



# **New Horizons EAL**

## **Bertie Book**



## **Information**



# Colours

We're going to look at some more colours of horse in this section. See if you recognise any of the colours from our horses at New Horizons.

## Skewbald



A skewbald horse has a coat made up of white patches on a non-black base coat, such as chestnut, bay or any colour besides black. Sometimes skewbald horses who are bay and white are called tricoloured. Usually the horse has pink skin under the white markings and dark skin under non-white areas.

We have two skewbalds at New Horizons, do you know who they are?

## Piebald

A piebald horse has a pattern of white patches on a black background of hair. Piebald horses cannot be anything but black and white - they are all called skewbalds.

We used to have a piebald horse at New Horizons. Can you remember who he was?





## Dun



There are several different variation of the dun colouring but we are going to look at 'bay duns' which are commonly referred to as just 'dun'. Dun horses have a golden or tan coloured body with a dark mane, tail, legs and often primitive markings on the legs. Usually they have usually have darker coloured faces. They always have a dorsal stripe down the middle of their back and this is the easiest way to identify them

from 'buckskin' horses.

We don't have any 'bay-duns' at New Horizons but can you think of anyone who may have similar markings to what we've described above?

## Palomino

Palomino horses have a yellow or gold coat with a white or light cream mane and tail. Their summer coat is usually slightly darker than their winter coat. Their body colour can range from cream to dark gold.







# Markings

Let's have a look at some more markings!

## Wall Eye



When a horse has a blue eye rather than a brown one it is known as a Wall Eye. Wall eyed horses are not common in most normal horse colouring, although there are some specific colouring that will always cause a horse to have two

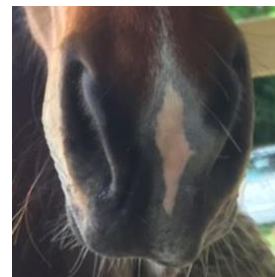
blue eyes. In certain kinds of Skewbald or Piebald colourings you may find a white eye, especially if they have a large blaze or white face. It is not impossible, but it is uncommon for a skewbald or piebald horse to have two blue eyes.

Do any of the horses at New Horizons have Wall eyes?

## Snip

A snip is a white marking on the horse's muzzle. It will be between their nostrils and can be very small or large.

Do you know if any of the horses at New Horizons have a snip?





## Stripe



A stripe is a narrow stripe of white that runs down the horse's face. It is noticeably thinner than a blaze. Sometimes a stripe 'breaks' in the middle. This is called an interrupted stripe. Often stripes join up with a star and snip.

## White Face

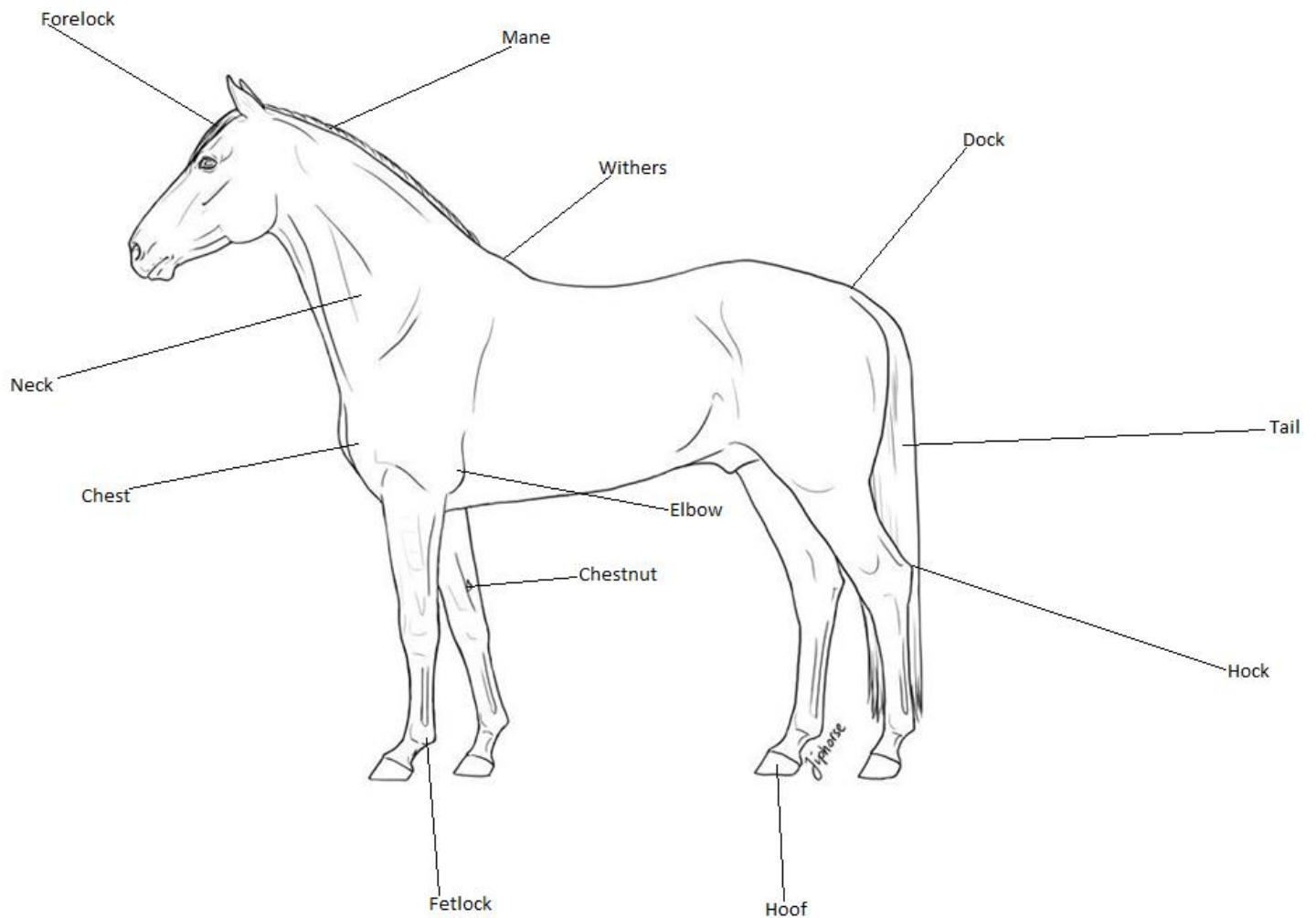
Also known as a 'Bald Face'. A White face is white facial marking that is wider than a blaze, extending to the eyes and sometime past the eyes. A fair number of horses with a white face also have wall eyes.





# Parts of the Horse 2 Activity

Let's have a look at more parts of the horse. Try and memorise the parts in the diagram below and see if you can think of any more.





# Breeds of Horse

In this book we're going to have a look at some more native breeds of horses and ponies from the United Kingdom.

## Suffolk Punch



The Suffolk Punch is a critically endangered breed of British draught horse. The breed is considered to be Britain's oldest native breed of horse.

They stand around 16.1-17.2 hands high which makes them quite small in comparison to other British draughts such as the Shire or Clydesdale.

The only colour a Suffolk Punch can be is chestnut although variation is allowed in the shade of chestnut including dark liver, dull dark, red and bright. White markings are rare and generally limited to small areas on the face and lower legs.



The breed was developed for agricultural work and has a powerful, arching neck, well-muscled shoulder, a short, wide back and a muscular, broad croup. Their legs are short and strong with little or no feathering.





## Dales Pony

The Dales pony is critically endangered breed of pony originating in the Yorkshire Dales. It is classed as a 'Mountain and Moorland' native breed.



Ideally, Dales ponies are 14-14.2 hands high although there



is no height limit for the breed. The majority of Dales ponies are black but they can also be brown, bay, grey and roan. The only

white markings allowed on the head are a star and/or snip. The hind legs may have a small amount of white but it may not extend above the fetlock joint.

They have a straight head that's broad between the eyes with a fine muzzle and incurving ears. Their body is fairly short in the back with a broad and deep rib cage, long and broad, well-muscled quarters with a well-muscled neck and sloping shoulders.



The legs are very muscular with hard, dense bone with large round hooves with open heels. They should have thick, silky and straight mane, tail and feathers.



They are very versatile and can be used for riding, driving and agricultural work.





## Clydesdale Horse



The Clydesdale horse is a breed of draught horse that originated in Clydesdale region of Scotland. They are

usually between 16 hands high and 18 hands high.

Clydesdales are usually bay in colour but they also come in roan, black, grey and chestnut. Most Clydesdales have white markings of some sort on the face, feet and legs and often have a white belly splash or other body spotting.



They are well muscled and strong with an arched neck, high withers and sloped shoulders. Their legs should be nicely feathered. Their gaits (walk, trot etc) are active with clearly lifted hooves and a general

impression of power.

The breed was originally used for agriculture and haulage but nowadays they are often used for riding too. The Budwesier Clydesdales are some of the most famous Clydesdales in the world.





## Exmoor Pony

The Exmoor pony is another endangered breed of British pony, originating on Exmoor on the Somerset/Devon border. They usually stand between 11.1 hands high and 12.3 hands high.



The Exmoor pony is an ancient breed and it still has a close resemblance to the primitive wild horse. Roman carvings show ponies that appear similar to the Exmoor pony.

They are usually dark bay with mealy marking around the eyes, muzzle, flanks and underbelly. They do not have any white markings.



Exmoors have a stocky, powerful build and are very strong for their height. They have a deep chest and broad back with short legs of good bone and hard hooves. Their heads are somewhat large in proportion to the body with small ears and has a unique feature called a 'toad eye' caused by extra fleshiness of the eyelids, which helps to deflect water and provide extra insulation.

Their manes and tails are thick and long, and they grow thick, insulating winter coats.



They are a very adaptive breed and are used for many equine disciplines.





## Irish Draught



The Irish Draught Horse is the national horse of Ireland and was developed originally for farm use.

According to the breed society 'the Irish Draught Horse is a versatile, powerful and athletic animal with substance and quality. It has a pleasant head, good bone and a short shin, a good spring of rib, strong loins and hindquarters and an active powerful stride'.

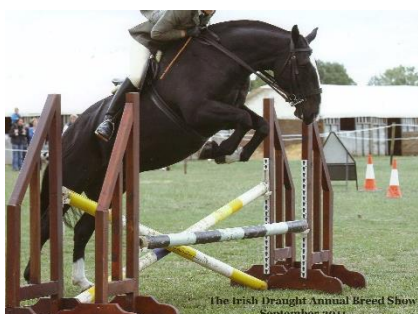
Their necks should have good length. Withers are well-defined and hooves should be hard and sound. The hindquarters are long and sloping.

They should ideally be between 15.2 and 16.3 hands high with strong, clean and flat leg bone that measures about 23cm in circumference. Most solid colours are acceptable including bay, brown, grey, chestnut, black and dun. They are allowed limited white markings on the face and legs but not excessively so.



Irish Draughts are now primarily used as riding horses.

They are used in many disciplines and are also good weight carriers. They are often cross bred with hot blooded horses, such as thoroughbreds and warmbloods, as they produce excellent sports horses.





# Grooming Kit

We use lots of different brushes in our grooming kits. In this book we are going to expand on what we've already learnt.

## Mane and Tail Conditioner



Out in the field the horses can get their manes and tails caught up and tangled in lots of different things. Mane and Tail Conditioner is used, alongside a mane and tail comb to help get the knots and tangles out more easily.



The conditioner is sprayed onto the mane or tail and then combed through but you have to be careful and not use too much as it can make their hair greasy.

## Sponge



Sponges have various uses in the grooming kit. Larger sponges are generally used in bathing however they can also be useful in 'spot washing' particularly dirty parts of the horse during a grooming session. Sometimes, sponges are used to clean a horse's bottom if it is particularly dirty.

Smaller sponges are used carefully on the face to help clean around the eyes. You have to be very careful with this as you don't want to hurt their eyes.







## Face Brush

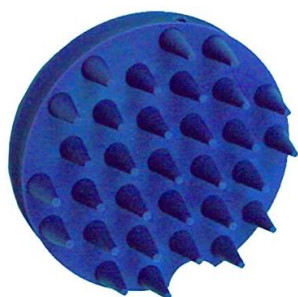


Face brushes are small, relatively soft brushes that are used to brush the horse's face. They are much smaller than a dandy brush or body brush. This is to give the groomer more control especially around the horse's eyes and nose.



## Rubber Curry Comb

Rubber Curry Combs are the third and final type of curry comb. Just like with the other two types, the rubber curry comb can be used for cleaning other brushes in the



grooming kit. Like the plastic curry comb, the rubber curry comb can be used on the horse.

The rubber curry comb is primarily used on the horses when they are moulting. They can be used in a circular motion to help pull out the loose coat. They come in many different shapes and sizes.



## Body Brush



The body brush is the softest brush in the grooming kit. It can be used on the horse's body and legs and is the last brush that you would use when grooming the horse.

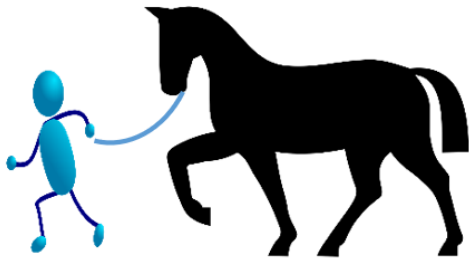
It has very soft bristles, so it is not good on mud and dirt. It is used to pull up the deep dirt and grease from the horse's skin so you have to make sure you've given the horse a good groom with a plastic curry comb and dandy brush before using it.





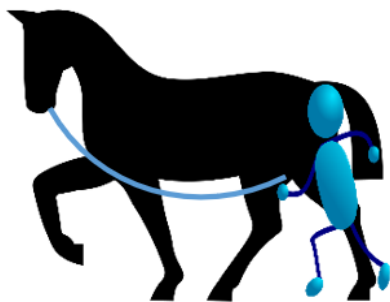
# Leading

When we lead horses we have to think about where we are standing and what we are doing.



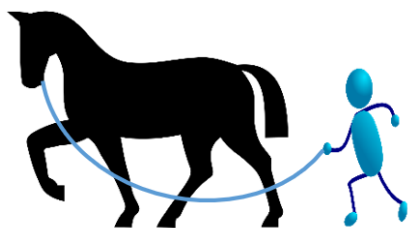
If we are walking in front of the horse when we lead them then not only are we in danger of being stepped on, we cannot see what the horse is doing behind us. They

could decide that they want to go and eat some grass and there would not be a lot that we'd be able to do to stop them by the time we noticed!



If we lead the horse from too far behind, we won't have much control over where he goes. We could also end up with the rope pulling the horse towards us which would stop them

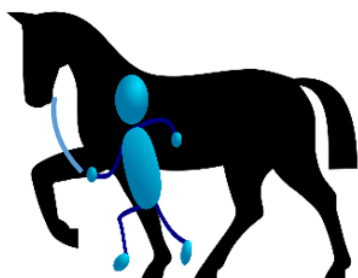
from going forward.



If we are behind their back legs then we are not in a safe place and could end up in their blind spot where we could scare them.

If we are stood by the horse's shoulder, with a loose rope

then we are in a good and safe place to be able to work with the horse where they can see us.





# Horse Safety

To be safe round horses it is important for us to learn and understand their body language. This way we can understand what they are telling us and react accordingly.

## Happy/Content Horse



A happy or contented horse will usually look quite relaxed. Their head will probably be held at the same height as their back or lower. If they are happy and content then they may well be grazing,

grooming other horses, resting a leg and napping, or even lying down. For a happy horse, their ears may be pricked forward but, usually, their ears are moving constantly to listen out to the sounds around them in case of danger.



## Alert Horse



A horse on high alert will usually hold his head up high, trying to spot any dangers and their whole body will be very tense. Their ears are usually pricked towards

whatever is unsettling them and, where possible they'll turn to face the danger so they're often pricked forward





A horse on alert may keep looking around and find it hard to keep still. We need to be aware that they are on alert because we don't want to end up in a blind spot or get knocked down if they spook.



## Unhappy/Cross Horse



When a horse is getting unhappy or cross in a situation they will tend to put their ears back. If this doesn't sort out the problem then you will see their nose start to

wrinkle too.

If whatever is upsetting the horse doesn't act on those signals, they may also raise their head up to make themselves look bigger to try and get whatever is upsetting them go away.



You may see horses in the field moving away from a horse who had their ears back. In the horse hierarchy, the horse is doing the right thing by walking away. Sometimes you will see a horse with ears back chasing or even kicking out at one of the



other horses too. This usually means that the other horse has ignored all the signals above the horse is starting to get very cross.

We need to make sure we spot these signs as early as possible when we are working with the horses.

## Angry Horse



Horses don't get angry easily. They give each other, and us, lots of signs before they reach this point. Horses don't want to injure each other because, as prey animals, there's safety

in numbers so its best if the whole herd can run if needed. They don't attack other horses, or people, in anger unless their signals have been ignored.

An angry horse will have their ears pinned right back against their head. They may hold their head up high to intimidate and with have



wrinkled nostrils. In this state they may well try to bite, strike, rear, kick or charge at whatever has upset them, be this another horse or a predator.



When we are working with the horses, it is our responsibility to make sure we are aware of how the horse is feeling.