.



Draft horses are the
largest.
Draw a line to the
draft horse.



BREEDS

A breed is a group of animals which has a common origin. Each group, or breed has definite characteristics not commonly seen in other breeds. These characteristics are passed on from the parents to their offspring.

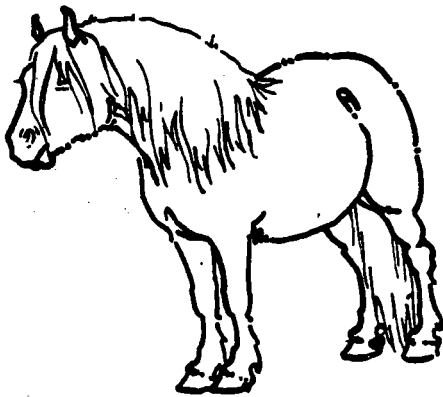
Horses or ponies which do not belong to a specific breed are called "grade animals". They can be any size or color. These animals can be used for many purposes.

BREEDS OF PONIES

Popular pony breeds are the Shetland, Welsh, and Pony of the Americas.

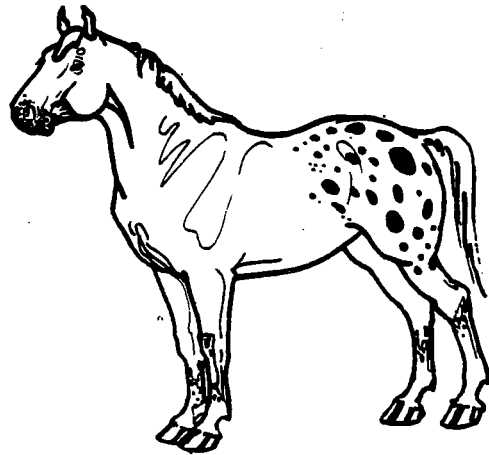
Shetland

The Shetland pony originated in the Shetland Islands, south of Scotland. Shetland ponies stand 46 inches or less in height, weigh from 300 to 400 pounds, and have a wide variety of colors. The main use is for riding by small children.



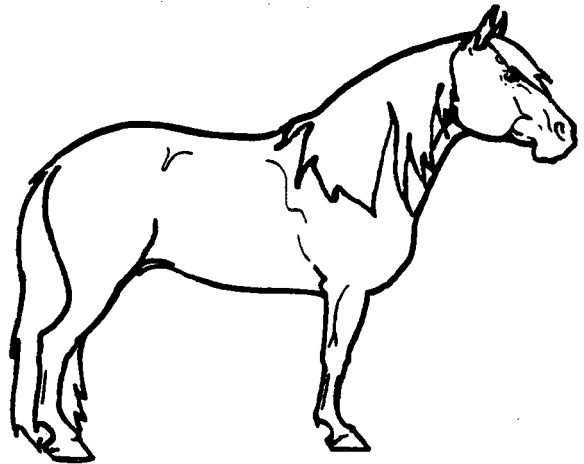
Pony of the Americas

Pony of the Americas (P.O.A.) looks like a miniature of some of the Appaloosa horse breed. This is a good mount for children.



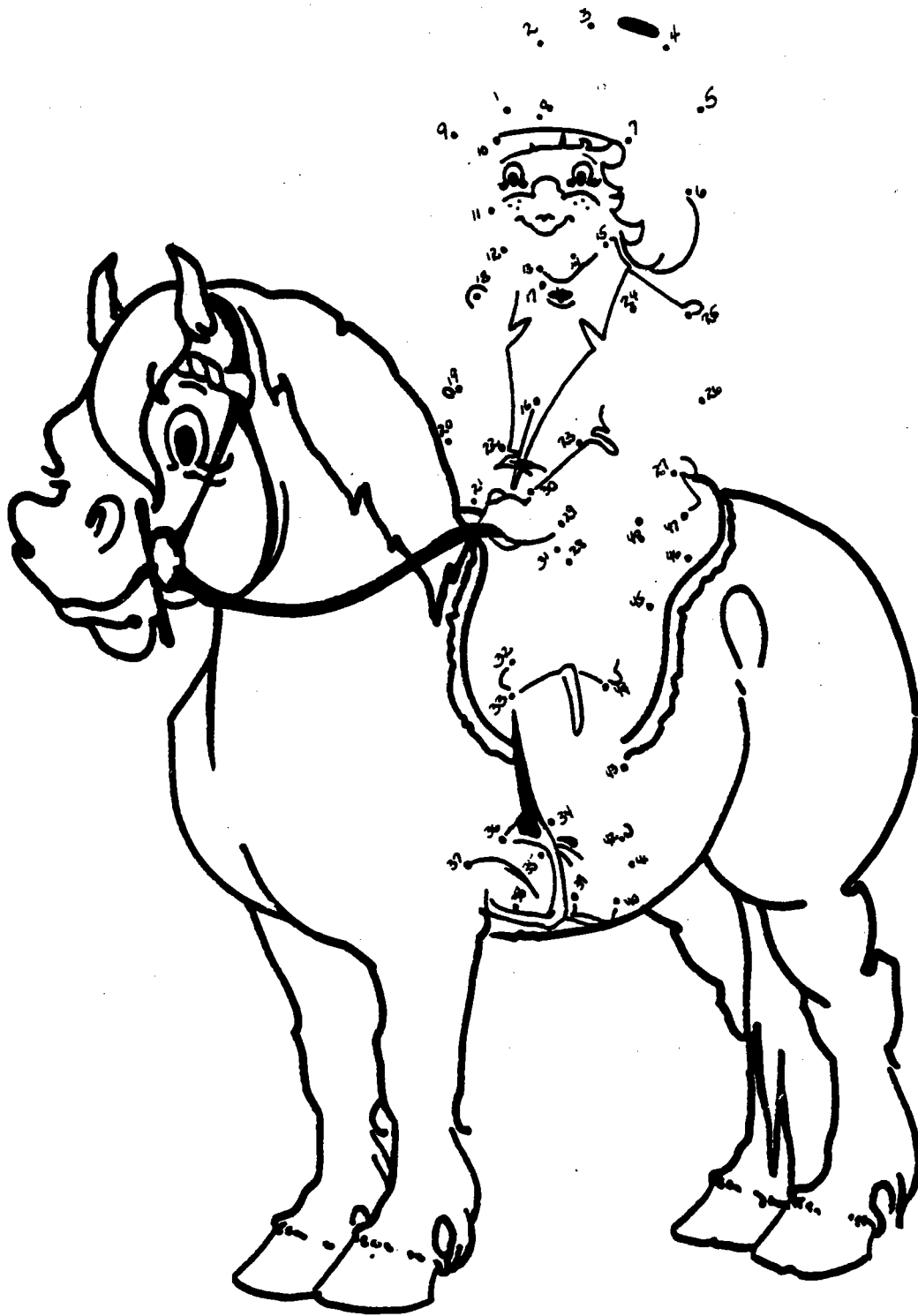
Welsh

Welsh ponies originated in the rugged hills of Wales and average about 48 inches in height. The Welsh pony should be hardy while showing refinement and quality. Welsh ponies make excellent mounts for children.



Follow the dots.

What did you draw?



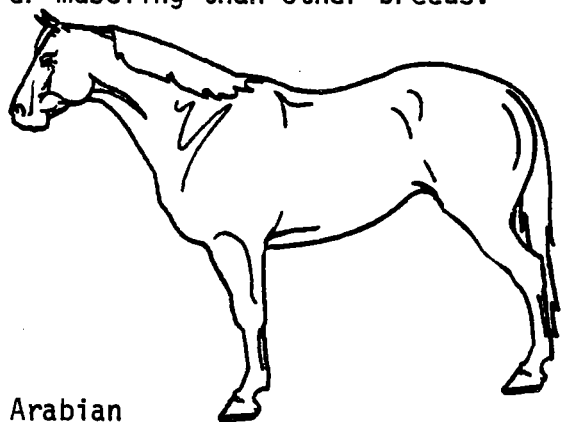
BREEDS OF LIGHT HORSES

Some of the most popular breeds of light horses in Colorado are Quarter Horse, Arabian, Morgan and Thoroughbred.

Horses are also classified, regardless of breeding, to the purpose for which they are best suited.

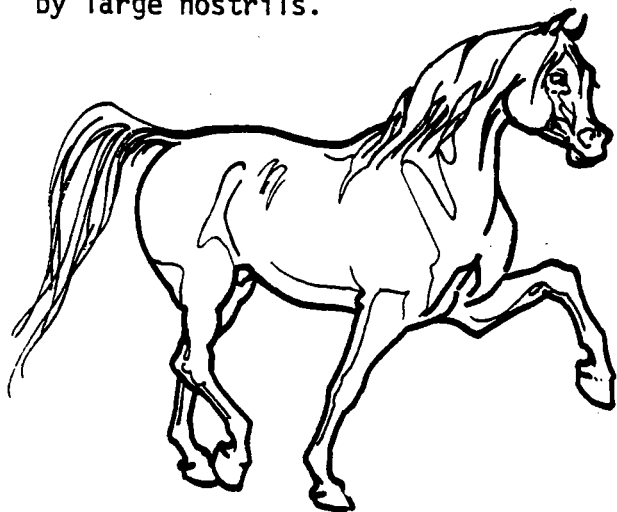
Quarter Horse

The Quarter Horse originated on plantations in colonial times. They gained the name because originally they were raced on a straightaway track for a distance of approximately a quarter of a mile. This breed is characterized by somewhat heavier muscling than other breeds.



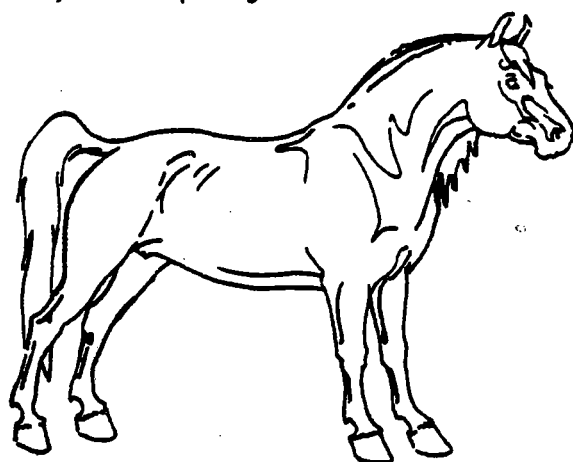
Arabian

This is considered to be one of the first breeds of livestock domesticated and developed by man. This breed has been used to develop all the breeds of light horses and some of the heavy horses. The classic Arabian has a dished face with a deep broad jaw and the muzzle is characterized by large nostrils.



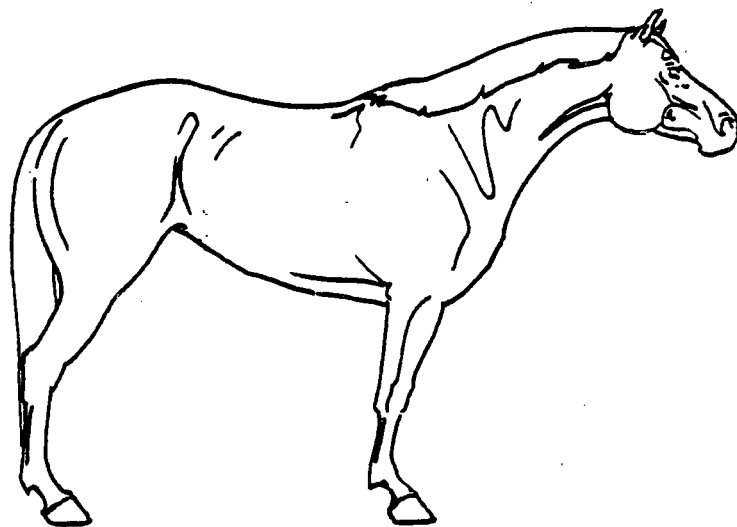
Morgan

The Morgan is the oldest horse breed originating in America. All horses of the breed trace back to Justin Morgan, the original Morgan horse. Characteristics of the breed are an upright head carriage, well crested neck, fine muzzle, broad forehead, small ears, wide chest, well sprung ribs and short back.

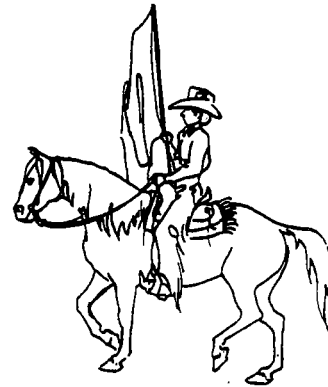
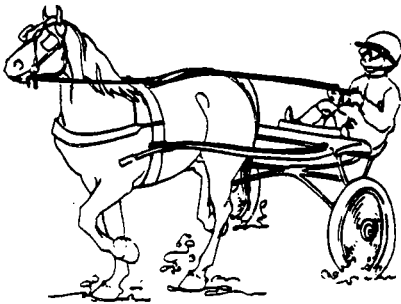
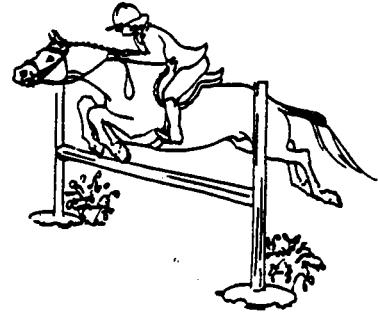
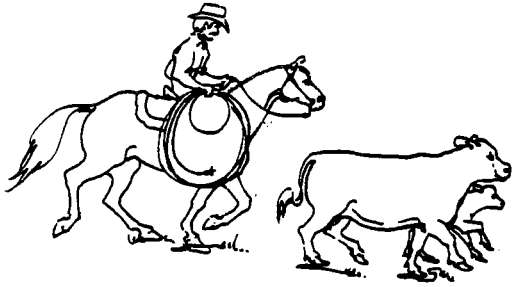


Thoroughbred

The Thoroughbred was developed in England. It is usually taller and more lean and angular than any other breed. Occasional white markings in the face and legs are common.



Circle the jobs you have seen horses doing.



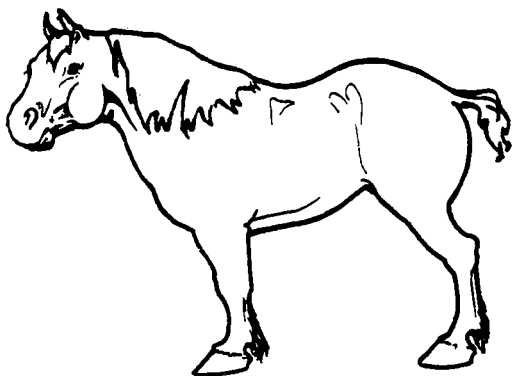
BREEDS OF DRAFT HORSES

Big heavy work horses nearly disappeared for a number of years after tractors and trucks took over the need for power. They have again become popular with people who use them for farm work, pulling competition and crossbreeding with light horses for hunters and jumpers.

Breeds of draft horses include Belgians, Clydesdales, Percherons and Shires.

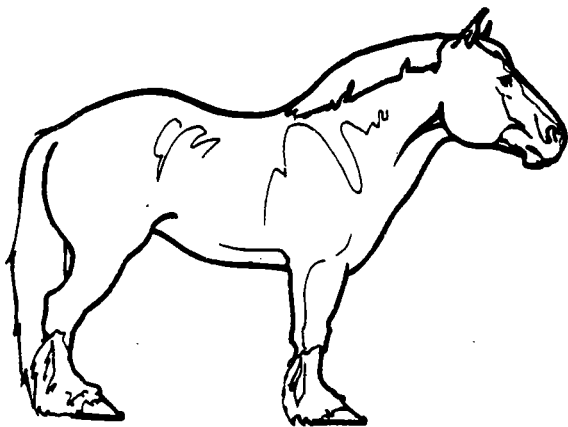
Belgians

The Belgian ranks among the gentlest and strongest horses. Heavy muscles give the Belgian a stout appearance. Most Belgians are chestnut or bay in color.



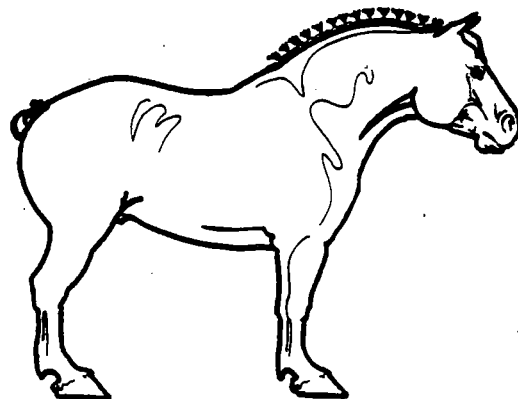
Clydesdales

Clydesdales are handsome draft horses, with long flowing hair below the knee and hock. This hair, called "feathers" gives the animals a smart and unusual look. Clydesdales are popular for pulling wagons in parades.



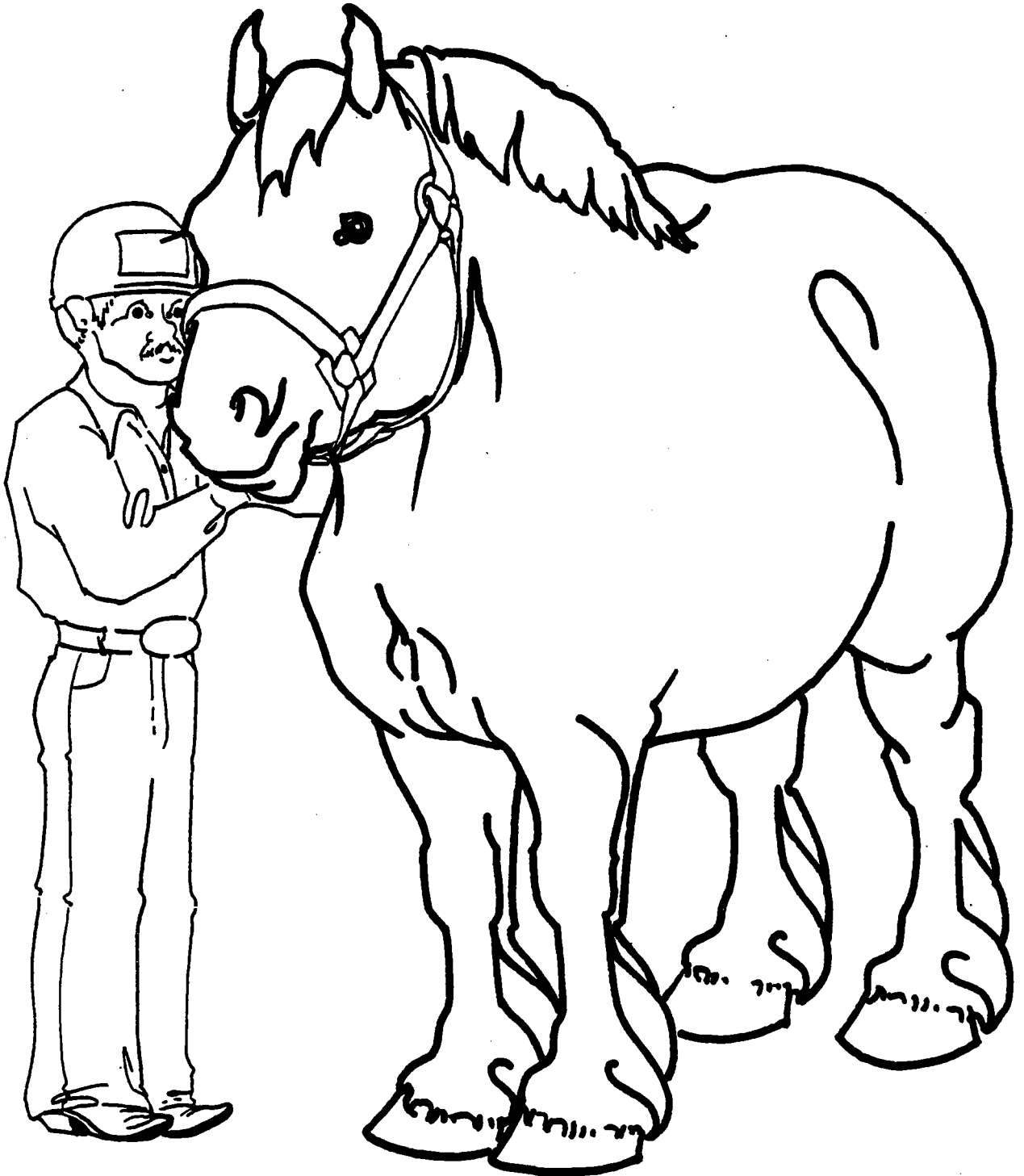
Percherons

Percherons look much like Belgians, but have gray or black coats. These horses are lively for their size and may be used as a general-purpose draft horse.



See how big the draft horses are.

Color the man and the horse.



COLORS

Horses are many colors. Some of these are:

Bay

Body color ranging from tan, through red, to reddish brown; mane and tail black; usually black on lower legs.

Black

Body color true black without lighter areas; mane and tail black.

Brown

Body color brown or black with light areas at muzzle, eyes, flank and inside upper legs; mane and tail black, usually black on lower legs.

Sorrel

Body color reddish or copper-red; mane and tail usually same color as body, but may be flaxen.

Dun

Body color yellowish to red; mane and tail may be black, brown, red, yellow, white or mixed; has dorsal stripe (on back), may occasionally have zebra stripe on legs, and transverse (crossing from side to side) stripe over withers.

Gray

Mixture of white and black hairs; usually born solid colored or almost solid colored and gets lighter with age.

Roan

More or less uniform mixture of white and red or black hairs. A red roan has white and red hairs. A blue roan has white and black hairs with a few red hairs.

COLOR BREEDS

Some breeds must be a certain color to be registered.

Palomino

Palominos are noted for their yellow-gold bodies and light-colored manes and tails. They are used mainly as stock or parade horses.

Pinto or Paint

Pinto is a Spanish word that means painted. Pinto horses have irregular colored and white areas on the body.

Buckskin

Body color yellowish or gold; mane and tail black. Usually black on lower legs.

Appaloosa

The ancestors of the modern Appaloosa were introduced into Mexico by the early Spanish explorers. Eventually these horses spread across the United States and the Nez Perce tribe of the American Indians in the Pacific Northwest came into possession of these spotted horses. This breed is characterized by partially colored or mottled skin, especially around the nostrils and lips, and with many variations and combinations of color patterns.

Cut pictures of horses from magazines.

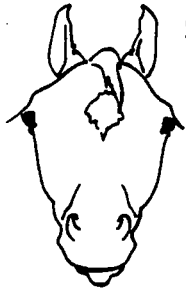
Glue pictures on this page.

Write the horse's color by the picture.

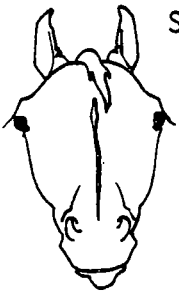
MARKINGS

Markings are used with body colors to describe horses.

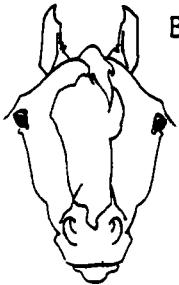
Head Markings



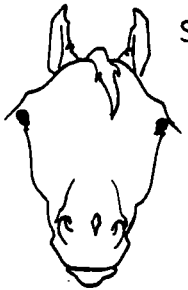
Star -- Any white mark on the forehead located above a line running from eye to eye.



Stripe -- A narrow white marking that extends from about the line of the eyes to the nostrils.



Blaze -- A broad, white marking covering most of the forehead but not including the eyes or nostrils.



Snip -- A white mark between the nostrils or on the lips.



Bald -- A white, or bald, face including the eyes and nostrils or a partially white face.

Leg Markings



Coronet -- A white strip covering the coronet band above the hoof.



Pastern -- White extends from the coronet to and including the pastern.



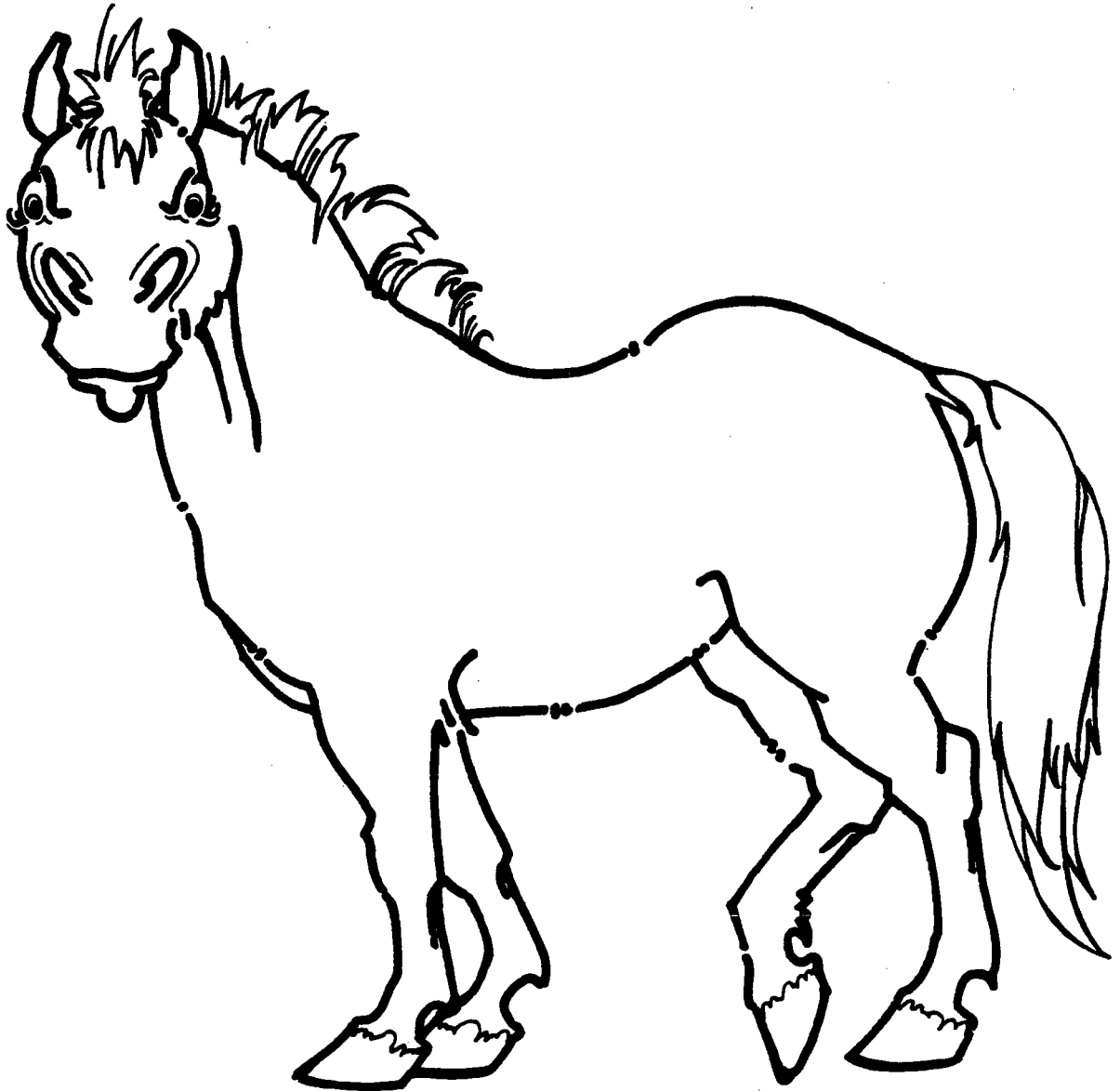
Ankle or "sock" -- White extends from the coronet to and including the fetlock.



Stocking -- White extends from the coronet to the middle of the cannon for a half-stocking and to the knee for a full-stocking.

Color the horse like one you have
or would like to have.

Put in the markings.



SIZE

Horses are many different sizes. The size of a horse is measured at his withers (the ridge between the shoulder bones).

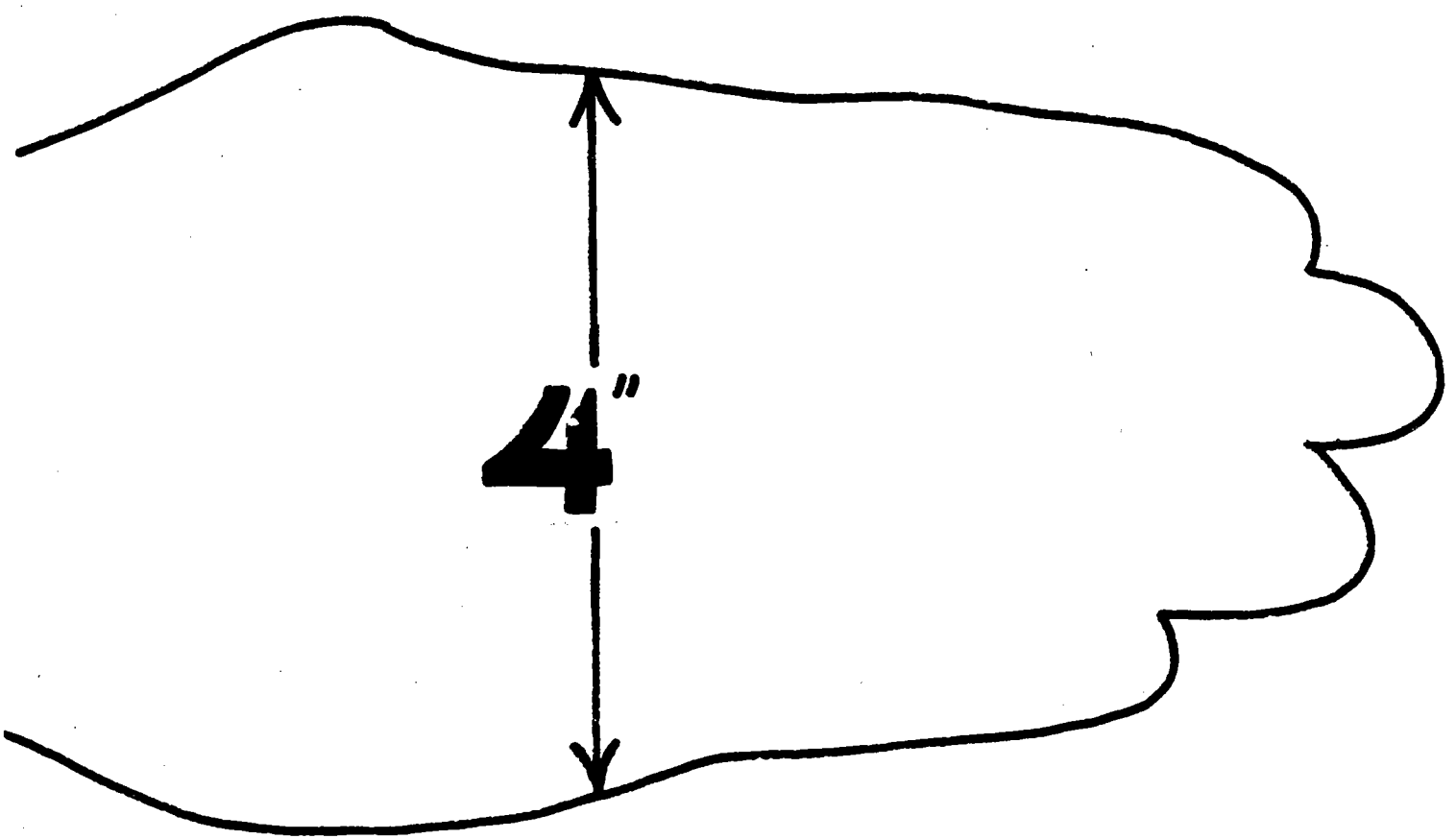
Years ago, men did not have rulers or tape measures when they went to buy horses. So, they used their hands to measure. Horses are still measured in "hands".

The average man's hand is four inches wide with the thumb tucked under. Therefore, a "hand" today is four inches.

To teach an understanding of "hands" the members may draw around their hand inside the drawing below.

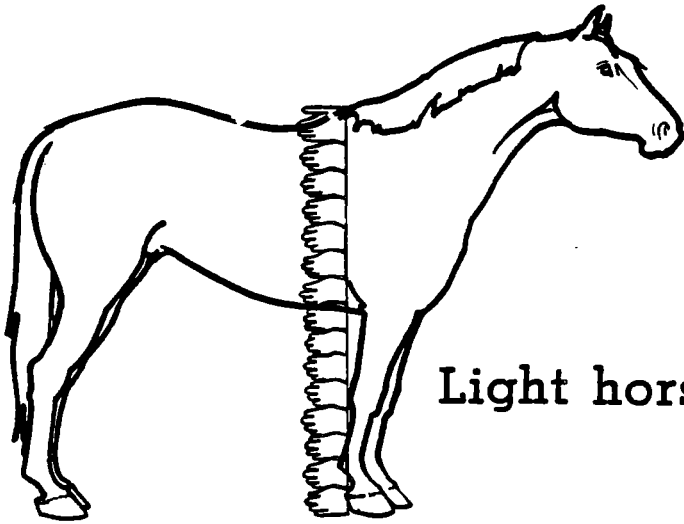
The chart shows the differences between ponies, light horses, and draft horses.

TYPE	HEIGHT IN HANDS	HEIGHT IN INCHES	WEIGHT IN POUNDS
Ponies	Under 14.2	Under 58	300 - 800
Light Horses	14.2 to 16.2	58 to 66	800 - 1200
Draft Horses	16 to 18	64 to 72	1400 - 2300

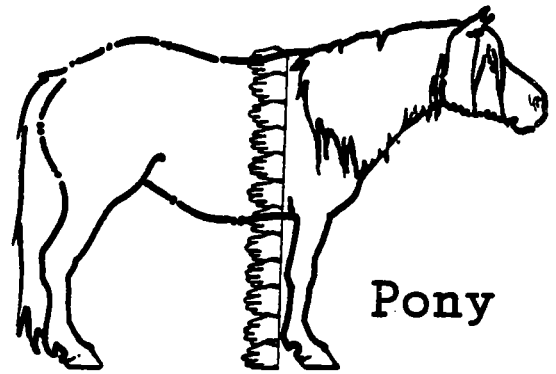


A "hand" is four inches.

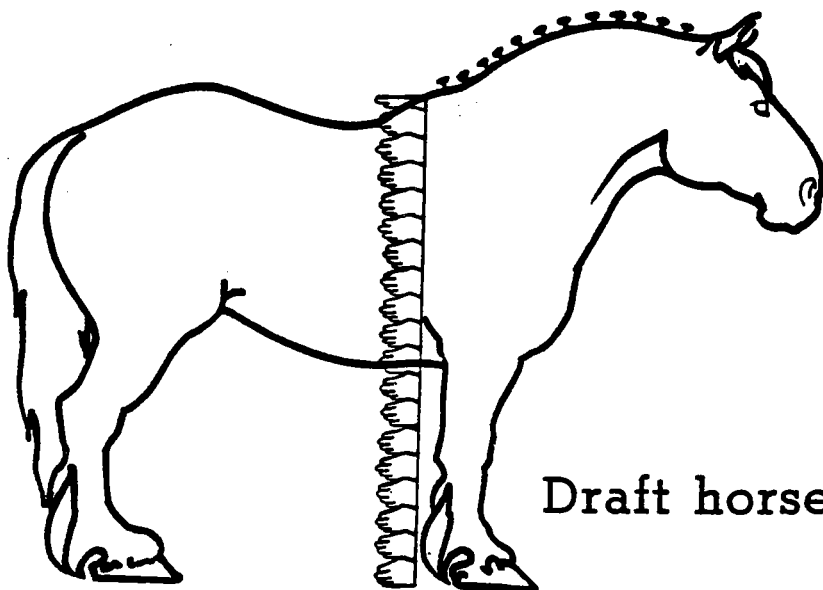
Count the number of hands on each horse.



Light horse



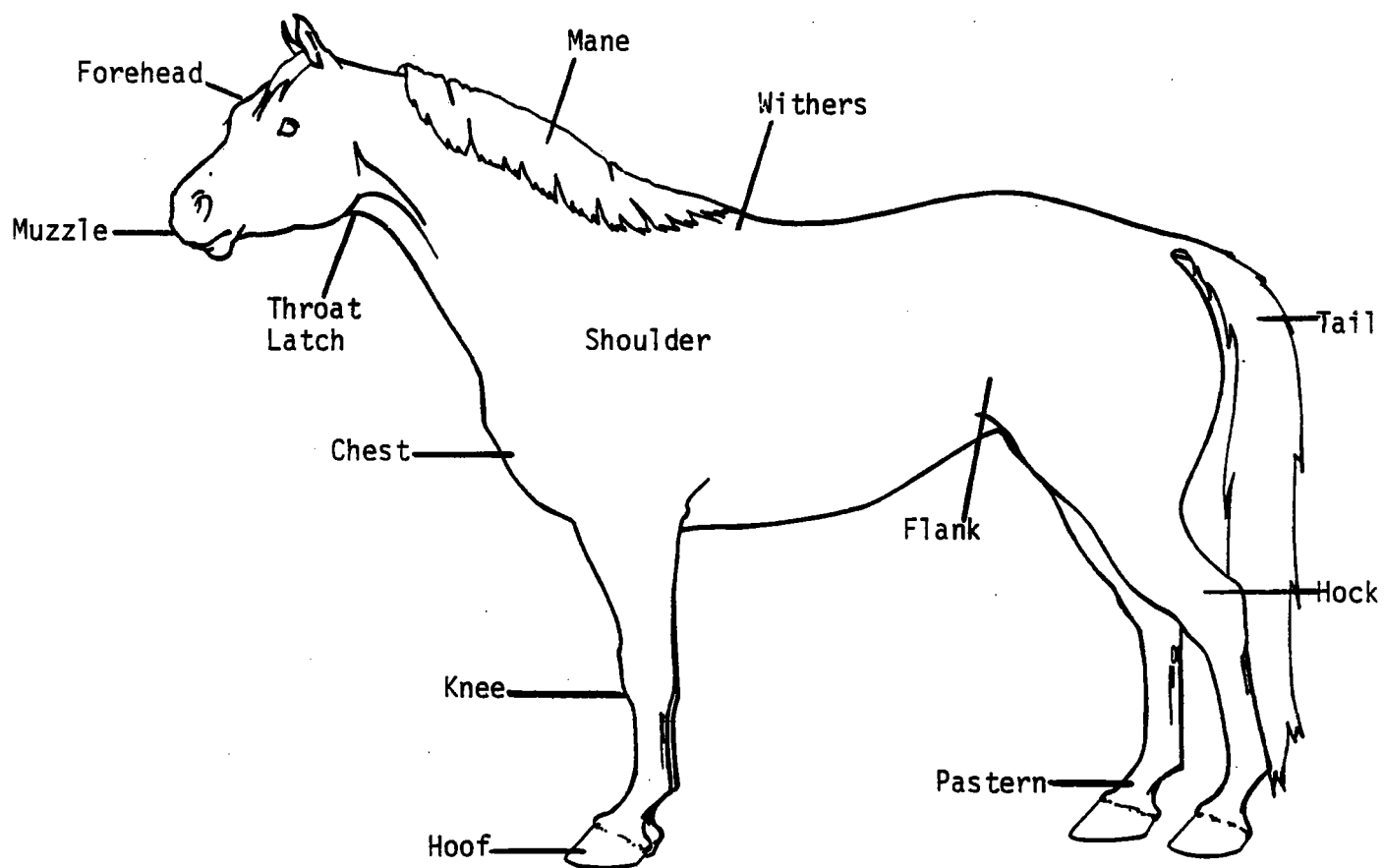
Pony



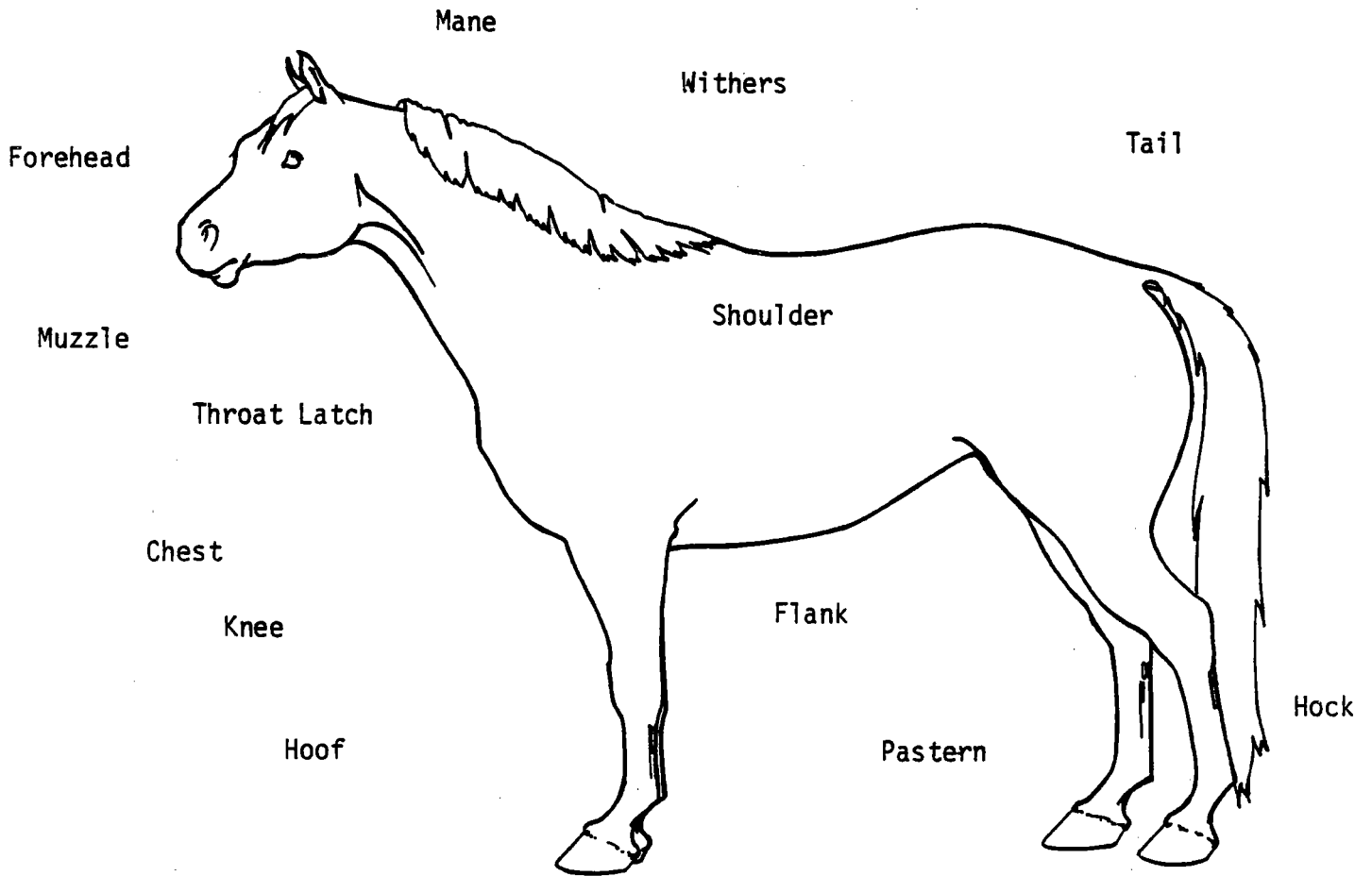
Draft horse

PARTS OF A HORSE

The parts of the horse have names. Study a book on horses to learn how each part should look.



Draw a line from the name
to the part on the horse.



HORSE FAMILIES

Horses are given different names according to their age and sex. These are:

Foal (Baby) -- either a newborn male or female horse.

Dam (Mother) -- mother of a foal.

Sire (Father) -- father of a foal.

Filly (Girl) -- a female horse less than four years old.

Colt (Boy) -- a male horse less than four years old.

Stallion -- a male horse that can be used for breeding.

Mare -- a female horse more than four years old.

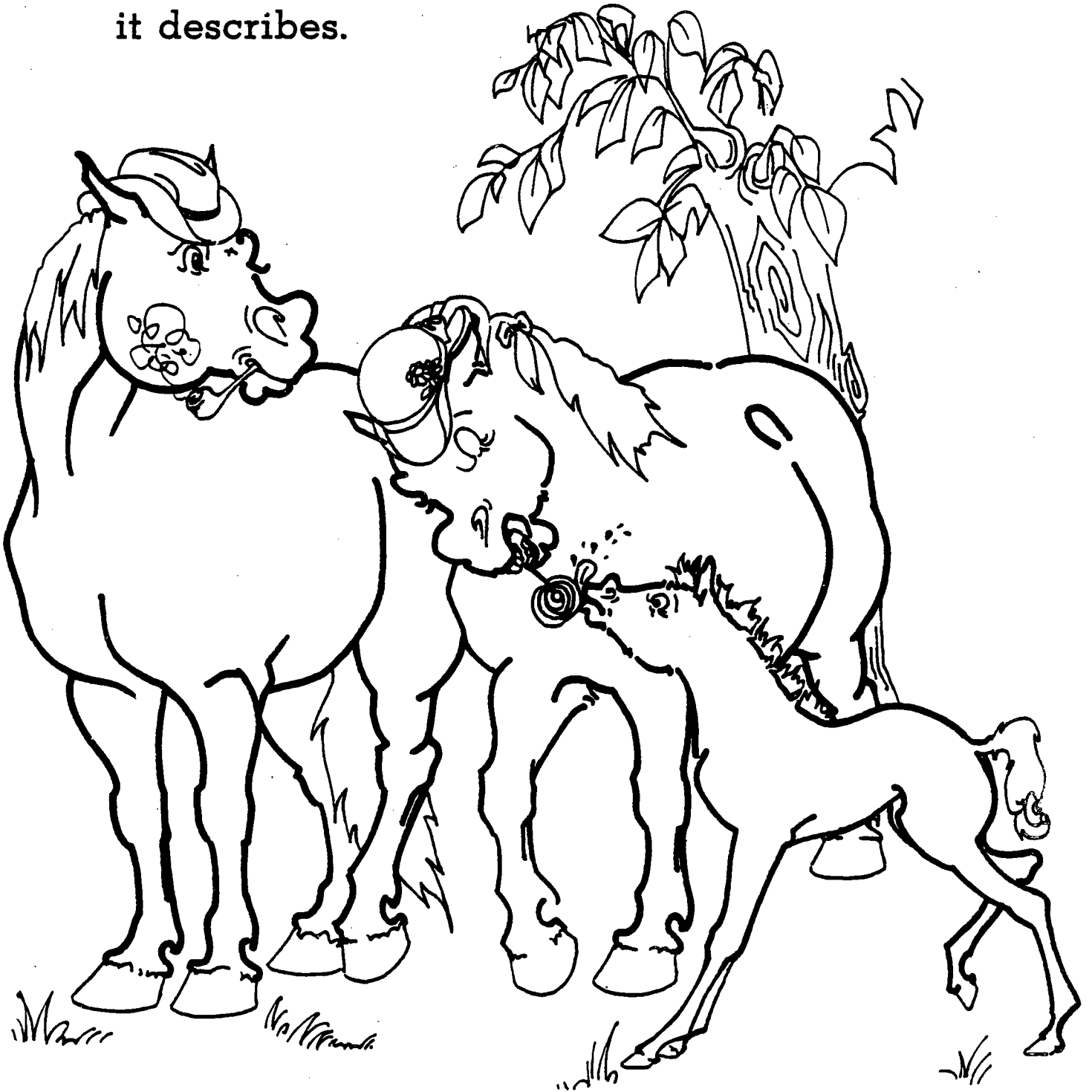
Gelding -- a male horse that cannot be used for breeding.

Yearling -- a horse that is more than one and less than two years old.

Weanling -- a young horse either male or female that no longer nurses from its dam.

Color this horse family.

Draw a line from the name to the horse
it describes.



Foal

Stallion

Mare

FEEDING THE HORSE

A horse needs food at regular times each day.

A horse needs pasture or hay and sometimes grain as well as salt and water.

Pasture

A healthy, well fertilized pasture is good feed for a horse. The quality of the grass will vary, so other foods will need to be added as necessary.

Grain

Horses also like grain such as corn, oats and barley. Eating too much grain can make them sick.

The amount of grain given, if any, depends upon the animal's size, condition and the amount of exercise it gets.

The grain ration usually is divided into at least two equal feedings.

Hay

Feed only good quality hay that is free from dust and mold. Breathing the dust can cause damage to the horse's lungs. A horse should never eat hay that contains coarse sticks, thorns or rubbish. A mixture of grass and alfalfa makes the best hay.

Because hay distends the digestive tract and takes longer to digest than grain, feed most of the hay at night. A common practice is to feed one-third of the hay at the morning feeding and the remaining two-thirds at night when the horse has plenty of time to eat leisurely.

Salt

Horses need salt for good health because their bodies lose salt when they sweat. Keep a constant supply of salt for the horse to have free choice.

The amount of salt needed varies with the temperature and the activity of the horse.

Water

Keep fresh, clean drinking water on hand at all times. The horse will drink 10 to 12 gallons per day. More is required in hot weather or at hard work.

Do not allow a horse to drink heavily when he is hot, or just before he is put to work.

Circle the foods a horse would eat.

Put an X on the foods you eat.



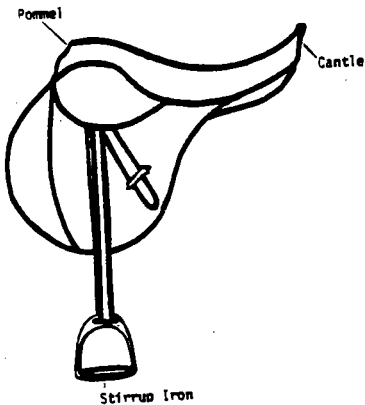
EQUIPMENT

The equipment needed is called "tack" or "gear". This includes the saddle, saddle pad or blanket, headstall and bit, halter and lead rope.

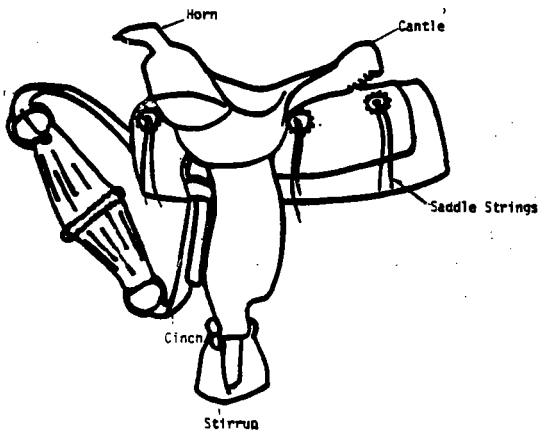
Saddles

English and western saddles are the two most common types.

The English saddle is light weight and has a flat seat. It is padded and comfortable. It can be modified for use in pleasure riding, training, racing or jumping.



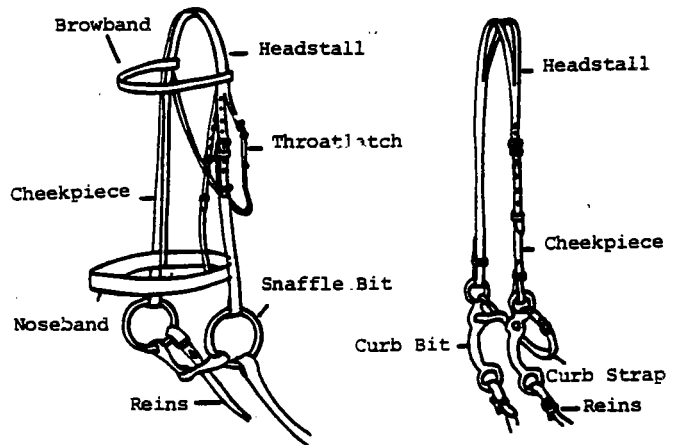
The western saddle is commonly used by cowboys and western stockmen. A western saddle provides comfort for all-day riding and enough strength to stand up under the strain of calf roping. Western saddles have fleece padding that helps protect the horse's back.



A blanket under the saddle keeps the horse's back and sides from becoming sore.

Bridles and Bits

A bridle is a head harness for guiding a horse. It consists of headstall, bit and reins.



English Bridle

Western Bridle

The headstall should be of strong leather, narrow in width to cut down on weight.

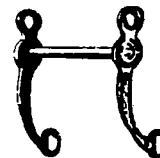
The bit should be as light and as mild as is necessary to maintain control of the horse.

Wash the bit regularly to remove the debris that accumulates from the horse's mouth.

There are two main styles of bits.



A snaffle bit works by simply pulling on the corners of the horses mouth.



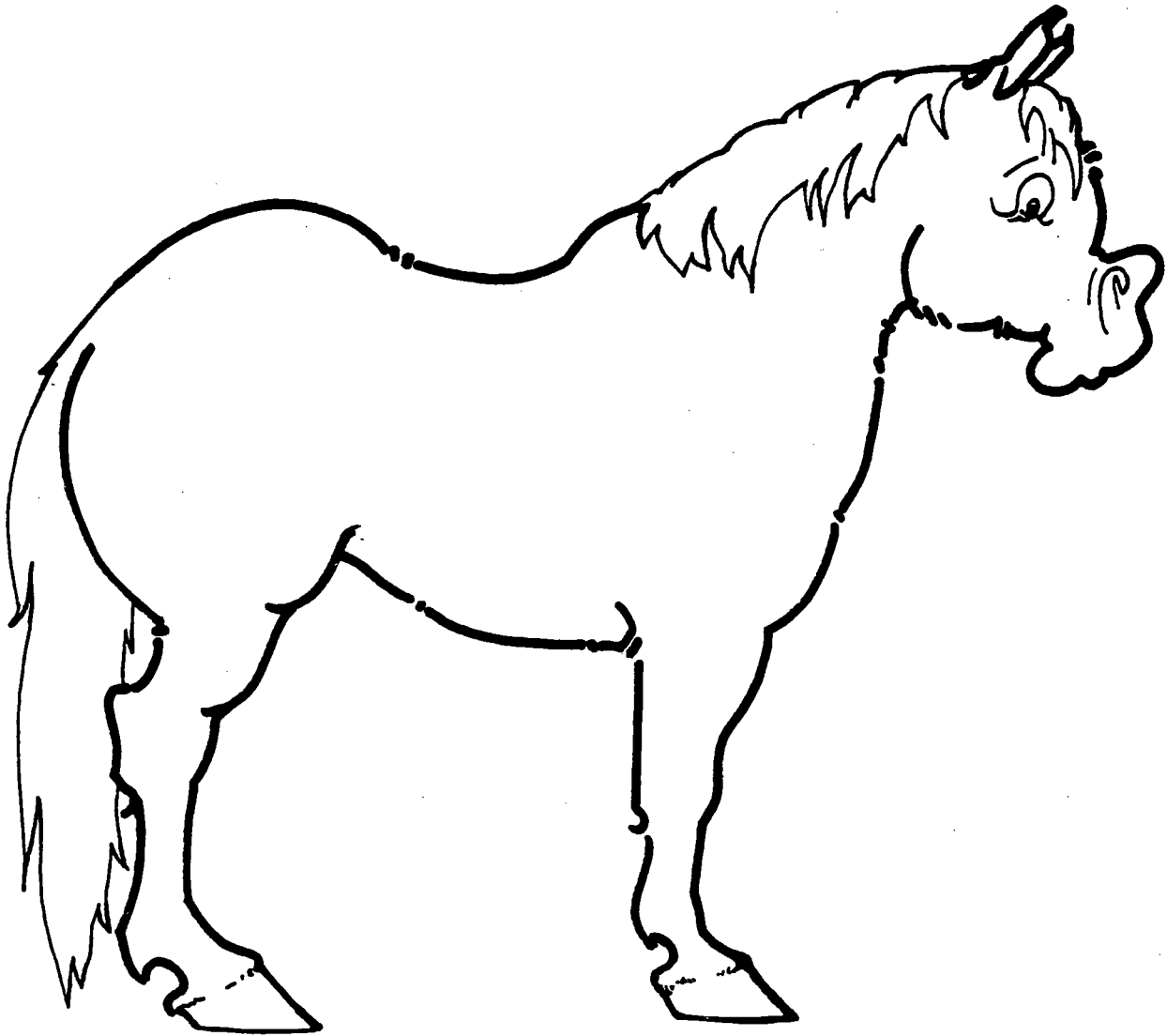
A curb bit works by leverage of a curb strap or chain under the horses chin as well as the bit pressure in the mouth.

Variations in cheekpieces and mouthpieces allow many different combinations.

Tack is the equipment used on a horse.

Color and cut out the tack on page 35.

Put the tack you want to use on the horse below.



CLOTHES FOR RIDING

Clothing should be comfortable and safe for the type of riding being done. It should protect the body from irritation while rubbing against the saddle.

Western Riding

Blue jeans and a comfortable shirt are probably best for open-country riding.

Cowboys often wear chaps (seatless leather trousers) that fit over their regular trousers. Chaps are worn to protect the legs.

Boots are the safest footwear. Reinforced toes are recommended. Tennis shoes, sandals and bare feet are not safe when riding or working with horses. They are not secure in the stirrup and do not offer protection if a horse steps on a toe.

A slicker may be needed when going on long rides away from shelter or in bad weather.

A cowboy hat protects the face and eyes from sun and wind.

English Riding

A different type of clothing is selected when riding an English saddle.

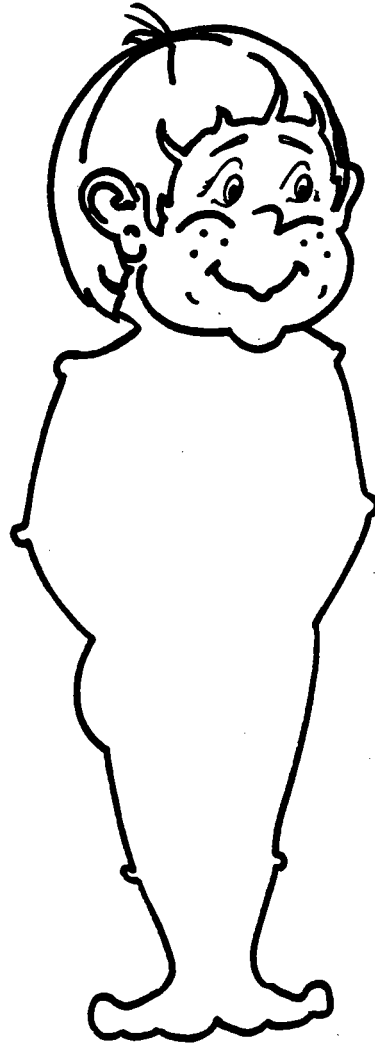
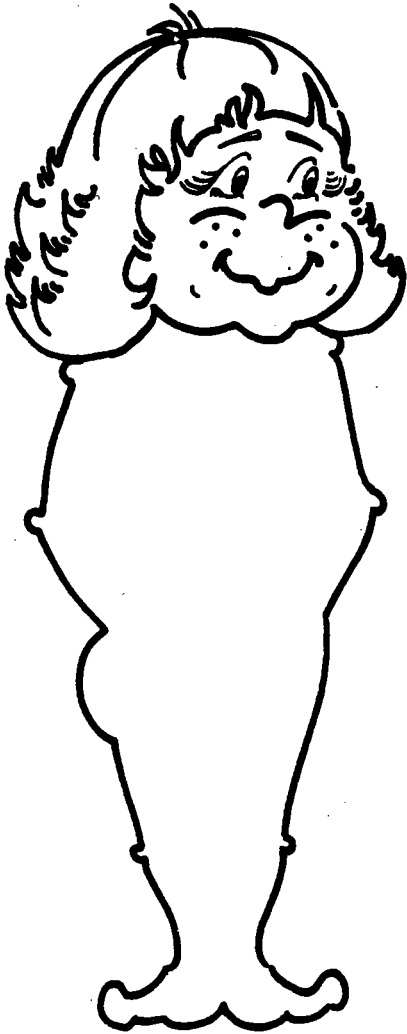
Riding breeches or jodhpurs are worn. They are designed to give plenty of seat room. Lining inside the knees and calves prevents the stirrup leathers from pinching the legs.

A hunt cap is a helmet that protects the face and eyes from the sun. A helmet is necessary when jumping.

What would you wear when riding?

Color and cut out the clothing on page 33.

Put the clothing on the riders on this page.



HEALTH CARE

The horse depends upon the person caring for it for its health and well being.

These items are very important to the horse:

Clean stables and equipment.

Clean, good quality feed and water.

Proper fit of tack.

Adequate exercise.

Avoid exposure to disease.

Eliminate hazards around the stable and pasture.

Regular care must be given the horse to keep it healthy. This includes:

Hoofs trimmed or shod every 6-8 weeks.

Annual vaccinations for tetanus, sleeping sickness and influenza.

Other vaccinations as needed.

Worming three or four times a year.

Examining teeth to see if they need floating (filing off the sharp points) once a year.

Horses may also need special care for breeding, foaling, illness or injury.

GET ACQUAINTED WITH THE VETERINARIAN

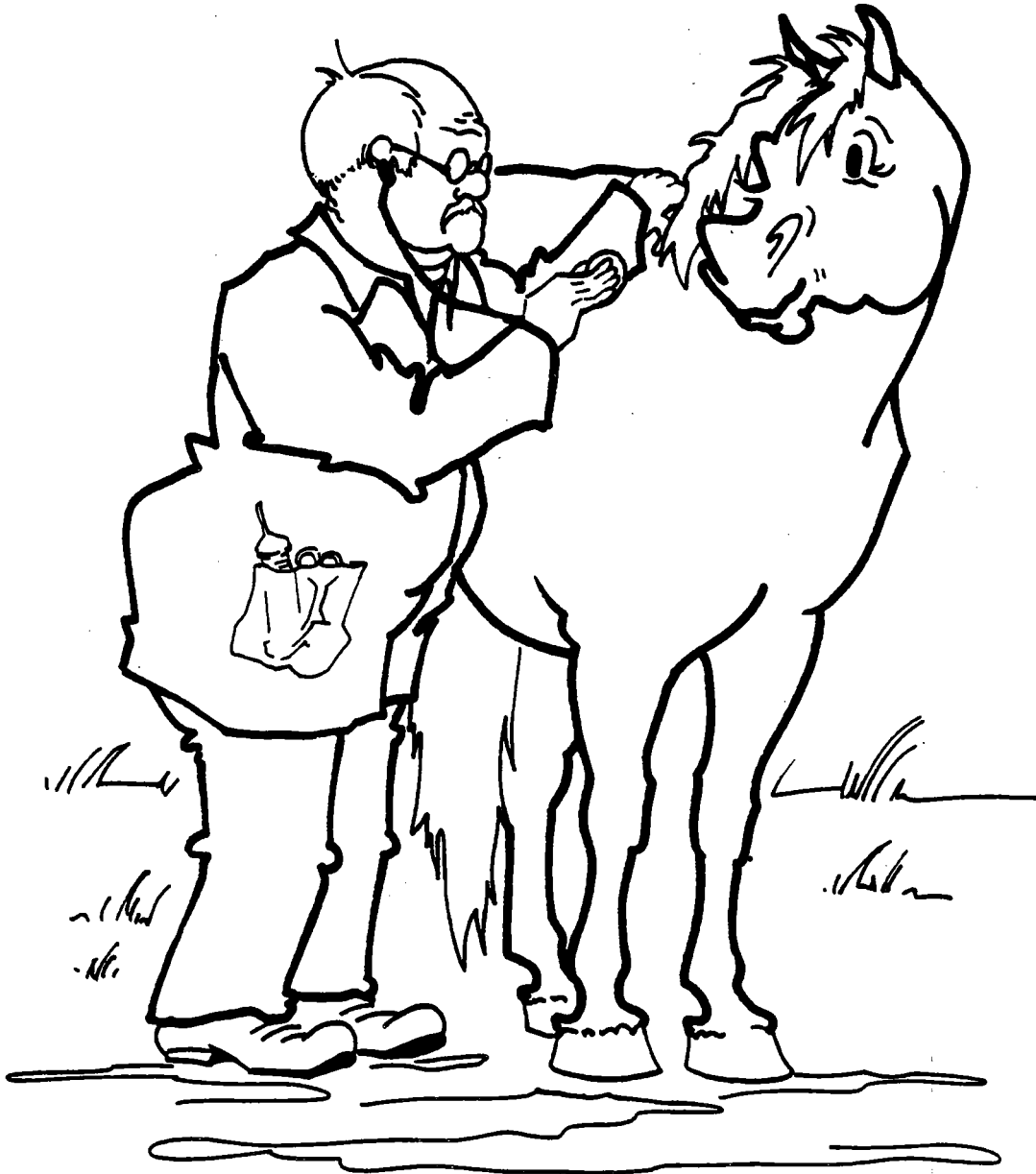
The veterinarian is the "family doctor" for the horse. He will be willing to help plan and carry out a health program that will include worming, disease prevention, breeding records and problems and general first aid practices.

Proper treatment of diseases, injuries and parasites depends on two very important things: knowing what the problem is and knowing what to do about it. The veterinarian knows what health and first aid measures can be safely handled by his clients and he will teach the proper procedure.

The 4-H member can work with the veterinarian to learn everything necessary for general care of the horse: how to recognize health troubles; what to do in case of sickness or injury before help can arrive; simple treatment and remedies that are safe to follow.

A veterinarian is a doctor who
takes care of horses.

Color the veterinarian.



Have you ever met a veterinarian?

FOOT CARE

A horse must be able to move; therefore, good feet and legs are necessary.

The important points in the care of a horse's feet are to:

Keep them clean.

Prevent them from drying out.

Trim them so they retain proper shape and length.

Shoe them correctly when shoes are needed.

Clean the Feet

The horses feet should be cleaned each day with a hoof pick.

Trimming

The hoofs should be trimmed every 6-8 weeks whether the animal is shod or not. A farrier (person who shoes horses) should be consulted or should do the trimming.

Shoes

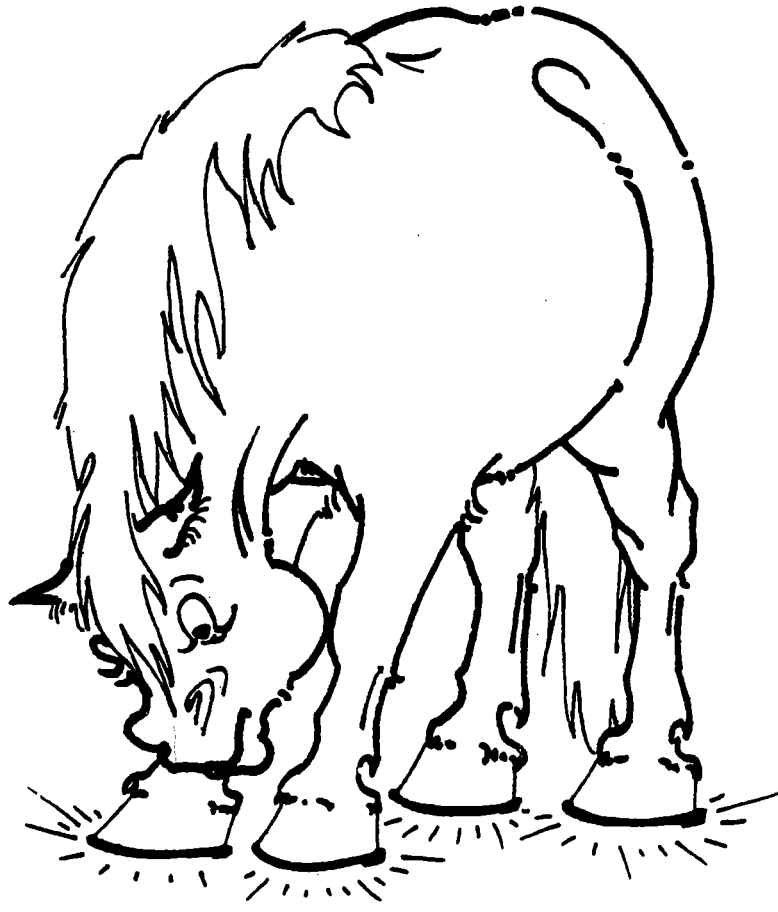
Metal shoes protect the feet of horses that work on roads, hard surfaces or rocky ground.

Light shoes, weighing about 8 ounces are the most commonly used shoes on horses.

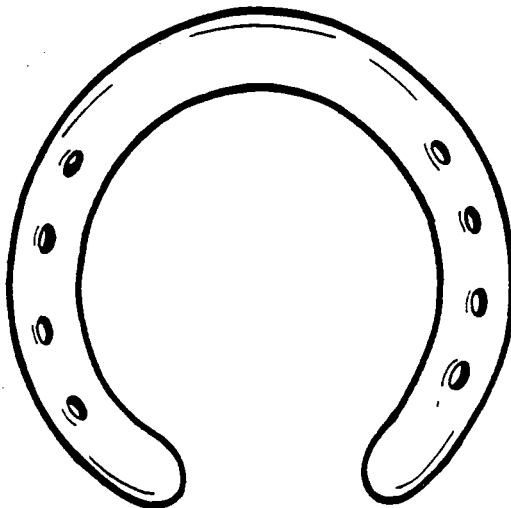
Shoes may be used to change gaits, aid in gripping the ground, correct faulty hoof structure or growth, and protect the hoof from such conditions as corns, contraction or cracks.

Color the horse with his new shoes.

Horses need good shoes.



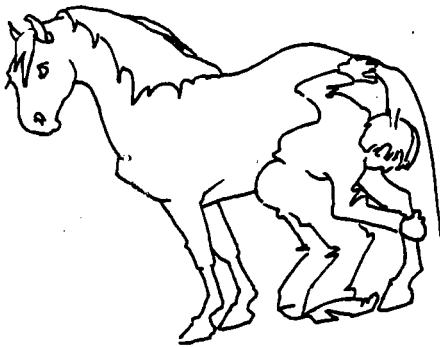
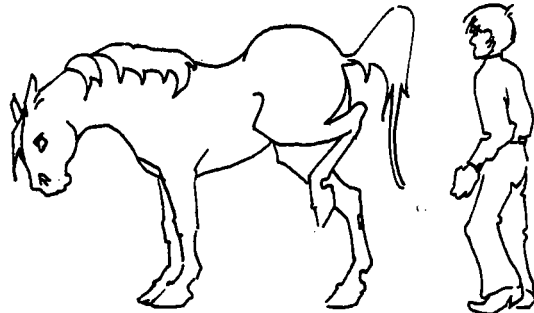
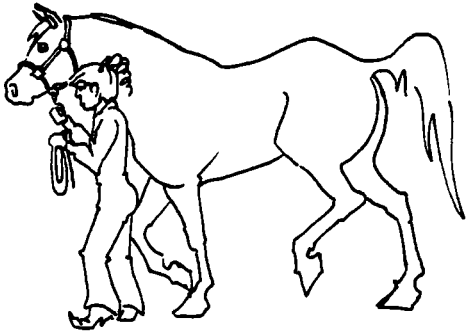
Count the nail holes in this horse shoe.



Follow safety rules around horses.

Circle pictures which show what to do.

Put an X through pictures which are not safe.



SAFETY AROUND HORSES

Some simple safety rules must be followed when working with or around a horse. For more detail order "Horse Safety Guidelines" MA1500A.

1. Always let the horse know that someone is around. A horse has very good hearing, but it cannot see in all directions.

Speak to the horse when approaching.

Approach a horse from the side, at a walk. Don't run up behind a horse as it might kick.

Be very careful when approaching a strange horse.

2. Stand in a "safe" position when working around a horse.

Stay in a position as near the shoulder as possible.

Never stand directly behind or in front of a horse. It may kick or jump forward quickly.

Do not walk UNDER any part of a horse, no matter how gentle the horse is.

Always walk around a horse out of kicking range.

Never walk under or step over the tie rope.

3. Practice safety rules when leading a horse.

Walk beside the horse's shoulder when leading. Do not walk ahead of or behind the horse.

Use a long lead strap and both hands when leading. If the horse rears up, release the hand nearest to the halter and keep both feet on the ground.

Never wrap the lead rope or reins around any part of the hand, wrist or body. The body could become tangled and be badly injured.

4. Keep the horse under control when riding.

When a horse is frightened and attempts to run, turn it in a circle and make the circle smaller until it stops.

When riding in groups, do not ride too close to the horse in front. Some horses kick when another gets too close.

Hold the horse to a walk when going up or down a steep hill.

Reduce speed when riding rough ground or in sand, mud, ice or snow where there is danger of the horse falling or slipping.

Don't let a horse run to and from the stables. Walk the first mile out and the last mile home.

5. Always watch for low tree limbs, wire, holes in the ground or other riding hazards.
6. Yelling, clowning around and acting silly has no place around horses. The horse could become frightened and someone might be hurt.

RESOURCES

Information on the specific breed may be secured from the Breed Registry Associations.

American Buckskin Registry Association
P.O. Box 1125
Anderson, Calif. 96007

American Hackney Horse Society
527 Madison Avenue
Room 725
New York, N. Y. 10022

American Paint Horse Association
P.O. Box 12487
Fort Worth, Texas 76116

American Quarter Horse Association
P. O. Box 200
Amarillo, Texas 79105

American Saddle Horse Breeders Association
929 South Fourth Street
Louisville, Ky. 40203

American Shetland Pony Club
P. O. Box 2339
West Lafayette, Ind. 47902

Appaloosa Horse Club, Inc.
Box 403
Moscow, Idaho 83843

Arabian Horse Club Registry of America
One Executive Park
7801 Belleview Avenue
Englewood, Colo. 80110

International Arabian Horse Association
224 East Olive Avenue
Burbank, California 91503

International Buckskin Horse Registry
P. O. Box 2194
Redding, California 96001

The Jockey Club
(Thoroughbred horses)
300 Park Avenue
New York, N. Y. 10022

Morgan Horse Club Inc., The
P. O. Box 2157
West Hartford, Conn 06117

Palomino Horse Association, The
Box 446
Chatsworth, Calif. 91311

Palomino Horse Breeders of America
P. O. Box 249
Mineral Wells, Texas 76067

Pinto Horse Association of America, Inc.
Box 3984
San Diego, Calif. 92103

Pony of the Americas Club, Inc.
P. O. Box 1447
Mason City, Iowa 50401

Tennessee Walking Horse Breeders'
Association of America
P. O. Box 286
Lewisburg, Tenn. 37091

Welsh Pony Society of America
202 North Chester Street
West Chester, Pennsylvania 19308

