

Order of grooming



Teacher Copy

(USPC D Manual, 2nd Edition, p184-186)

Why groom:

- a. to check him for injuries or problems
- b. to prevent sores from dirt under tack
- c. to condition his skin and make the coat shiny
- d. to promote good circulation of the blood
- e. it feels good to the horse

When to groom:

- a. check pony everyday
- b. before you saddle
- c. after you ride to remove sweat

The ORDER of Grooming

1. Tie up your horse

- use breakaway halter
- use quick release knot

2. Pick out feet.

- use brush to clean off front of hoof
- check each shoe (on tight and clinches smooth)

3. Rubber or plastic currycomb to break up caked on mud & stimulate skin

- rub in circles
- start at top of neck, work back and down
- don't use on head, lower legs
- metal currycombs are never used on horses - they are for cleaning other brushes

4. Dandy brush to take away dirt stirred up by currycomb

- start at top of neck
- short, snappy strokes to flick away the dirt
- don't use in areas where the horse has been clipped
- another name for Dandy brush is "hard brush" and "stiff brush"

5. Body brush to clean away dust and scruff

- start at the top
- use short, firm strokes in direction of hair

- clean the brush after a few strokes
- can be used everywhere, every where clipped
- another name for body brush = **soft brush**
- it is the best brush for getting horse's coat clean & shiny

6. **Mane and tail**

- pick out the big twigs, burrs, etc.
- separate the tangles by hand, a small section at a time
- start at the **BOTTOM**, work up, use a mane brush, plastic comb, or dandy brush.
- try not to break or pull the hair
- **stand off to one side** when working on the tail

7. **Rub the coat**

- use rub rag or stable rubber
- bear down and rub firmly, in long strokes in direction of the hair
- rubbing warms up the skin, brings out the oils, and make the **coat shiny and sleek**

The following areas of your horse should always be checked, and the task is optional if no signs of dirt or distress exist.

8. **Clean head and face with small, soft face brush**

* optional - can use soft (body) brush instead

9. **Clean eyelids, nose, lips**

- use damp sponge or cotton balls

10. clean the **dock and sheath/utter**

- use a separate sponge

11. **hoof dressing**

- wipe away excess

12. **tame the mane**

- wet water brush to dampen the roots of the mane
- brush it neatly to the **right side** of the neck

13. **fly spray**

USPC Rating Requirements: D1 groom mount with assistance // D2 Groom mount & pick out feet

