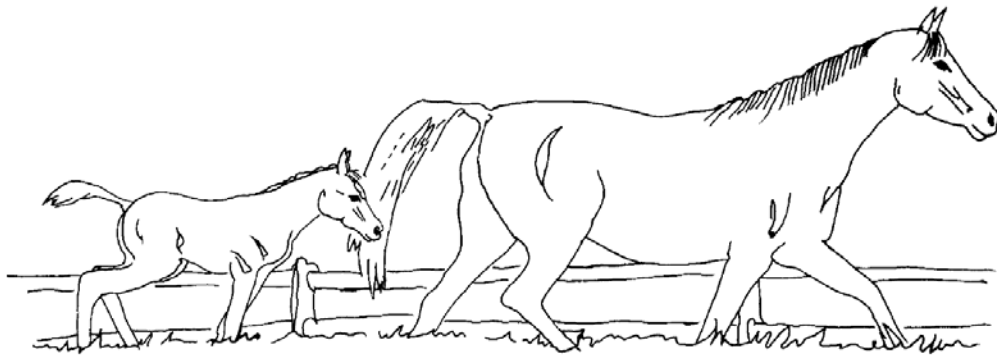




# Minnesota 4-H Horseless Horse Project

## Leaders Guide



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## Introduction

### ***Project Objectives***

The horseless horse project is designed for those 4-Hers who have an interest in horses, but do not own or lease a horse. Some 4-Hers may have an interest in purchasing or leasing a horse but would like to learn about the care required before taking on this responsibility. Others may not be able to make purchasing or leasing a possibility, but would like experiences in learning about horses.

Project objectives include:

- The opportunity to learn about the horse
- Gain knowledge of major breeds, colors, gaits, and safety
- Enhanced appreciation for the value of the horse and an understanding of the care requirements
- Development of sportsmanship, responsibility, cooperation, decision-making, and public speaking skills

### ***Leader Responsibilities***

The project will be a more rewarding one for 4-Hers with the guidance of volunteers who have knowledge of horses, safety precautions, and care requirements. As a club or county leader, you may find some of the following suggestions helpful. The planning guide and calendar is made up of suggestions - you may choose to use some of these suggestions or may find that other approaches work better for your club or county. You may want to begin by conducting only one project meeting the first year.

The horseless project is an excellent opportunity for youth leaders within the club or county who are enrolled in the horse project to take on leadership responsibilities. They may wish to work with adult leaders in planning club or county project meetings and/or horseless horse/host farm arrangements. In some counties, horse project youth leaders conduct all the horseless horse project meetings with assistance and guidance from adult leaders.

### ***Horseless Project Information***

Horseless horse project members are considered to be members of the horse project and as such are invited to all horse project meetings, clinics, etc.

Horseless members may opt to participate in the Minnesota 4-H Horse Member Achievement Program. (Ask your Extension Office for a copy of Minnesota 4-H Horse Member Achievement Program booklet.).

Each county should have a "Horseless Horse" exhibit opportunity at the county fair. Each county is allowed one or two horseless horse exhibit as well as one horse related exhibit (for horse project members with horses) at the Minnesota State 4-H Horse Show in September.

Counties may or may not choose to provide opportunities for the Horseless Horse/Host Farm Opportunity (refer to Horseless Horse Project Record). The implementation of such a program is up to each county. Information on how this has been done in some

counties in Minnesota is included. Horse project leader approval of host farms is strongly advised. If you would like more information on the implementation of a host farm program contact your County Extension Office.

## **Project Meetings**

### ***Horseless Horse Leader Planning Guide and Calendar***

#### **October - December:**

Recruitment - ask members and/or leaders in local clubs to promote the horseless project and inform 4-H members as to what the project involves and provides for 4-H members.

Obtain a list of horse project and horseless project members from the Extension Office.

Request that youth leaders in the horse project to consider assisting in leadership planning and directing horseless project meetings.

Begin planning project meetings and develop and/or review the county horseless horse/host farm agreement and policies.

Inform the Extension Office of date, time, and location for first project meeting.

#### **January - March:**

Plan and conduct the first project meeting. You may include a survey which indicates what the project members hope to do and learn which will help you plan future meeting topics.

Inform all horseless project members that they are eligible to work on and pass steps in the Horse Achievement program. Make achievement books and bulletins available.

Explain the Knowledge Bowl. Provide contact information. You may want to invite the members or coaches of existing bowl teams to explain the process.

Evaluate the meeting activities. Use survey results to begin planning the next two project meetings. Request assistance from youth leaders and other project leaders as needed.

Inform the Extension Office of date, time, and location for the second project meeting

#### **February - April:**

Plan and conduct the second project meeting with the assistance of youth leaders.

Evaluate the activities and learning with youth leaders.

Explain Hippology and Judging Teams. Provide contact information. You may want to invite the members or coaches of existing teams to explain the process.

Inform the Extension Office of date, time, and location for the third project meeting.

Begin preliminary matching of horseless horse members and host farms.

Request that horse project member families and/or other horse owners to host a horseless member at their farm at least two times throughout the months of May, June, July, and August.

Make sure that horseless members and host farms are aware of the policies and rules regarding the host farm agreement in your county.

**March - May:**

Plan and conduct the third project meeting of the year with the assistance of youth leaders.

The last meeting should include suggestions for possible horse related and horseless horse exhibits for the county fair. Show samples if possible and brain-storm other exhibit ideas.

Evaluate the activities and learning with youth leaders.

Inform horseless members and host farms of the matching and request that the host farms make contact with the horseless members and plan the first farm visit as soon as possible. (Some counties request that members find and/or contact a host farm.)

Suggestions for activities during farm visits:

- Proper Ways to Approach a Horse or Pony,
- Leading and Tying,
- Grooming,
- Feeding,
- Health Care,
- Facilities and their Care,
- Preparation for a Show,
- Showmanship,
- Saddling, Bridling
- Trail Riding Precautions

Consider and possibly make plans for horseless members to have the option of showing the host farms' horses in a showmanship class and/or a walk-trot class. This option depends on the temperament of the horse, the willingness of the host farm, and the age and abilities of the horseless member.

Safety must always be the first consideration during farm visits by the horseless member.

**June:**

Make sure that contacts have been made between horseless members and host farms and that farm visits have begun.

Encourage all horseless members to take advantage of the opportunities provided for them at horse project clinics, etc.

Remind horseless members that they may complete steps in the horse achievement program. Give them all necessary information as to how this is done and approved.

**July:**

Make sure that all horseless members are aware of their options as to exhibiting in the project at the county fair.

Check to make sure that farm visits are proceeding to the satisfaction of all parties involved. If not, help to make any necessary changes.

**August - September:**

Request suggestions from all members and leaders as to beneficial changes in the project for the next year. Make notes on these suggestions for use in future planning.

***Sample of Horseless Horse Project Meetings*****January**

Introduction to project and resources - evaluation of knowledge

Safety, approaching and handling, safety release knot

Health care and nutrition

Grooming

Evaluation and survey of possible future project meeting topics

**March**

Information about Horseless Horse/Host Farm arrangements

Showmanship

Games

Parts of the Horse - work in groups with junior leaders

Questions and answers about the horseless horse and horse projects

**April**

Announcement - Horseless Horse/ Host Farm Agreements should be returned to the Extension Office by \_\_\_\_\_

Riding Styles

Markings and Coat Colors

Telling a Horse's Age by the Teeth

Western Horsemanship

Explore step one of Minnesota 4-H Horse Achievement Program (or possibly set up another time to work with those who are interested.)

***Horseless Horse Project Meeting Topics***

## Possible Topics for Future Meetings

Please place a #1 in front of your first choice topic, #2 for second choice and so on up to #a. PLEASE write in and number any additional topics you would like to learn about at our project meetings.

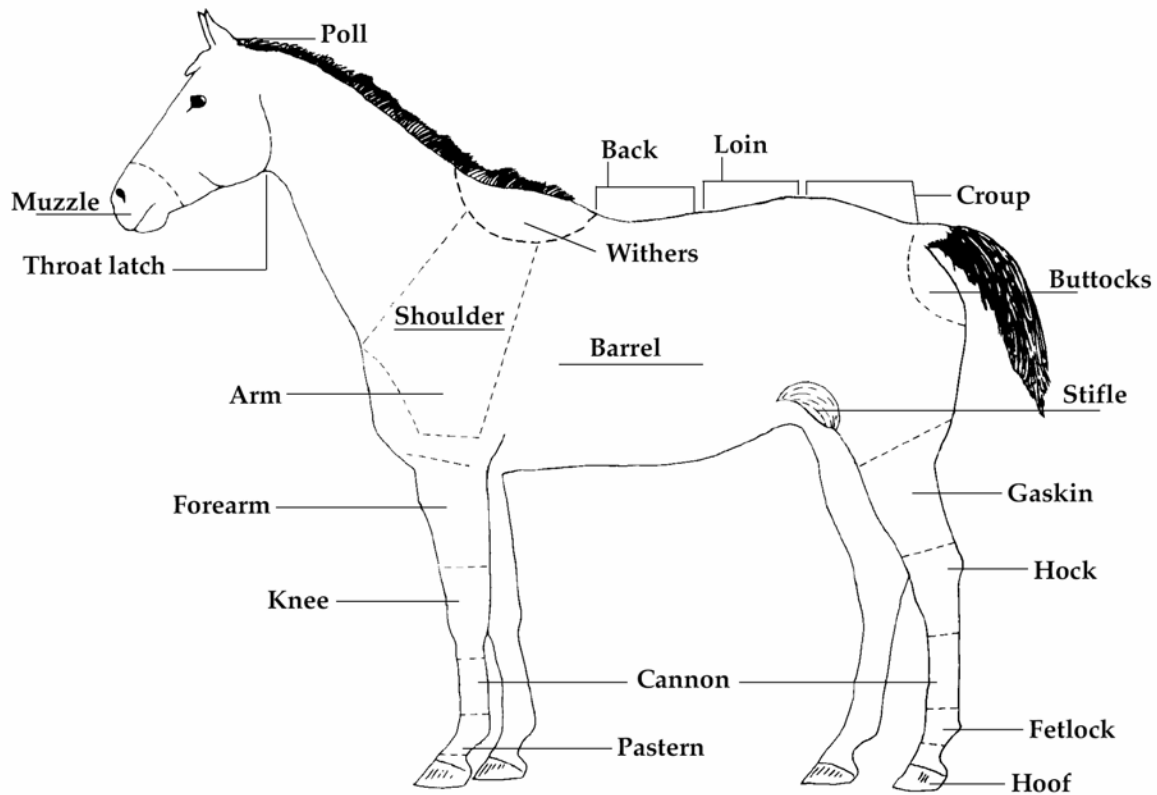
- \_\_\_\_\_ Markings and Coat Colors
- \_\_\_\_\_ Breeds
- \_\_\_\_\_ Tack (equipment) - saddles, bridles, bits, halters, blankets, etc.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Facilities - fencing and housing, boarding information
- \_\_\_\_\_ How to Purchase a Horse
- \_\_\_\_\_ Telling a Horse's Age by Looking at it's Teeth
- \_\_\_\_\_ Parts of the Horse
- \_\_\_\_\_ Hoof Care and Farrier Work
- \_\_\_\_\_ Riding Styles
- \_\_\_\_\_ Showmanship
- \_\_\_\_\_ Western Pleasure and Horsemanship
- \_\_\_\_\_ English Pleasure and Equitation
- \_\_\_\_\_ Games (pole weaving, pole bending, barrel racing, jumping figure 8, keyhole, etc.)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Trail Class
- \_\_\_\_\_ Uses of the Horse
- \_\_\_\_\_ Basic Leading and Tying
- \_\_\_\_\_ Health Problems and Diseases
- \_\_\_\_\_ How to Catch, Halter, Bridle, and Saddle a Horse
- \_\_\_\_\_ Gaits and Action
- \_\_\_\_\_ Basic Rules of Good Horsemanship
- \_\_\_\_\_ Preparation for Showing
- \_\_\_\_\_ Minnesota Horse Project Achievement Program
- \_\_\_\_\_ Exhibit, Project Ideas
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

## Activity Worksheets

The worksheets on the following pages can be used at meetings as activities or to aid in discussion of the subject.

### Worksheet Answers –

#### Parts of the Horse





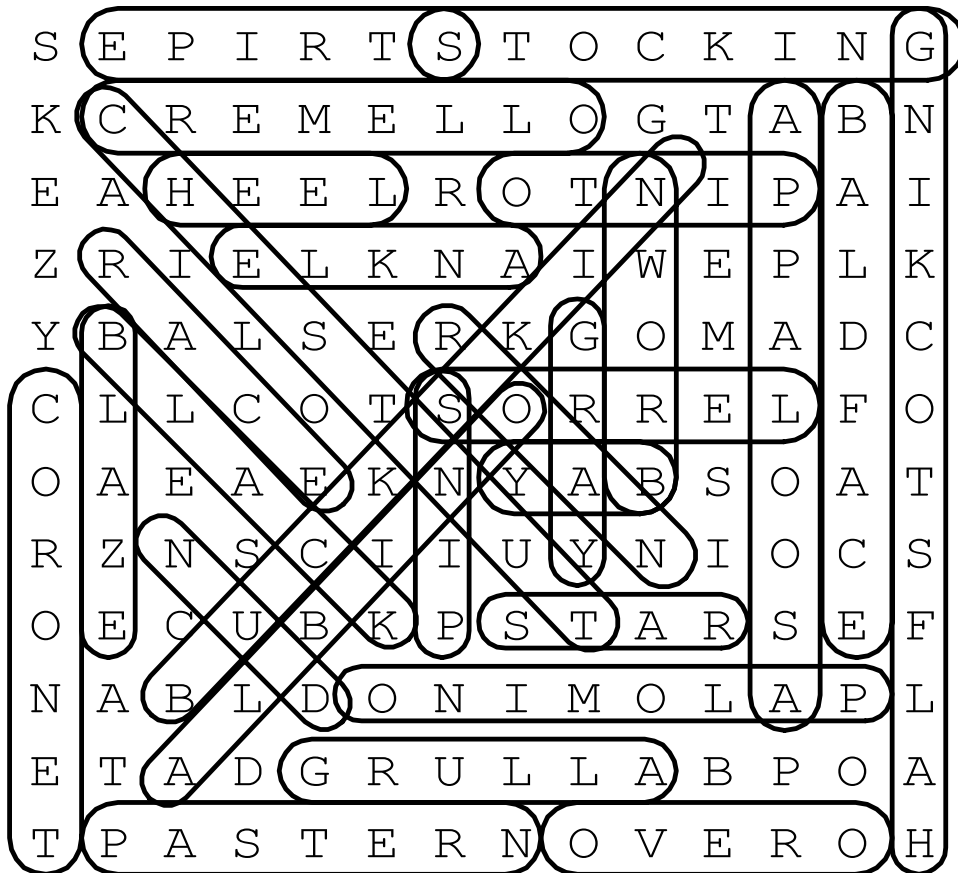
## Safety - Approaching and Handling

1. Before approaching your horse, **speak** to avoid startling him.
2. When petting your horse, don't first reach for his nose. Instead reach for his **neck** because **the nose is a blind spot**.
3. To stay out of kicking range, work near the **shoulder** and the **hip** of your horse so that you will **not be kicked**.
4. Be calm and confident around your horse. If you are nervous, **the horse is nervous**.
5. Let your horse know who is master by being **firm** and **kind**
6. When tying your horse, always use a **two foot** length of rope.
7. A horse can not see things that are directly in **front** and **back** of him.
8. When leading a horse, it is best to walk **beside** the horse.

## Selection and Judging Worksheet

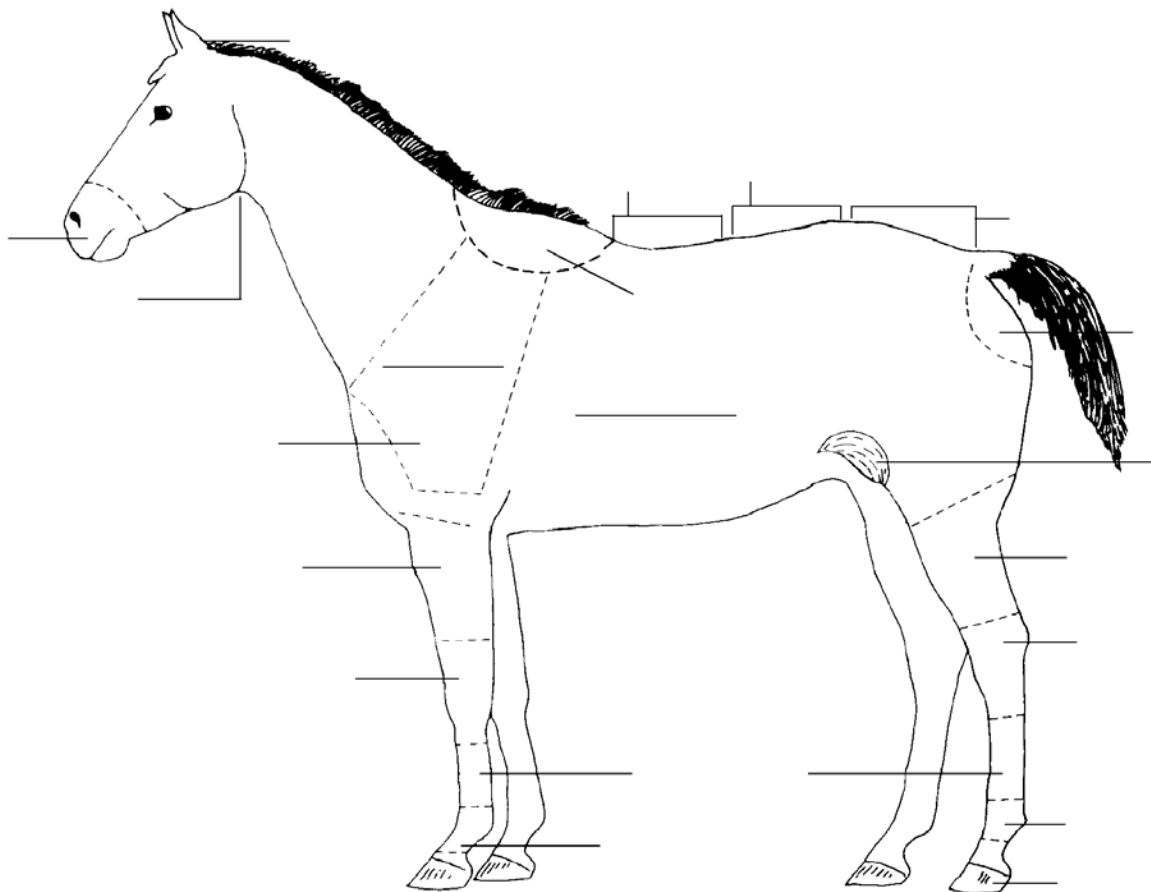
<b>A</b>	Mare	A mature female horse
<b>M</b>	Jog	A slow trot used in western classes, a two-beated gait
<b>D</b>	Colt	A male horse up to 3 years old
<b>I</b>	Conformation	Structure, form, and symmetrical arrangement of the parts of a horse
<b>J</b>	Walk	A slow, natural, flat-footed, four-beat gait
<b>B</b>	Stallion	An unaltered male horse
<b>H</b>	Breed	A group of horses with similar characteristics as a result of breeding to suit a particular purpose.
<b>E</b>	Filly	A female horse up to 3 years old
<b>C</b>	Gelding	An altered or castrated male horse
<b>G</b>	Hand	Used to measure a horse's height; equals 4 inches
<b>F</b>	Foal	A colt or filly under 1 year old
<b>N</b>	Canter	A three-beat gait, a moderate, easy collected gallop
<b>O</b>	Lope	The western adaptation of a slow canter, smooth three-beat gait in which the head is carried relatively low
<b>L</b>	Extended Trot	A two-beat gait that is faster and stronger than the normal trot
<b>K</b>	Trot	A two-beat diagonal gait at medium speed with moderate collection

### Horse Color and Marking Puzzle



**Parts of the Horse**

Here is a puzzle to test your knowledge. Print the name of the part of the horse at the end of the line pointing to the part. You may also cut out the names and paste them on.

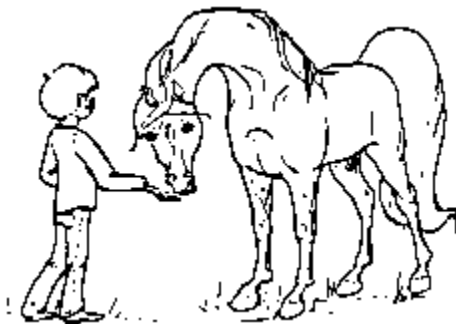


Arm	Croup	Hoof	Shoulder
Back	Fetlock	Knee	Stifle Poll
Barrel	Forearm	Loin	Throat Latch
Buttocks	Gaskin	Muzzle	Withers
Cannon	Hock	Pastern	

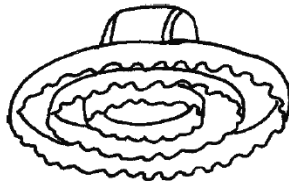
**Safety - Approaching and Handling**

Thinking about what you have learned about horse safety, use your own words to fill in the blanks.

1. Before approaching your horse \_\_\_\_\_ to avoid startling him.
2. When petting your horse, don't first reach for his nose. Instead reach for his \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_.
3. To stay out of kicking range, work near the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of your horse so that you will \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Be calm and confident around your horse. If you are nervous \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Let your horse know who is master by being \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
6. When tying your horse always use a \_\_\_\_\_ length of rope.
7. A horse can not see things that are directly in \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of him.
8. When leading a horse, it is best to walk \_\_\_\_\_ the horse.

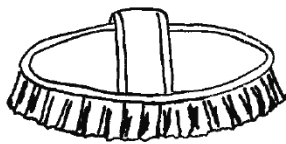


### Grooming Aids



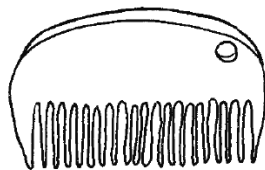
loosens dirt and dust

1 \_\_\_\_\_



a finishing touch

2 \_\_\_\_\_



to remove snarls from mane and tail

3 \_\_\_\_\_



to remove dirt and stones from hoof

4 \_\_\_\_\_



for removing sweat and water

5 \_\_\_\_\_

A. Stiff and finish brushes

B. Sweat Scraper

C. Curry Comb

D. Mane and Tail comb

E. Hoof Pick

**Selection and Judging Worksheet**

Match the following terms with their definitions:

A	Mare	F	Foal	K	Trot
B	Stallion	G	Hand	L	Extended Trot
C	Gelding	H	Breed	M	Jog
D	Col	I	Conformation	N	Canter
E	Filly	J	Walk	O	Lope

\_\_\_\_\_ A mature female horse

\_\_\_\_\_ A slow trot used in western classes, a two-beated gait

\_\_\_\_\_ A male horse up to 3 years old

\_\_\_\_\_ Structure, form, and symmetrical arrangement of the parts of a horse

\_\_\_\_\_ A slow, natural, flat-footed, four-beat gait

\_\_\_\_\_ An unaltered male horse

\_\_\_\_\_ A group of horses with similar characteristics as a result of breeding to suit a particular purpose.

\_\_\_\_\_ A female horse up to 3 years old

\_\_\_\_\_ An altered or castrated male horse

\_\_\_\_\_ Used to measure a horse's height; equals 4 inches

\_\_\_\_\_ A colt or filly under 1 year old

\_\_\_\_\_ A three-beat gait, a moderate, easy collected gallop

\_\_\_\_\_ The western adaptation of a slow canter, smooth three-beat gait in which the head is carried relatively low

\_\_\_\_\_ A two-beat gait that is faster and stronger than the normal trot

\_\_\_\_\_ A two-beat diagonal gait at medium speed with moderate collection

**Coat Colors of the Horse**

Use a horse book for a reference to describe the following coat colors. You may also want to clip color pictures from magazines and attach them to this page.

1. BAY: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. SORREL: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. GRAY: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. BROWN: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. BLACK: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. PALOMINO: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. APPALOOSA: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

8. PINTO: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## ***Horse Color and Marking Puzzle***

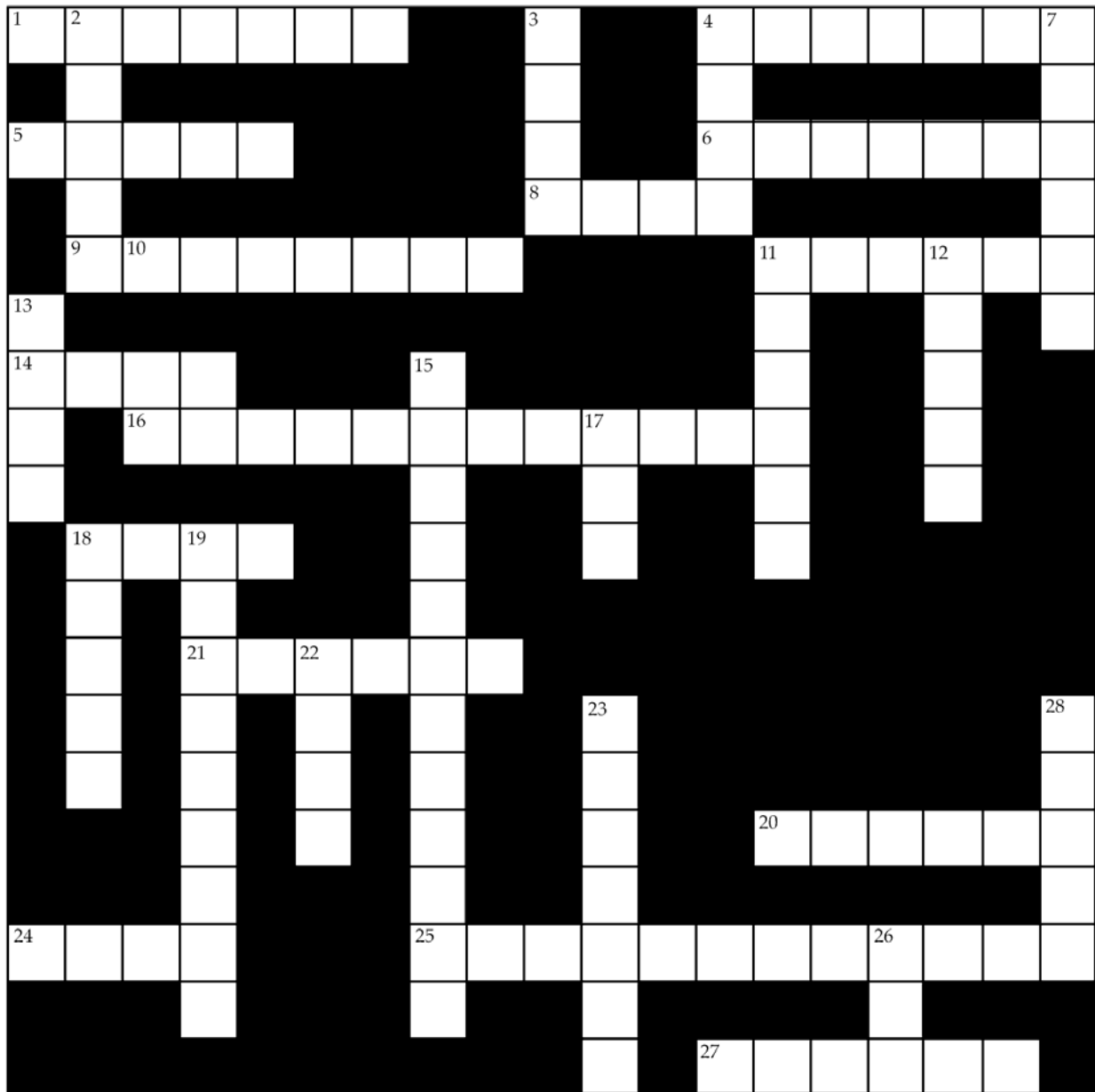
Here is a puzzle on different colors and markings of horses. The names can be read up, down, forward, backward, or diagonally. Circle the colors and markings as you find them and see if you can get them all.

Albino	Brown	Grulla	Race
Appaloosa	Buckskin	Half Stocking	Roan
Ankle	Chestnut	Heel	Snip
Baldface	Coronet	Overo	Sorrel
Bay	Cremello	Palomino	Star
Black	Dun	Pastern	Stocking
Blaze	Gray	Pinto	Stripe

S E P I R T S T O C K I N G  
 K C R E M E L L O G T A B N  
 E A H E E L R O T N I P A I  
 Z R I E L K N A I W E P L K  
 Y B A L S E R K G O M A D C  
 C L L C O T S O R R E L F O  
 O A E A E K N Y A B S O A T  
 R Z N S C I I U Y N I O C S  
 O E C U B K P S T A R S E F  
 N A B L D O N I M O L A P L  
 E T A D G R U L L A B P O A  
 T P A S T E R N O V E R O H



### Crossword Puzzle



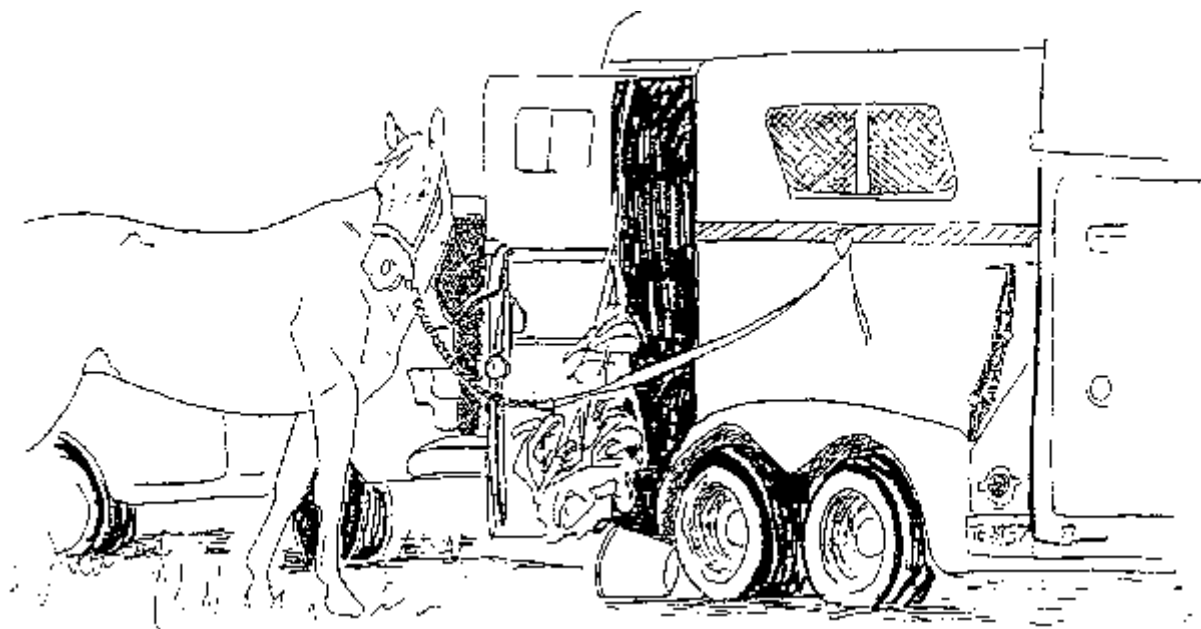
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**ACROSS**

1. This breed originated in the desert areas of Middle East
4. The ridge between the shoulder bones of a horse
5. Piece around body of horse to hold saddle on
6. Animal skin dressed for use
8. Stable gear or articles of harness
9. An unaltered male horse
11. A shelter or compartment
14. The curved covering of horn over the foot
16. Bred from the best blood through a long line
18. Colt or filly under 1 year old
20. The headgear used to control a horse
21. Knob on top of saddle
24. A widely cultivated cereal grass used as feed
25. Breed used in harness racing for both trotting and pacing
27. One of the three natural gaits of a horse

**DOWN**

2. A line fastened to a bit
3. A male foal
4. A slow, natural, flat-footed, four-beat gait
7. Another name for a chestnut-colored horse
10. A two-beat gait in which the legs move in diagonal pairs
11. Breed that originated by infusing thoroughbred and Arabian blood
12. A white stripe down the face of a horse to the lips
13. A metal plate or rim to protect hoof of animal
15. Breed that originated on Eastern seaboard of U.S. as race horse
17. One of the five basic coat colors of a horse
18. A female foal up to 3 years old
19. Breed of horse that was developed by Nez Perce Indians
22. A mature female horse
23. A white strip or band right above the hoof of a horse
26. Part of the bridle inserted in the mouth of a horse
28. A group of animals related by descent from common ancestors

***What's Wrong with this Picture?*****ANSWERS**

The tie rope is too long; if the horse puts his head down to eat, he could get a foot over it.

Moreover, it's not really a tie rope at all, it's a leather lead shank with a chain end. The chain end could swing up and hit the horse in the eye, the leather doesn't hold a release knot as a tie rope would, and the leather could break more easily under stress if the horse should pull back.

The horse could put a foot through the sagging haynet hanging in the doorway. It should be hoisted up to mouth level.

He could also put a foot through the bridle hanging on the trailer door; if he pulls back he'll probably slam the door shut against himself.

The open trailer door is a hazard. It could blow shut and spook the horse, or he might decide to try loading himself through the people hatch.

The bucket rolling around on the ground is another potential leg-tangler.

All of these hazards are compounded by the fact that the horse has apparently been left alone. It's never a good idea to leave a tied horse unsupervised, but it's especially dangerous in the open, where anything can frighten him - and where, if he breaks away, he'll be running loose.

# Horseless Horse Project Meeting Evaluation

Meeting Date:

---

Mark this section AT THE BEGINNING of the project meeting activities.

I feel that I know:

\_\_\_\_\_ nothing

\_\_\_\_\_ a little

\_\_\_\_\_ quite a bit

\_\_\_\_\_ alot

about horses and the 4-H horse project.

---

Mark this section AT THE END of the project meeting.

I feel that I learned:

\_\_\_\_\_ nothing

\_\_\_\_\_ a few things

\_\_\_\_\_ a lot

at the project meeting today.

I feel that the information and activities were:

\_\_\_\_\_ things I already knew

\_\_\_\_\_ too difficult (not basic enough) for the first project meeting.

\_\_\_\_\_ exactly the kind of thing I hoped to learn and do at this meeting.

---

COMMENTS:

# 4-H Horseless Horse HOST FAMILY AGREEMENT

RETURN BY: MAY 15  
FOR APPROVAL

Return to: \_\_\_\_\_ County Extension Office

Address:

These are the expectations of the \_\_\_\_\_ County 4-H Horseless Horse Host Farms and Horseless Horse Project Members.

**MEMBERS:** The members will participate fully in this experience and agree to follow the directions of the host farm. This experience is for the horseless horse member only unless parents wish to come along. This is NOT a drop off for all the children in the family. The horseless member will help in arranging mutually agreeable times to visit and will call ahead if unable to come at the scheduled times. Transportation will be provided by the horseless member's family. Host farms must be approved by the horseless horse project leaders.

**HOST FARM:** The host farm will initiate the communication between themselves and the horseless member. They will invite the horseless member to their farm a minimum of two times prior to the County Fair. The host farm will provide instruction in basic horse care and horse handling safety. The host farm will provide an exposure to different types of tack and their care, haltering, leading, grooming, feeding, and hoof care. The host farm will determine the extent of the "hands on" experience depending upon the temperament of the horse and the age and abilities of the horseless member. Utmost concern will be for the safety of the member and horse.

We have read and agree to this understanding.

(horseless horse member)

(host farm - adult signature)

(address)  
(city, state, zip)

(address)  
(city, state, zip)

(phone)

(phone)

(signature - parent of horseless horse member)