



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 in a basic balanced position with control at the walk, trot, and canter. Candidate should maintain a secure base of support while developing balance and a steady position over fences.

Riding on the Flat

Demonstrate correct mounting (using mounting block if necessary). Adjust stirrups and girth with feet in stirrups while mounted at the halt. Perform balancing and suppling exercises for rider at walk and trot under direction of examiner.

Ride mount on flat demonstrating 20 meter circles showing correct positioning in both directions at walk, at sitting and rising trot with correct diagonals and at the canter with correct leads. Ride without stirrups at the sitting trot.

Demonstrate an increase and decrease of speed alone or with others as appropriate.

Demonstrate a halt followed by a simple step back. Demonstrate emergency dismount at the trot.

Discuss performance with examiner including rider's basic balanced position, and whether or not circles were round and natural aids were used correctly.

Riding Over Fences

Ride over fences using Riding Test Expectations.

Ride over small gymnastic grid of trot poles followed by a cross rail, then a vertical not to exceed 2'6" set at appropriate distances for mount's stride.

Jump a simple stadium course of 5 - 7 obstacles. The majority of fences should be set at but not exceed 2'6". Discuss performance, reasons for any disobediences.

Riding in the Open

- Ride safely with a group at the walk and trot, over varied terrain, through shallow water and small ditches as occur in natural terrain (ditches to be unrevetted).
- ~~Jump simple cross-country obstacles, not to exceed 2'6".~~ D-3 speed should not exceed 240 meters per minute or 300 meters per minute appropriate or the size of mount.
- Discuss ways to control a mount in the open.
- Discuss performance with Examiners.

Jump 4 - 5 simple cross-country obstacles. The majority of fences should be set at, but not exceed, 2'6".

Horse Management Expectations

The candidate should be able to demonstrate simple skills without assistance, and to discuss care of the mount, using common horse terms.

Turn Out/Tack

Rider in safe, neat, clean attire: Collared shirt (polo, turtleneck, dress shirt or ratcatcher) with long or short sleeves, breeches, jodhpurs or riding tights with shirt tucked in, belt (if belt loops), tall boots or paddock boots with or without half chaps, Pony Club pin and ASTM/SEI approved helmet. Long hair neatly up or back. Gloves, neckwear and show coat optional. No inappropriate jewelry.

Mount to be well brushed (no sweat), clean (no dirt), with feet picked out, showing farrier care. Mane and tail brushed and eyes, nose, lips and dock wiped off.

Tack to be safe - especially stitching on stirrups/girth - and clean, - no jockeys or dust, stress points clean, stirrup pads (if used) clean, and bit clean. All tack must be properly adjusted.

Describe proper adjustment of the snaffle bridle with cavesson noseband. Describe proper adjustment of curb chain if appropriate.

Conditioning/Nutrition

Know 5-7 basic rules of feeding.

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

Describe care of mount after strenuous work, to include cooling out, inspection of legs, watering and feeding.

Know vital signs of mount at rest.

Temperature:

Pulse:

Respiration:

Discuss the amount of roughage and the amount of concentrates per ration for own mount.

Stable Management

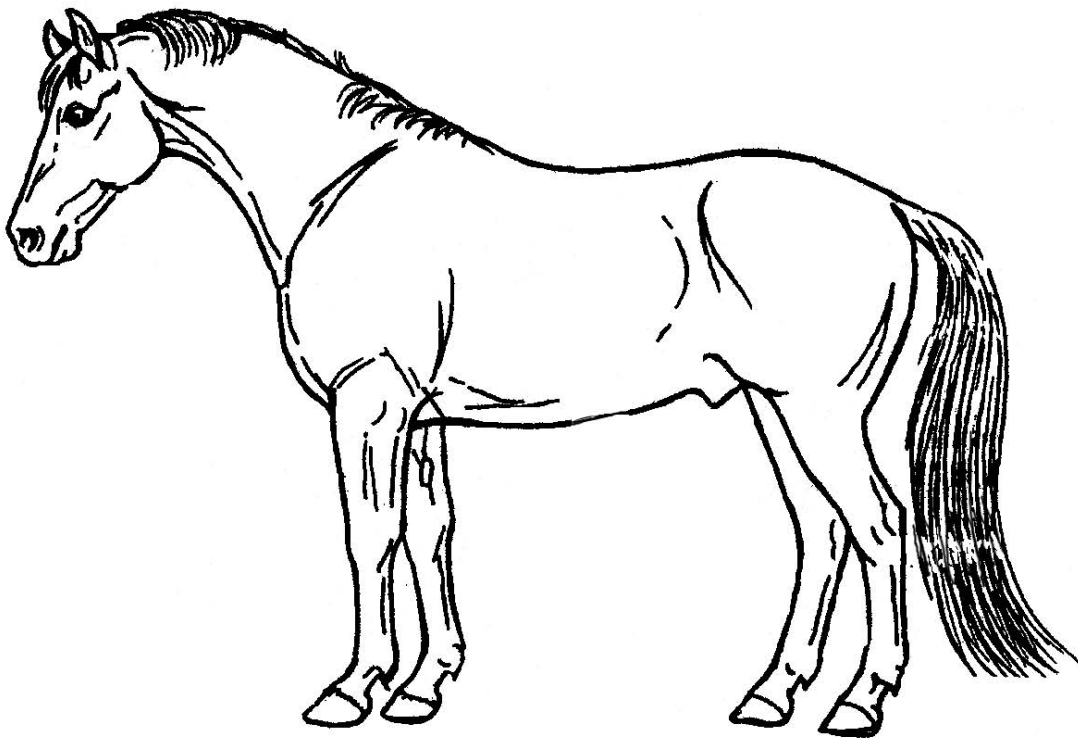
Demonstrate and discuss how to clean a dirty/soiled stall. Demonstrate the proper steps and methods for removing manure and wet areas, how to bank a stall, and discuss the reasons for and benefits of regular stall cleaning for the health and safety of your mount. For testing purposes, a soiled horse trailer may be used.

Demonstrate and discuss the proper methods of hanging a water bucket and hay net, hanging both at a proper height for you mount, at either a trailer or stall. Discuss the different needs of your horse during a day rally or clinic, or overnight stay.

Pony Parts, Conformation & Lameness

Describe how to measure height of mount.

Identify at least 20 parts of the mount, to include hock, gaskin, withers, croup, fetlock, pastern, etc.



Know common conformation faults of neck, back, shoulder, head and pasterns.

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

Describe the characteristics of a strange mount clearly enough for another person to recognize it within a group.

Include: color, breed, markings, size, sex, and obvious conformation characteristics.

Travel Safety

Know rules for riding safely on public roads in your state.

Know procedure for mounted group crossing a public roadway.

Discuss the proper procedure for loading and unloading a mount.

Record Book

- **The D-3 is expected to keep careful records of veterinary visits, and general health of mount.**
- **Record Book must be brought to the test.**
- **A minimum of three months of records is required.**
- **Records should reflect appropriate depth of knowledge for this level.**

Health Care & Veterinary Knowledge

Name some symptoms of a sick or injured mount that would cause you to seek help.

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

Introduction to Horse Sports

Name five horse sports that are offered in USPC.

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

Teaching

- **D-3s are encouraged to assist D-1s and D-2s during unmounted Pony Club activities -- not mounted activities.**
- **No child is responsible for the safety of another child. There must always be adult supervision.**

Land Conservation

Name three important rules when riding across privately-owned land.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Write thank-you notes to two landowners who support your club and tell them why you appreciate being able to use their land.

If you ride on public land, write a thank-you note to the manager or contact person.

Leading & Longeing

- Lead correctly, moving mount forward with whip or assistance (if necessary).
- Do walk-trot-walk-halt transitions in hand.
- Lead safely from both sides.

Foot & Shoeing

Describe obvious signs of a foot needing shoeing or trimming.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Bandaging

Describe critical areas protected by shipping bandages or boots and give reasons for their use.

Shipping Bandages:

Shipping Boots:

Apply protective boots (with supervision) on own mount.

~~Apply stable wrap with assistance.~~