



## Camino Real Region D-3 Rating Prep Guide (Revised for January 1, 2007 Standard)

Boxed changes are additions based upon the 2009 changes to the Standards of Proficiency

### How to Use This Guide

There are two sections to the Guide to help you prepare for your rating.

**Riding Expectations**—This section tells you the riding skills you will be tested on at your rating. You may want to take this list to your instructor and make sure you are comfortable with all aspects of the riding skills needed for your rating.

**Horse Management**—This section has all the horse management standards you will need to know for your rating. There is space for you to fill in the blanks and answer the questions. Be complete as possible, and share the information with other Pony Clubbers. Feel free to have the DC, or higher level members help you completely fill in the answers. This is a study guide for you, so you have the complete picture on each aspect of horse management. For sections that have multiple parts, like unsoundness, horse parts, etc., try to make a complete list, rather than just writing down a few answers.

When you are done with the rating, keep your Prep Guide. Each rating builds on the other, so you will see similar standards for the next level, just more detail, or a different aspect of the subject.

*Note on D-3 Rating: The D-3 Rating usually takes a half day. But the preparation just before the rating takes time, too. You are advised to set one whole day aside for the D-3 Rating in order to be properly prepared. The cleanliness of you and your horse will be scrutinized closely. Your answers should be complete and thoughtful. Make sure you and your instructor are comfortable in all aspects of the riding skills and you are sharp on Horse Management.*

Best of luck on your rating!

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## Information for D Candidates

### Requirements for Candidates (D-1 through D-3)

- Be a Pony Club Member in Good Standing, as defined by club policy, having paid local, regional and national dues and fees.
- Be a member of Pony Club for 1 month or more, no minimum age limit, except as defined by Club policies for joining.
- Attain each rating before next level is attempted.
- Have a thorough knowledge of requirements of the level being tested and be able to discuss and/or demonstrate any requirements from all previously attained standards.
- Candidate must be tested on and pass all sections of the test completely and in the appropriate area/arena/open terrain before being awarded the new Rating.
- Any special testing requests including exceptions or exemptions must be submitted to the USPC National Office, through the DC. These requests will be reviewed on an individual basis and the final decision for any exception will be the responsibility of the D-1 through C-2 Program Committee Chair and the Vice President of Instruction.

### Attire

Safe, workmanlike attire, including proper footwear, must be worn in the barn area and when working around mounts.

Refer to D Standards of Proficiency in this document, for proper inspection and mounted attire.

ASTM/ SEI approved headgear with full harness and with chin strap in place must be worn when mounted.

### Equipment

Saddlery and biting for USPC Testing should comply with the Horse Management General Rules on Saddlery and Biting and with the USPC Eventing Rules for Saddlery and Biting, D Level Riders. Whips, no longer than 43.3 inches (110 cm) including lash, will be allowed. Any rulebook change following publication of the current Horse Management Handbook will supersede these rules.

All bits with more than one point of attachment (i.e. gag, Pessoa, elevators) must have one rein attached so that the snaffle action of the bit is in effect. If other bit actions are to be used, two reins will be required. At the D level, converters will be allowed on Pelham bits. If the Pessoa type bit is used, a single rein may be attached to the first or second ring. If a third or lower ring is used, a second rein must be attached higher so that the snaffle action can be in effect when possible/desired.

### Testing Information

Testings may be held more often if practical for the club, but must be offered a minimum of twice a year. Testing dates are determined by the DC(s). By networking with other clubs within the Region to establish group ratings with other clubs, increased opportunities to rate can be made available to members.

A testing is designed to and should be conducted in one day if possible, or, if due to unforeseen circumstances such as weather or footing, it is not possible to complete a test in one day, all requirements must be tested/completed within a one-month period.

A testing shall be an instructional, working session, covering only requirements listed in the Standards but must not become a “lesson” on each section.

Oral testing or demonstration is required for all parts of the horse management phase. Written tests are not allowed.

Upon recommendation of the Examiner only, a candidate who does not meet standards on not more than one-third of tested sections may be retested within one month on only the sections not passed including riding sections.

There is no set time limit between taking any of the D- Level Tests, but each rating must be attained in the proper order and no levels may be skipped.

Borrowing/ sharing of suitable mounts for a D-Level testing is allowed, but only if the rider is familiar with the mount and has ridden it prior to the testing, both on the flat and over fences successfully and safely at the level being tested.

### Appropriate Horse

It is the responsibility of the candidate and his/ her parent(s) or guardian to bring an appropriate mount to the testing. The conditioned mount must be capable of completing the flat and jumping phases at the heights indicated at the appropriate levels. Embracing USPC’s commitment to safety for all horses and riders is of the utmost importance. Failing to follow these guidelines will make it difficult for the candidate to meet the standard on that given day.

### Presentation of the Mount for Inspection

Stand by mount, on near side, with Examiner, facing rear, reins in left hand below bit, slack in right, changing sides with Examiner.

Braiding is not allowed.

### Examiners (D-1 through C-2)

Examiners are to be chosen by the DC(s).

Examiners should be selected with care, should be completely knowledgeable of the Standards of Proficiency at the level(s) they are testing, as well as the level(s) above and below the one(s) they are testing.

Examiners should be familiar with the Standards D through A. Examiners should be sensitive to young people and conduct the test in an educational framework.

Examiners must be furnished a copy of all the USPC Standards, test, and study guides prior to testing.

The Examiners must set the tone of the testing as a teaching situation, making every effort to draw the best from each candidate, without allowing the test to become a lesson on the skill in question.

Care should be taken throughout a testing to encourage the candidates to express what they know, rather than what the Examiner knows.

Examiners should bear in mind that there may be a range from adequate to superior, and anyone within that range, i.e. that meets Standard or better, should pass.

Refer to the current D-1 through C-2 testing guidelines, testing organizers guide, and the USPC Examiners Handbook, available online at [www.ponyclub.org](http://www.ponyclub.org) under Forms and Publications.

## Riding Test Expectations

*Candidate should ride without lead line, demonstrating basic balanced position in an enclosed area at the halt and walk, and control at the walk and trot.*

## Riding on the Flat

Ride on flat using Riding Test Expectations.

USPC D Manual, pages

- Mount and dismount, with assistance if necessary.
- ~~Hold reins correctly at the halt.~~
- Shorten and lengthen reins correctly at the halt.
- Demonstrate basic correct position at the halt and walk.
- Ride at the walk and trot, with control, keeping mount on rail.
- Demonstrate simple change of direction at the walk and trot.

Pick up and hold reins correctly at halt.

Pick up stirrups at halt.

## Riding Over Fences

Ride over fences using Riding Test Expectations.

- Walk over poles on the ground in jumping position
- Discuss with Examiner the reason for different positions when riding on the flat and over fences.

## Horse Management Expectations

*The candidate is a beginning-level horse manager, willing to learn the simple routines necessary for safe handling of quiet, well-trained mounts. Knowledge will vary widely depending on age, educational level, and experience.*

## Turn Out/Tack

Rider in safe and neat attire: collared shirt with long or short sleeves, long pants with shirt tucked in, short or tall riding boots or shoes that cover the ankle and have a boot heel, Pony Club pin and an ASTM/SEI approved helmet.

Long hair neatly up or back.

Half-chaps, gloves, show coat and belt optional.

No inappropriate jewelry.

**Mount neatly brushed; feet picked out (with assistance); showing farrier care.**

D Manual, pages 293-295

- **Pony should be brushed, with no dirt or sweat marks showing.**
- **Mane and tail should be clean, with no dandruff.**
- **Nose and dock should be wiped clean.**
- **Hooves should show no dirt anywhere.**
- **Hooves picked out and perfectly clean. Shoes in good repair. If pony does not have shoes, know why.**

**Tack safe and neat (properly adjusted with assistance if necessary).**

D Manual, pages 292-293

- **Bridle should fit properly with noseband and cheek piece correctly fitted. No dirt, dust or jockeys should show.**
- **Pad should show no dirt (get as clean as you can) and fit with the saddle.**
- **Saddle should properly fit horse. If school tack explain any fit problems.**
- **Saddle should be clean (no jockeys, dirt or dust), well-conditioned and supple. If the saddle is new, explain to instructor what you have done to condition it so far.**

- **If you are using a martingale, it should be clean and properly fitted. Take it off for flat work.**
- **Leathers should be adjusted for flat work. They should show no signs of wear or breakage.**
- **Stirrups should be shining. Pads should be white.**

## Conditioning

**Know one reason for cooling out mount after exercise.**

D Manual page 162

1.

## Nutrition

**Know how to give water, grain, hay, and tidbit to a mount safely.**

D Manual, pages 186-190

**Water:**

**Grain:**

**Hay:**

**Tidbit:**

## Stable Management

**Groom mount with brush and curry comb, pick out feet, with assistance.**

D Manual, pages 167-173

**Step-by-step description for grooming:**

**Tack up and untack mount, with assistance.**

**Describe each step you do to tack up your horse:**

**Describe each step you do to untack your horse:**

**Know two reasons for cleaning tack.**

D Manual, pages 253-255

1.

2.

**Name 10 parts of saddle and bridle.**

D Manual, pages 248-252

1.

6.

2.

7.

3.

8.

4.

9.

5.

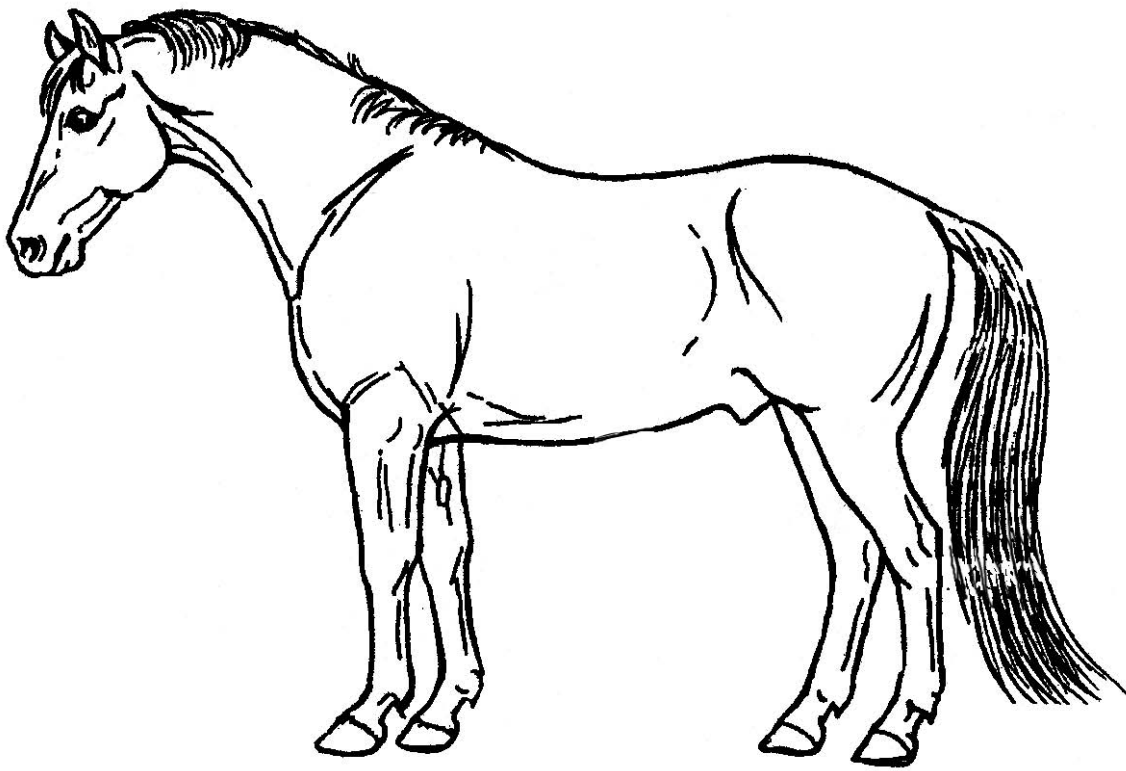
10.

## Pony Parts, Conformation & Lameness

Name any 10 parts of the mount

D Manual, page 231

Fill in any 10 pony parts on the diagram below



2009 Addition:

Bring stall card for own mount to test.

## Travel Safety

**Know basic rules of safe riding in a group, in an enclosed area.**

D Manual, pages 219-220

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.

## Health Care & Veterinary Knowledge

**Discuss what a veterinarian is.**

D Manual 209-214

**Give one reason the vet might treat your mount.**

D Manual 209-214

## Land Conservation

**Verbally list three different places in your area where you see horse activities taking place. Include where you have your Pony Club mounted meetings.**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

## Leading & Longeing

**Approach mount safely, put on halter, lead and turn correctly and safely.**

D Manual, page 137

**What side of the pony should you be on?**

**Where should your hands be?**

**How should you hold the lead rope?**

**How do you turn your pony?**

## Foot & Shoeing

**Give one reason to pick out feet.**

D Manual, page 199