

## Pony Club Fact Sheet - Proficiency Certificates



Progress in pony club is recognised by gaining certificates on ability and sportsmanship. There are eight certificates a rider can achieve - D, D Star, C, C Star, K, B, H and A. The certificates are a measure the riders skill and knowledge encompassing both ridden and practical examinations. They are gained in order starting from D through to A.

### D Certificate Information

The rider's first introduction to certificates comes with the D Certificate. This is awarded for keenness and encouragement. The candidate must have reached a minimum age of 7 years before examination. The candidate should have attended at least three (3) rally days and have learned about elementary grooming, feeding and general care of a horse as well as basic riding. There is no written paper for this certificate

Specific details regarding the examination for the D certificate are listed below.

### Certificate & Badge Colour

Yellow

### Pre-Requisite

None

### Objective

The objectives of the D Certificate are to gain confidence in riding and handling a pony and to be keen to improve and learn.

### Learning Outcomes

#### Riding

- Mounting & Dismounting (mounting block may be used)
- Being legged up.
- How to hold and use the reins
- Capable of starting, guiding and stopping the pony and riding at the walk
- Riding at a walk, rising trot and canter without being led
- Know safe road riding skills
- Participate in simple mounted games and rider exercises

#### Horsemastership

- Approach, catch and lead a quiet pony
- Tie a pony up with rope at correct length, preferably to string, using quick release knot.
- Brush, saddle and bridle a pony (with assistance)
- Let the pony go in the paddock
- Give a pony an apple or carrot safely
- Know the comfortable living conditions for a pony
- Know what a pony eats and drinks
- Identify nostrils, forehead, eye, ear, muzzle, forlock, crest, neck, mane, sholder, wither, back, loins, rump, tail, hock, knee, fetlock, frog and hoof
- Identify Bridle, bit, reins, cheekstrap, browband, noseband, throatlash, saddle, girth, stirrups, pommel, leathers, seat, crupper, surcingle

Know how to clean saddlery and put away

## Evaluation

### Practical

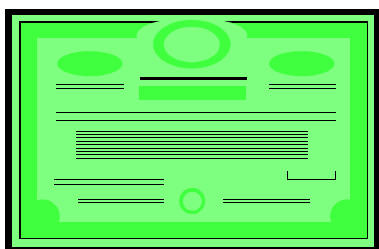
In order to pass the D Certificate the candidate must be competent in the learning outcomes outlined above.

### Written Exam

None

### Examiner

Examined internally by Instructors at your Pony Club



## D\* Certificate Information

Most riders' next move onto the **D Star certificate**, although this is not compulsory. The candidate must have attained the age of 9 years and have gained further knowledge in grooming, feeding, and care of the horse.

Candidates must have control of their ponies and show a more secure and correct position for flat work and jumping.

The D Star is not a prerequisite for any subsequent certificate. There is no written paper required for this certificate. Specific details for the D Star certificate are listed below.

## Certificate & Badge Colour

Lime Green

## Pre-Requisite

"D" Certificate

## Guidelines

Candidates must have control of their ponies and show a more secure and correct position for flat work and jumping.

## Objectives

To work towards a balanced seat and independence of the reins.

To improve the rider's control of the pony.

To have an elementary knowledge of the care of the pony.

## Learning Outcomes

### Riding

Walk, rising trot, and canter in a large area, including circle and straight line and change of direction.

Make transitions on command.

Trot and canter at varying speeds.

Mount correctly – from a mounting block if necessary.

Dismount from either side of the pony.  
Ride with reins in one hand.  
Hold and use a short whip correctly.  
Trot on a loose rein.  
Change diagonals on command.  
Rising trot over poles on the ground in a forward position.  
Negotiate small jumps of varied design from the trot.  
Know simple traffic rules when riding on the road.  
Lead and turn a pony in hand at the walk and trot (with bridle).

## **Horsemastership**

Basic feeding and care of the pony.  
Pick up and clean out front feet.  
Basic care of the feet.  
Identify: Wall, frog, sole and heels.  
Identify: Rasp, hammer, toe knife, buffer and pincers.  
Identify: Throat, elbow, pastern, dock, coronet, hips, hock, stifle, ribs and cheek.  
Identify: Cantle, waist, gullet, stirrup bar and sweat flap.  
Identify and demonstrate use of: Dandy brush, body brush and curry comb.  
Clean and put away saddlery.  
Recognise the following: Girth gall, cold, colic and laminitis (founder).

## **General Knowledge**

Know the names of the Club Executive.

## **Evaluation**

### **Practical**

In order to pass the D\* Certificate the candidate must be competent in the learning outcomes outlined above.

### **Written Exam**

None

### **Examiner**

Examined internally by Instructors at your Pony Club

## **Resources**

### **Pony Club Australia Syllabus of Instruction**

National syllabus for certificates sets out certificate requirements.

### **New Zealand Pony Club Manual No.1**

Resource book with information for both educator and student.

### **D/D\* Certificate Resource Kit PCAV Publication from PCAV Shop**

*More information about certificates in upcoming fact sheets. If you would like more information now, please refer to the pony club web site [www.ponyclubvic.org.au](http://www.ponyclubvic.org.au)*