



# Nova Scotia Pony Club

## Stable Management for One Day D Rally



**STABLE MANAGEMENT** covers all aspects of caring for the horses during the Rally. All team members, not just the riders, are responsible for the care and well being of the horses and all of them are scored on how well they do that.

Scoring is done by special judges who are usually on the grounds at all times and tour the stables on inspection rounds several times a day. Stable Management judging is continuous throughout the Rally. Once the Rally officially starts only competitors, officials and designated adult supervisors are allowed in the barns or trailer area and around the horses. Teams receiving help (other than for emergencies) will be assigned penalties for unauthorized assistance. This will be a team penalty and the amount will be at the discretion of the judge, depending on the infraction.

Adult supervisors are responsible for the well being of the team and can visit the barns or trailer area at any time but are not allowed to help in any way, except in cases of safety or illness. The Adult supervisor should ensure that the team members have adequate drinking water, nourishment and sun protection. The adult supervisor will have all emergency information for the team members. The Stable Management (SM) phase of the Rally is an opportunity for members to show their abilities and knowledge of the care of the horses and equipment.

This SM Guide is intended to help with the One-Day D Rally. For information on a two/three day rally see the ABC Rally guide.

### **Part 1 TURNOUT INSPECTION**

In a Turnout inspection members present themselves and their horses to the Turnout judge. There are no individual times given to report to the turnout judge but each rider is responsible to present themselves well prepared and in a timely manner. Riders report to the judge on foot, leading their horses. Following inspection the riders then proceed to the ring where they will mount and warm-up. Each rider must be aware of the amount of time their horse needs for a warm-up and to plan their schedule accordingly, keeping in mind that there may be a line up for inspections.

There are basically two types of Turnout Inspections:

A. **Formal Turnout Inspections** – The turnout inspection before **Dressage** is **always** formal.

In a formal inspections the judges are looking at the following:

1. tack and attire that is correct for the phase ( check requirements )
2. correctly fitted tack
3. Tack that is in good repair (no loose stitching, torn holes, tears in the leather, etc.)
4. cleanliness and condition of tack
5. a clean , well trimmed horse ( braiding if required)
6. a neat rider

B. **Tack Checks (Informal Turnout Inspection)** – These inspections are done before **Cross Country and Stadium Jumping in a one day rally**. As the horses have already been ridden

that day the main emphasis will be on # 1, 2 &3. However, a rider presenting a horse with dried sweat marks and a dirty bit from their dressage ride can expect to lose points.

## **Part 2 HORSE INSPECTIONS**

- A. Cross Country Vet Check – after crossing the finish line riders present their horses to the vet for inspections. The horse’s pulse and respiration may be taken and he will be checked for signs of distress. The rider may then proceed with cooling out and may be required to report back to the vet in 10 minutes.
- B. Any horse showing signs of lameness or distress at any time during the Rally will be eliminated. The Ground Jury will make the decision in the best interests of the horse.

## **Part 3 TACK ROOM**

Setting up an efficient, practical tack room takes planning. A Rally team can have anywhere from 4 to 7 people and 3 to 4 horses. This means a lot of tack and equipment in a small space. There must be a place for everything and everything in its place.

Some tips:

1. Each horse’s tack and equipment must be labeled with the Rider’s number and horse’s stable name.
2. The floor area should be kept as clear as possible to prevent things being stepped on or tripped over.
3. There should be spare equipment in case of a break. These must be labeled as spare.
4. Each horse should have a grooming kit, again labeled.
5. As riders usually keep their helmets and boots in the tack room these must also be labeled.
6. First Aid kits, both human and horse, must be clearly visible.

Keep mind that when the captain asks Jamie, the helper, to run quickly back to the tack room to get the First Aid kit, the spare lead rope and Ginger’s bridle that Jamie shouldn’t be tripping over a table with a vase of flowers and a glass framed picture, and flinging stuff everywhere trying to find what is needed.

Decorating – Tack rooms do not need decorations, however having items in club colours is acceptable and encouraged. Grooming kits, bridles/saddle racks, buckets etc. in club colours helps to identify items as belonging to a particular club. If room permits it is okay to have a chair in your tack room as this is often necessary to put on riding boots; however this chair must be out of the way when not in use.

One day rallies use horse trailers or other temporary structures as tack rooms. This brings special challenges. Even though some trailers are larger and roomier than others this will not affect the judging. **Practical and efficient use of the space available is what counts.**

Captains must know what is in the first aid kit for horses as they may be quizzed on the contents and their uses. The Captain also should set the team’s clock to rally time.

## **Part 4 – FEED/ MANURE EQUIPMENT**

In a one day rally feed rooms are not assigned. Hay would normally be kept in a trailer and manure equipment would be kept near the tack trailer. Each horse should have a feed chart for the day. These can be put up on a wall if room or they can be on sheets of paper and put together in a place

in the trailer - labeled of course. Riders and Captains may be asked questions from the horse's feed chart.

Any manure should be picked up and kept covered. In a horse stable environment manure equipment would be kept clean to help prevent disease and to control the fly population. In a One-Day Rally manure equipment will not need to be cleaned during the day, however manure should be picked up (and if possible kept covered) and all equipment kept in a safe place. At the end of the day all manure should be disposed off in the assigned place.

All garbage must be contained and should go home with the team, unless a garbage drop off area is provided by the committee.

Everyone is responsible for the leaving the facility as we found it.

## **Part 5 TYING HORSES**

In our One-Day Rallies, horses/ponies are tied to trailers or other temporary structures. Once again this brings special challenges.

First and foremost, safety to horses, riders and to other team members is of utmost importance when participating at rally competitions. Safety precautions must be observed at all times when working with horses and around horses.

1. Before rally day, good communication between all team members is important, especially between riders and the rest of the team regarding their horse's temperament, likes and dislikes etc. All team members should be comfortable working around each horse in the trailer area. Remember that the horses/ponies are not in their familiar environment and some horses may react or behave differently when away from home.
2. Planning well in advance of the rally day makes everything run much smoother during the competition. Decisions regarding what trailer will be used as the tack trailer and what trailers will be used to tie horses from should be decided well in advance. This becomes important when members are on scramble teams.
3. Remember, that at our one day rallies that there are a lot of trailers and horses in one area, very close together. It only takes one incident, for one horse to spook and to create an unsafe situation. Always remember safety!
4. Before rally day, trailers should be inspected to ensure that there are no sharp edges on trailers that could injure horses when they are tied. Competitors can cover any areas they feel could cause injury with protective covering to protect the horse while tied. Make sure that trailer tie rings are adequate and that horses can be safely tied without injury.
5. Trailers **must** be hitched to vehicles at all times while horses are tied.
6. At no time should horses be left unattended while tied to trailers.
7. Please, do not tie horses from tack trailers. Tack trailers should be blocked if not hooked to a vehicle.
8. Pony Club encourages the use of leather halters for safety purposes, but nylon halters with leather breakaways are also acceptable. Cotton leads are also recommended for safety reasons.

9. **A single strand of baler twine** looped and tied through the tie ring on the trailer is required for tying horses. The lead rope can then be tied (using a quick release knot) through the baler twine. This is a safety precaution as a scared horse could be hurt or hurt a person trying to pull away. The tie rope should be attached at the horses shoulder height or higher and be of such a length that the horse cannot become tangled.
10. Ideally, one horse to be tied to either side of the trailer (referring to a 2-horse trailer) when at rally. If necessary, a horse could also be tied to the back of the trailer with the ramp up. Teams with access to 4-horse trailers will be permitted to tie 4 horses from this type of trailer. Horses must always be tied or stood with enough distance between them to avoid injury to each other and to allow safe passage of team members. If necessary horses can be tied to a sturdy fence post etc. with permission of the organizing committee.
11. Keep the area where horses are tied free of equipment, ensuring horses do not get tangled etc. Hay nets and water buckets to be tied up off the ground to within the horses reach.
12. **SAFETY IS MOST IMPORTANT. PLEASE USE COMMON SENSE!!**

### **Part 6 RALLY FIRST AID KITS**

Absorbent Cotton (roll at least 12" wide)  
 Gauze Roll, Stretch (at least 2" wide)  
 2 rolls vet wrap  
 Sterile, non-stick gauze dressings (4x4)  
 Sterile gauze sponges (smaller squares for cleaning wounds)  
 Adhesive tape (at least 1" wide)  
 Pressure pads (sanitary pads work well)  
 Bandage scissors  
 Saline solution  
 Betadine  
 Wound dressing (antibiotic ointment)  
 Thermometer w/ sting and clip  
 Vaseline  
 Rubbing Alcohol  
 Liniment/body wash  
 4 leg bandages/4 leg cottons  
 Bandage pins/masking tape  
 Notebook and pencil

This first aid kit is taken from the USPC C manual. Each club would normally have a Horse First Aid Kit as it is useful to have it available or camp, testing, etc. Before coming to Rally the team should check the kit: completeness, cleanliness and expiration dates. Team members should know what is in the kit and its uses. Captains may be quizzed on the contents and uses of items in the First Aid kit

## **Part 7 CROSS COUNTRY COOL OUT.**

The “cool out” area will be announced ahead of time so that clubs can set up their stations. The area where cool out stations are set up will vary with the facilities used, but will normally be quite near the vet check area

Care of the horse after strenuous physical activity is vital to the health and well being of the animal. Cool-out is judged as a separate phase of rally stable management. Inspectors will be observing teams as they go through the procedure of cooling out each horse as they complete the cross country. Judges will look for: Teamwork, safety, care of horse and rider.

### Cool-out procedure

1. After coming through the finish line, allow the horse to come back to a trot and then to a walk. Move away from the finish line.
2. Dismount and quickly look over the horse for signs of injury and lost shoes.
3. The Captain or Groom should take the horse, run up the stirrups, undo the martingale, take the reins over the horse’s head, loosen the noseband, loosen the over girth (if worn) and the girth.
4. The Captain or Groom can start to walk the horse while the rider removes her/his spurs and catches their breath. Do not let the horse stand around.
5. The horse should be led at a walk, to the Vet Inspection Station.
6. The rider should stand the horse for the vet and must listen carefully to the instructions. Be sure to have a watch so that you will know when time is up and it is time to return.
7. Walk the horse to the cool-out station.
8. At the vet station, the Captain or Groom can remove the saddle and breastplate, martingale, etc
9. Using lots of water, sponge the horse, especially on the neck, chest, between the front and hind legs. Make sure that you scrape the water off right away as that will promote evaporation and evaporation promotes cooling.
10. Offer the horse a small drink of cool (not cold) water. (The rider should drink too!)
11. It is important to repeat the sponging and scraping until the water that is scraped off feels cool. After strenuous activity on a hot day, your horse can become overheated. As the horse cools on the outside, his circulatory system continues to bring heat from the inside, to the skin. In extremely hot conditions, an overheated horse will require very cold bath water. It may even be necessary to add ice to the water to reduce the body temperature quickly. Massive, thick-bodied horses are often slower to cool out than slender or finer-built horses.
12. Continue to walk horse, offering drinks. Don’t walk in tight small circles.
13. Sometimes, on very cold, wet or windy days, a horse may need an anti-sweat sheet or cooler to avoid becoming chilled.
14. Return to the vet check, if required.
15. Remain in the cool-out area and continue to sponge/scrape as necessary and to walk the horse for at least 20 minutes. If at any time, you think your horse is in distress, go straight to the vet check and alert the vet.
16. A horse that has been very slow to cool out and return to normal should be checked regularly after it has returned to the stall.

## **Part 8- COOL OUT STATION**

The cool out station is usually set up well ahead of Cross Country time. Find a spot in the cool out area where you can leave all your cool- out equipment including such things as buckets of water, first aid kits etc.

To aid in the prevention of disease each horse should have its own buckets. Buckets must be labeled with the horse's name

1. a small bucket – for drinking water that can be offered to the horse during the cooling out procedure.
2. wash bucket – larger bucket filled with water for washing down the horse. Each bucket should have a large sponge and sweat scraper.

Plan your cooling out area so that horses can be washed down and moved throughout the area in a safe manner. Do not have anything loose that can blow around. There should be no need for tarps, plastic etc. unless it's necessary to cover the tack in the rain. In this case the tarp/plastic should be weighted down to prevent flapping! There should be a cooler of drinks for team members. If you are using the disposable Styrofoam coolers be sure to weight down the lid as they can easily blow around and could startle a horse.

Tack can be placed on a horse blanket and it's a good idea to have a container to put horse's boots/ rider's spurs, helmet, whip etc, in so that you can keep these items together. The blanket can come in handy also for the rider to sit on if they need to remove their boots or need to sit and catch their breath.

Keep the area tidy and always keep safety in mind.

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