

**CSHA HORMASTERSHIP GROOMING & HANDLING TEST**

**JUDGE'S SCORE SHEET – Maximum Score: 100**

\_\_\_ Western Tack – score (a) sections, \_\_\_ English Tack – score (b) sections  
 (check one above and cross out sections in test below that do NOT apply)

**For test purposes all tasks to be performed in sequence on near side of horse. Verbalize procedure to judge. Grooming attire shall be clean and of same type as riding attire. Clean, protective clothing (smock/apron) may be worn over riding attire. Hats/helmets are optional.**

**Necessary Equipment**

Halter & Lead Rope	Curry Comb	Hoof pick
Stable Sheet/blanket	Root Brush (hard, stiff bristles)	2 pails, 1 w/water
Saddle Pad	Body (Dandy) Brush	2 sponges
Saddle & Bridle	Finishing Brush (long, soft bristles)	Grooming Cloth
	Extra rope for bowline knot (optional)	

**1. Prepare to Groom - Maximum Points: 4**

<b>Was</b> on time and ready to start grooming	1 _____
<b>Attire</b> clean and appropriate	1 _____
<b>Equipment</b> and tack clean and set up efficiently	1 _____
<b>Horse</b> tied with appropriate knot	1 _____

**Comments:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Total Section 1** \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Remove Stable Sheet/Blanket - Maximum Points: 3**

<b>Unfastened</b> sheet buckles: rear, middle, front	1 _____
<b>Removed</b> sheet/blanket with lay of hair	1 _____
<b>Turned</b> inside out; shook and hung inside out	1 _____

**Comments:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Total Section 2** \_\_\_\_\_

**3. Clean Feet in Sequence - Maximum Points: 8**

**Near Fore**

- With** left hand/shoulder against horse, ran right hand down leg 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- Picked** up hoof and held foot with left hand or placed on left knee 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- Cleaned** foot with hoof pick – heel to toe strokes 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- Cleaned** cleft, commissures and inspected whole foot; carefully and safely placed foot down 1 \_\_\_\_\_

**Near Hind**

- With** left hand near point of hip, ran right hand down leg to middle of cannon and lifted leg 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- Used** his/her left leg to support fetlock 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- Cleaned** foot with hoof pick – heel to toe strokes 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- Cleaned** cleft, commissures and inspected whole foot; carefully and safely placed foot down 1 \_\_\_\_\_

**Comments:**

**Total Section 3** \_\_\_\_\_

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**4. Curry and Brush Body in Sequence - Maximum Points: 8**

**Curry Horse**

- Used** correct equipment (curry comb). Curried with irregular, back and forth motions. 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- Curried** in sequence: high on neck, withers, chest, shoulder, arm, forearm to knee, inside and outside of knee 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- Then** back, barrel, abdomen, loin, flank, rump, hind leg to hock, inside and outside of hock 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- Frequently** cleaned curry by hitting against boot heel 1 \_\_\_\_\_

**Brush Horse**

- Used** correct equipment (body brush). Brushed with lay of hair. 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- Brushed** in sequence: high on neck, withers, chest, shoulder, arm, forearm to knee, inside and outside of knee; paid special attention to fetlock area 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- Then** back, barrel, abdomen, loin, flank, rump, hind leg to hock, inside and outside of hock, paid special attention to fetlock area 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- Frequently** cleaned brush by drawing across curry 1 \_\_\_\_\_

**Comments:**

**Total Section 4** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Total Page 2** \_\_\_\_\_

**5. Brush/Clean Face - Maximum Points: 6**

- Untied** lead rope; placed over arm or shoulder 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- Removed** halter and fastened around horse's neck as neck strap 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- Used** correct equipment (finishing brush). 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- Brushed** in sequence forehead, face, ears, poll, cheeks, complete jaw 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- Used** damp sponge to clean face in correct sequence: eyes, face, ears, lips & nostrils; frequently rinsed sponge by pouring water onto sponge; did not rinse in pail 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- Replaced** halter and retied lead with slipknot 1 \_\_\_\_\_

**Comments:**

**Total Section 5** \_\_\_\_\_

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**6. Clean Lower Legs & Dock Area - Maximum Points: 10**

- Used** different sponge than on face 2 \_\_\_\_\_
- Cleaned** in correct sequence: elbow, knee, hock 2 \_\_\_\_\_
- Cleaned** teats/sheath, then between hind legs and under tail 2 \_\_\_\_\_
- Frequently** rinsed sponge by pouring water onto sponge, did not rinse in pail 2 \_\_\_\_\_
- Bent** over when cleaning legs; did not kneel down 2 \_\_\_\_\_

**Comments:**

**Total Section 6** \_\_\_\_\_

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**7. Clean/Brush Mane & Tail - Maximum Points: 6**

- Used** correct equipment (root brush) 2 \_\_\_\_\_
- Cleaned** in sequence: mane, then tail; started at ends and worked upward to roots 2 \_\_\_\_\_
- Used** fingers to untangle hairs if necessary 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- Safety Awareness:** Groomer had hand on horse's rump when changing sides 1 \_\_\_\_\_

**Comments:**

**Total Section 7** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Total Page 3** \_\_\_\_\_

**8. Finishing: Polish Coat - Maximum Points: 6**

- Used** correct equipment (grooming cloth) 2 \_\_\_\_\_
- Used** correct sequence: high on neck, withers, chest, shoulder, arm, forearm to knee, inside and outside of knee 2 \_\_\_\_\_
- Back**, barrel, abdomen, loin, flank, rump, hind leg to hock, inside and outside of hock 2 \_\_\_\_\_

*Comments:*

**Total Section 8** \_\_\_\_\_

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**9. Saddle Horse: Western or English - Maximum Points: 10**

**(a) Western Saddle**

- Shook** out saddle pad and checked underside for foreign matter; placed high on horse's back then pulled backward with lay of hair until slightly forward of final position; checked if both sides equal 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- Checked** lining of saddle for foreign matter 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- Placed** offside (right) attachments over saddle seat/horn 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- With** left hand in gullet and right hand on cantle/skirt, lifted and gently placed saddle on horse's back 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- Went** to offside and eased down attachments. Checked that nothing is twisted; lowered stirrup; returned to near side 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- With** right hand on saddle horn and left hand holding pad, shook saddle into place. Pulled saddle pad at withers up into gullet 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- Placed** left stirrup over seat/horn 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- With** left hand on horse's shoulder, reached under belly and grasped cinch. Ran latigo through D-ring and tightened cinch until snug 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- Secured** cinch by tying into D-ring with girth hitch or used cinch buckle. If double rigged, secured back cinch in safe manner; lowered left stirrup after securing cinch 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- Safety Awareness:** Groomer had hand on horse's rump when changing sides 1 \_\_\_\_\_

*Comments:*

**Total Section 9(a)** \_\_\_\_\_

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**9(b) English Saddle**

- Shook** out saddle pad and checked underside for foreign matter; placed high on horse's back then pulled backwards with lay of hair until slightly forward of final position; checked if both sides equal. Checked underside of saddle for foreign matter. Irons already secured at top of stirrup leathers 2 \_\_\_\_\_
- With** left hand in gullet and right hand on cantle, lifted and gently placed saddle on horse's back. If pad is used it may be secured either before or after placing on horse and should be pulled at withers up into gullet 2 \_\_\_\_\_
- Went** to offside and attached girth. Checked for proper placement of saddle; nothing twisted. Returned to near side 2 \_\_\_\_\_
- With** left hand on horse's shoulder reached under belly and grasped girth with right hand; secured girth into buckles and tightened girth 2 \_\_\_\_\_
- Left** both of the irons secured at top of stirrup leathers 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- Safety Awareness:** Groomer had hand on horse's rump when changing sides 1 \_\_\_\_\_

**Comments:**

**Total Section 9(b)** \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Bridle Horse: Western or English - Maximum Points: 7**

**(a) Western**

- With** bridle over shoulder or within easy reach, untied horse and placed lead over arm/shoulder 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- Removed** halter and fastened around horse's neck as neck strap 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- Held** crown of bridle (throat latch open) in right hand; mouthpiece supported and positioned under muzzle with left hand 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- With** right hand near horse's forehead, drew bridle upward with left hand guiding bit into mouth without banging teeth; may use thumb to open horse's mouth 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- Placed** crown over ears, right ear first, then left; gently bent ears forward; did not crumple or bend ears backward 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- Fastened** throat latch, put ends through keeper; checked that cheek pieces not twisted; straightened forelock 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- Stated** reason for walking horse prior to mounting and checked cinch as if ready to ride 1 \_\_\_\_\_

**Comments:**

**Total Section 10(a)** \_\_\_\_\_

## 10(b) English

<b>With</b> bridle over shoulder or within easy reach, untied horse and placed lead over arm/shoulder	1 _____
<b>Removed</b> halter and fastened around horse's neck as neck strap	1 _____
<b>Held</b> crown of bridle (throat latch and cavesson unbuckled, curb strap unfastened) in right hand; mouthpiece supported and positioned under muzzle with left hand	1 _____
<b>With</b> right hand near horse's forehead, drew bridle upward with left hand guiding bit into mouth without banging teeth; may use thumb to open horse's mouth	1 _____
<b>Placed</b> crown over ears, right ear first, then left; gently bent ears forward; did not crumple or bend ears backward	1 _____
<b>Fastened</b> Throat latch, cavesson/nose band, curb chain/strap	1 _____
<b>Stated</b> reason for walking horse prior to mounting and checked girth as if ready to ride. Lowered both stirrup irons.	1 _____

**Comments:**

**Total Section 10(b)** \_\_\_\_\_

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## 11. Unbridle Horse: Western OR English - Maximum Points: 5

<b>With</b> reins over arm, fastened halter around horse's neck; unfastened throat latch. <b>IF English Bridle – unfastened in sequence: curb chain/strap, cavesson/nose band, throat latch</b>	1 _____
<b>Used</b> hand to steady horse's head and eased crown down over ears, removing bridle without banging horse's teeth	1 _____
<b>Hung</b> bridle over shoulder and replaced halter	1 _____
<b>Retied</b> horse using slip knot	1 _____
<b>Rinsed</b> bit	1 _____

**Comments:**

**Total Section 11** \_\_\_\_\_

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**12. Unsaddle Horse - Maximum Points: 7**

**(a) Western**

- Placed** left stirrup over seat/horn, unfastened cinch and gently let it down.  
If double rigged, unfastened back cinch first. Unfastened front cinch and pulled latigo through D-ring, lowered left stirrup **2** \_\_\_\_\_
- Went** to offside and placed cinch(es) and right stirrup over saddle seat/horn **1** \_\_\_\_\_
- Returned** to near side and lifted saddle off horse. Pad may be removed separately or with saddle **1** \_\_\_\_\_
- Turned** pad upside down to air dry **1** \_\_\_\_\_
- Brushed** where saddle and bridle disturbed hair **1** \_\_\_\_\_
- Safety Awareness:** Groomer had hand on horse's rump when changing sides **1** \_\_\_\_\_

*Comments:*

**Total Section 12(a)** \_\_\_\_\_

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**(b) English**

- Secured** both irons, returned to near side and unfastened girth; returned to off side, unfastened and removed girth; placed over seat **2** \_\_\_\_\_
- Lifted** saddle off horse. Pad may be removed separately or with saddle. **2** \_\_\_\_\_
- Turned** pad upside down to air dry **2** \_\_\_\_\_
- Brushed** where saddle and bridle disturbed hair **2** \_\_\_\_\_
- Safety Awareness:** Groomer had hand on horse's rump when changing sides **1** \_\_\_\_\_

*Comments:*

**Total Section 12(b)** \_\_\_\_\_

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**13. Replace Stable Sheet - Maximum Points: 3**

- Groomer** placed stable sheet across withers **1** \_\_\_\_\_
- Fastened** chest straps and pulled sheet back into place **1** \_\_\_\_\_
- Fastened** body straps: front, middle, rear **1** \_\_\_\_\_

*Comments:*

**Total Section 13** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Total Page 7** \_\_\_\_\_

**14. Lead Horse Safely & Correctly - Maximum Points: 6**

**Groomer** untied lead rope. Held lead rope in right hand 12-16" from halter with remaining slack in a figure 8 in left hand 2 \_\_\_\_\_

**Turned** horse safely and correctly away from you 2 \_\_\_\_\_

**Lead** horse, walking on its left, slightly behind head, arm held in a natural position; stopped in front judge 2 \_\_\_\_\_

**Comments:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Total Section 14** \_\_\_\_\_

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**15. Demonstrate Bowline - Maximum Points: 4**

**Correctly** demonstrated tying bowline knot 3 \_\_\_\_\_

**Explained** reason for use (optional to use separate rope for bowline) 1 \_\_\_\_\_

**Comments:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Total Section 15** \_\_\_\_\_

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**16. General Accomplishments - Maximum Points: 7**

**Groomer** used gentleness and consideration with horse, yet made horse behave; was courteous to judge 2 \_\_\_\_\_

**Groomer** always had his/her hand on rump when passing from side to side 1 \_\_\_\_\_

**Verbal** explanation of grooming procedure and steps 2 \_\_\_\_\_

**Overall** professionalism and personal presentation throughout demonstration 2 \_\_\_\_\_

**Comments:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Total Section 16** \_\_\_\_\_

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**JUDGE'S SIGNATURE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Page 8** \_\_\_\_\_

**FINAL SCORE** Pg 1\_\_\_\_, Pg 2\_\_\_\_, Pg 3\_\_\_\_, Pg 4\_\_\_\_, Pg 5\_\_\_\_, Pg 6\_\_\_\_, Pg 7\_\_\_\_, Pg 8\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_