

**NYS 4-H Horse Program
Cloverbuds
“On the Ground Skills”
Evaluation Form**

*** This form is to be used after a child has had on the grounds experience with horses and is being “considered” for a horseback “riding experience”.**

Name _____ County _____

Address _____

_____ Phone _____

Age on date of evaluation _____ Grade level _____

4-H age (age on Jan. 1st of the current 4-H year) _____

Club Name _____

Club Leader(s) _____

_____ Phone/s _____

*** Parent/Guardian Signature - signifies that the child and parent/guardian are interested in this child having a riding experience; and that the parent is giving their approval for: 1) this “On the Ground Skills” evaluation and 2) the child to ride a horse.**

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Ask the youth the following questions and record their response:

- Do you like horses?
- Are you afraid of horses?
- Are you afraid of this horse?
- Have you learned to groom a horse?
- Do you know how to safely work around a horse?
- Do you want to learn to ride a horse?
- Do you want to learn to ride this horse?

* The youth must demonstrate safe “on the ground skills” around horses in order to be considered to have a “riding experience”.

Use the following scale to evaluate the child’s skills:

- 0 = not at all
- 1 = little skill
- 2 = fair amount of skill
- 3 = good skills
- 4 = excellent skills

| <u>Does the child:</u> | <u>(circle the appropriate number)</u> | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|---|---|
| ● know how to brush the horse? | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| ● work safely around the horse? | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| ● work quietly around the horse, without being loud? | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| ● work softly around the horse, without quick and abrupt body movement? | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| ● know how to move around and behind the rear of the horse? | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| ● know that they must always wear a riding helmet when riding a horse? | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| ● know that they must always wear equestrian footwear with a distinguishable heel when riding a horse? | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| ● know that they should mainly work around the left side of the horse? | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| ● know the left side from the right side of the horse? | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| ● have the ability to lead a horse safely with adult assistance? | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |

Does the child:

(circle the appropriate number)

- | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ● show respect for the horse and the fact that horses can hurt you? | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| ● show confidence when working around the horse? | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| ● show a relaxed attitude about being around the horse? | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| ● show the desire to learn to ride a horse? | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| ● demonstrate the ability to understand and follow instruction? | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| ● have an adequate attention span for riding a horse and receiving riding lessons? | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| ● appear to have the muscle strength to maintain a proper riding position and hold their head in position when wearing a riding helmet? | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |

Other comments or suggestions for this child _____

*** It is important to also consider the horse that the child will be riding. The horse/rider combination must be appropriate and the combination must be a safe match. The disposition of a suitable child's mount should be quiet, gentle, and of a calm nature. The level of training of the horse should be appropriate for beginner riders. The size and body type of the horse should also be considered when picking an appropriate mount for a child. Ideally the horse should be small enough that the child's legs are positioned under the child's body and at least half way down the side of the horse.**

*** It is recommended that a youth score at least a 2 in all of the categories and a score of 3 or 4 in at least half of the categories on the evaluation form before the child is considered to be a candidate to ride a horse.**

_____ **This child should be considered to be a candidate to have a riding experience at this time.**

Some suggestions for this child to work on:

_____ **this child should not be considered to be a candidate to have a riding experience at this time.**

Some suggestions for this child to work on:

Evaluator(s) Signature or Initials*

Date of Evaluation _____ Remember to file form with club records

*** A child may not be evaluated by their own parent or guardian.**

PLEASE NOTE: Youth should be evaluated on the horse/rider combination that they will be participating with whenever possible.