

Unmounted Weekend – emphasis: Teaching Mounted Lessons

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Primary Objective: to give pony clubbers *eligible* to test at the H/HA level an opportunity to plan and teach a variety of lessons with direct feedback from an experienced teacher.

Secondary Objective: to expose candidates to local experts in Equine Nutrition and Shoeing.

Format: candidates arrived at host home around 6pm Friday evening. An expert in Equine Nutrition came at 7 and presented a power point presentation. At 9:30, candidates received teaching assignments for the following afternoon and developed lesson plans. Saturday morning was spent with a local farrier. Saturday afternoon (1-5pm) was spent teaching lessons. Candidates departed Saturday evening.

Facility: For teaching, we used a facility with a large ring so that we had the option of conducting two enclosed lower level lessons at the same time. This facility also had a variety of cross country jumps in close proximity to the ring.

Volunteers: 25 pony clubbers from Glenmore Hunt Pony Club volunteered to participate in the lessons. We had two graduate As supervise the lessons and give feedback to candidates. Another volunteer provided all safety checks for each lesson and supervised the barn. A graduate B sat in the viewing area with parents and explained the purpose of the clinic, and the importance of developing our upper level members into good teachers.

Breakdown of Lessons: We divided the clinic attendees (6) into two teaching groups of three and gave each group teaching assignments Saturday evening. Each lesson was divided into three 20 minutes segments, depending on the level.

Examples: Warmup/Flat; Gymnastics; Jumping courses
Flat/Gymnastics/Riding in the Open

Each group then broke down who would teach each lesson segment and groups were instructed to work together to develop comprehensive lesson plans that would target a specific skill. This way, each lesson segment would pick up where the previous one left off and the lesson segments would have continuity.

We also made sure that each candidate taught a lesson in each of the following categories: lower level D, D3/C1, and C2/C3 as well as one jumping and one flat. This was great because some candidates have good eyes and were excellent with the C2/C3 groups, but couldn't keep the D1 group safely spaced, or vice versa. Having the candidates teach such a large variety of lessons really showed the strengths and weaknesses. Lesson groups consisted of 3-5 pony clubbers. We had six lessons so each teaching group taught 3 lessons together.