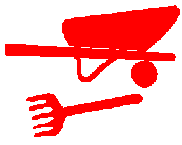


Stable Management at Rally Guide



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 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 at any time but are not allowed to help in any way, except in cases of safety.

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. Please note: You will see, in reading this, that there are differences in the expectations between a One Day Rally and a Two/Three Day rally. The Stable Management phase can be divided into several parts:

Part 1 Turnout Inspections

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 – In a two/three day rally ALL turnout inspections are formal.** 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

In a two/three day rally there are normally 3 Horse Inspections (also known as Vet Inspections). The number and time of inspections will be determined and announced by the organizing committee. In a one day rally there is only one: the Cross Country Inspection.

- A. Formal Horse Inspection – This inspection is done at the start of the Rally. Well groomed, well turned out horses are presented in clean, correctly fitted bridles and are led at the walk and trot at the direction of the inspector. Riders must be neatly attired, have their numbers, medical armbands, whip and proper footwear. Horses are checked for general condition and lameness.
- B. Cross Country Vet Check – after crossing the finish line riders present their horses to the vet for inspections. The horse's pulse and respiration will 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.
- C. Stadium Jumping – This is lameness check and is done early before turnout inspection.

Part 3 The 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, fire buckets etc. identified 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 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. For more information on using trailers check the Trailer Section.

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 Rooms:

In a two/three day Rally feed rooms are assigned. This could be a stall or a trailer. Once again practical and efficient are the key words. In the feed room will be each horse's feed, hay, feed buckets and any supplements, all labeled as to what they are as well as the Rider's number and horse's name. Also in the feed room there should be a feed chart for each horse, which includes the horse's name and the Rider's number. Mucking out equipment is kept in the feed room and each item should have a place. It is also handy to have scissors hanging up (labeled) for cutting bales open.

Some tips:

1. Hay should not be put directly on the floor as it absorbs moisture. Feed sacks, plastic, even boards can be put under hay. Open bales of hay must be tied up to stay tidy. There **must not** be any baler twine left loose as this is a tripping hazard. Put in a garbage can.
2. Feed tubs. Must be rinsed out after each feed so that there is no accumulation of sour feed and to prevent attracting flies.
3. Feed must be in enclosed containers, to prevent rodent and fly contamination.
4. Flies are also attracted to manure so clean off wheel barrows and shovels before putting them in the feed room- rinse them off if necessary.
5. Feed Charts – there should include each meal, amount and type. They can be in metric or imperial. If there is a measuring cup etc. used for this horse then it should be kept in the feed and listed on the feed chart. For example:

Morning: 1 kg pellets (one measuring can)
 1 kg hay (one flake)

As the horses are not out to pasture during a rally there should be 4 feeding of hay per day and at least 2 feeding of grain (if the horse gets grain).

The feed chart should be written so that someone other than the owner would know what the horse is fed.

Chairs: Chairs are useful for resting and to sit on while cleaning tack etc. These can be kept in the feed room and should be of the stacking variety or the folding ones so they can be put out of the way when not in use.

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 maybe asked questions from their horse's feed chart.

Part 5 Stable

This part of the stable management phase involves the horse's stall and aisle area. There must be a halter and lead rope for each horse. If nylon halters are used they should have breakaway headpieces. Pony Club encourages the use of leather halters or halters with breakaway crownpieces for safety purposes. Each stall must be labeled with the Rider's number, name of horse and rider, a contact number and any vices. If something should happen to your horse then whoever is dealing with the problem needs to know what horse it is, whose horse it is, how to get hold of the rider and whether the horse bites, kicks etc.

Each stall should have a water bucket hanging up, bedding and a place to tie up the horse.

What are SM judges looking for?

1. well cared for horse
2. fed on time
3. clean stalls
4. raked aisles
5. horse secure in their stalls
6. Nothing left lying around (manure equipment, grooming kits, chairs, etc.)
7. Team members working together and safely around the horse.

If there is to be a more formal inspection of the stable this will be announced and the Captain &/or riders will be required to be there.

Even when not in the stable area team members are required to work together and in a safe matter anywhere on the grounds with the horses and will be judged accordingly.

TYING HORSES FROM TRAILERS

In our one day rallies, horses/ponies are tied to trailers. 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.
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!!**

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.

Part 6 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. At the vet station, the Captain or Groom can remove the saddle and breastplate, martingale, etc.
7. 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.
8. Walk the horse to the cool-out station.
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.
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.
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. After ½ hour of cool-out, the horse's heart rate should have returned to normal. If the horse is still stressed after ½ an hour, the horse should be kept walking until the officials are satisfied that the horse's heart rate is down.
17. Ask for an official for permission to leave the cool-out area.
18. 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.