



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

Boxed Items 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!

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 under Forms and Publications.

Riding Test Expectations

Candidate should ride without lead line, demonstrating control, while maintaining a safe, basic balanced position at the walk and trot and should begin to develop the canter and jumping position. No need to canter over fences

Riding on the Flat

Ride on flat using Riding Test Expectations.

Mount and dismount independently (using mounting block if necessary).

Shorten and lengthen reins at halt and walk.

Perform balancing and suppling exercises for rider at walk and halt and discuss 1 or 2 reasons for doing this.

Ride at the walk, performing simple turns and large circles.

Ride without stirrups at the walk.

Ride at the trot on correct diagonal, performing simple turns and large circles.

**Ride at the canter in both directions in an enclosed area and be aware of leads.
Discuss performance with Examiner, indicating whether or not mount was on correct lead.**

Discuss performance

Demonstrate emergency dismount at the walk.

Riding Over Fences

Ride over fences using Riding Test Expectations.

Maintain jumping position at the trot on the flat and over ground poles.

~~In an enclosed area, ride a simple stadium course of four to five obstacles not to exceed 18".~~

Discuss with Examiner ways to improve ride.

In an enclosed area, ride a simple stadium course fo 4 - 5 obstacles of cross bars and verticles, (no spreads) not to exceed 18".

Riding in the Open

Ride safely and considerately on public and private property, in a group, at the walk and trot.

Ride with control, up and down hills, at the walk and trot. ~~Jump simple and natural obstacles, not to exceed 18" (no ditches or banks).~~

Jump a minimum of three simple and natural obstacles, not to exceed 18". No ditches, banks or water. May be jumped at the trot.

Horse Management Expectation

The candidate should be able to demonstrate simple skills, with assistance if necessary, and should understand the basic reasons for the everyday routines of caring for own mount.

Turn Out/Tack

Ride in safe and neat attire:

collared shirt with long or short sleeves

breeches, jodhpurs or riding tights with shirt tucked in

short or tall 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, 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 and if they are put on certain times, etc.

Tack safe and clean, with attention to stitching, girth, stirrups (properly adjusted by Examiner 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.
- Leathers should be adjusted for flat work. They should show no signs of wear or breakage.
- Stirrups should be shining. Pads should be white.

Apply (with assistance of examiner if needed) protective boots and bell boots, if appropriate, to mount's leg.

- Have boots available to apply on horse.
- Know what the boots protect and why those areas need protection.

Conditioning

Know basic condition of own mount.

D Manual, pages 195-198

- Is pony fit and ready for work?
- What kind of work can the pony do?
- Are there any special things you need to watch for with this pony (jumping limitations, etc.)

Describe ways to know if mount is properly cooled out.

D Manual, page 166

1.

2.

3.

Nutrition

Know 3-5 basic rules for feeding and explain feeding schedule for own mount.

D Manual, pages 192-192

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Give feeding schedule of own mount:

Stable Management

Groom mount; pick out feet with assistance if needed.

D Manual, pages 170-173

Please give a step-by-step description for grooming:

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

Name five grooming tools and ~~explain how to use them.~~

D Manual, pages 169-170

demonstrate how to use them.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Tack up and untack independently.

D Manual, pages 148-154

Describe each step you do to tack up your horse.

Describe each step you do to do untack your horse.

List three examples of unsafe equipment.

D Manual, pages 258-262

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Name three common stable vices

D Manual, pages 180-182

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Name *and* describe six colors of mounts.

D Manual, pages 232-233

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

Name *and* describe five markings of ponies.

D Manual, pages 232-233

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Name four horse or pony breeds

D Manual, pages 242-243

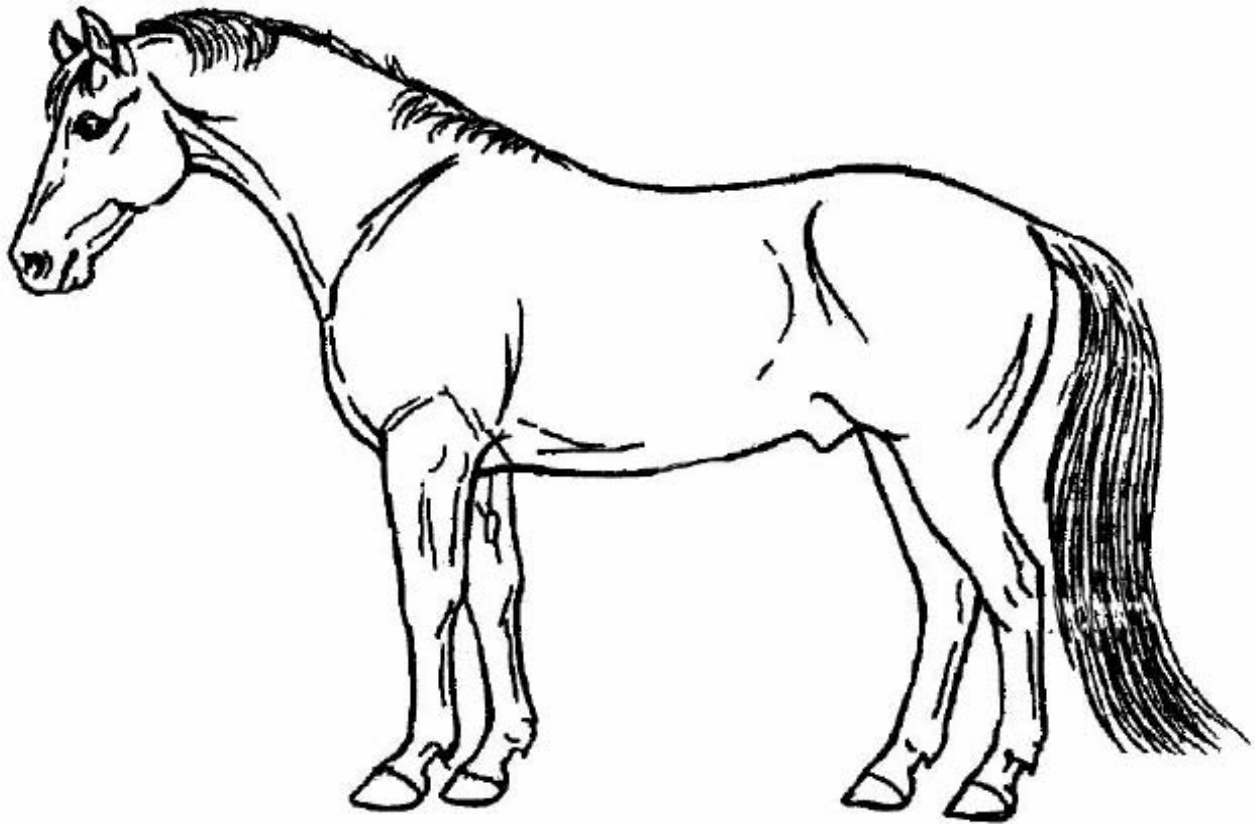
- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Pony Parts, Conformation & Lameness

Name any 15 parts of the mount

D Manual, pages 231, 201

Name any 15 parts of the pony below



Bring a stall card for own mount to test.

Discuss what we put on a stall card.

Travel Safety

Know the basic rules for riding on public roads in your state.

D Manual, pages 220-221

Name two ways you can help your mount be safe in a trailer.

D Manual, pages 222-228

1.

2.

Health Care & Veterinary Knowledge

Give two reasons to have your mount routinely checked by a veterinarian.

D Manual, pages 209-210

1.

2.

Land Conservation

Talk with grandparents, parents, instructors and/or older friends/neighbors about where they rode when they were young and how it is different from today.

Tell of the different experiences you learned:

Leading & Longeing

Lead mount correctly in hand and while tacked up.

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?

Demonstrate walk-halt-walk transitions in hand.

Lead mount in and out of stall safely, tie up in appropriate place with quick-release knot.

D Manual, page 144

Foot & Shoeing

Know reasons for daily foot care.

D Manual, pages 199-200

1.

2.

3.

Give two reasons why the farrier regularly checks your mount.

D Manual, page 206

1.

2.

Bandaging

Give two reasons why you would bandage your pony's leg(s).

D Manual, page 216

1.

2.