

## USPC HM Required Equipment Checklist Amplification

### General Instructions

The Required Equipment List (REL) is a list of items most commonly needed and/or used when traveling and/or competing with a mount. All items should be "show ready" and present in the tack room or in use within the barn area at the beginning of the Rally. A Horse Management Judge will come and check your equipment to make sure you have every thing that is required. At some Rallies, they will only check some of the Kits (HM12f), but you need to be prepared with all the equipment every time.

- Grooming equipment should be clean; not having more than a day's worth of dirt present.
- Individual tack should be clean and conditioned according to the Standard of Proficiency appropriate to the Rating level of the Rally Competitor who will be using it.
- First Aid Kits and the Utility Kit must be stored so they are readily available in case of an emergency. Every team member should be familiar with the contents of these Kits and the purpose and use of each item in the Kits.
- Extra equipment must be clean/conditioned to the Standard of Proficiency for Turnout Inspection of the highest rated rider on the team, so it is ready to be used at a moment's notice by any team member.)
- If a REL item is used at Rally to replace a broken item prior to the REL check, it is a good idea (but not required) to leave a note in the Kit to indicate that the item was originally in place (i.e., A Competitor breaks her USPC pin and uses a pin from the Utility Kit. The Competitor should leave a note in the Utility Kit: "Used by #x to replace broken pin".
- There are a few items must be hung by the door of the Tack Room:
  - Working flashlight
  - "A" or "ABC" Fire Extinguisher, and
  - Team or Individual Identification Sign.

### Labeling

The purpose of labeling is to allow lost items to be returned quickly to the rightful owner. All equipment must be clearly labeled in such a way that it is easy to identify the owner, so the item(s) can be returned easily and promptly (HM12d). For example:

- All individual equipment may be labeled with the Competitor's name, initials, number or phone number.
- All team equipment may be labeled with the team name or number or the name or number of any team member.
- Loose items (such a nails) may be stored in a box or bag which can then be appropriately labeled.
- If the item (such as a hoof pick or scissors) has a hole or opening in the end, tie a piece of ribbon or landscaping tape through it and knot it. Then write the Competitor name or other identifying information in permanent ink on the ribbon/tape.
- When labeling saddles and bridles, Competitors should place a label with the Competitor's name or number on the rack next to their saddle/bridle.

### Additional Items

The Required Equipment Checklist is a minimal amount of equipment necessary for caring for a horse when away from home. This is not a complete packing list for Rally. There will be additional items that a Competitor may wish or need to bring when at a Rally. No points are awarded or assessed for extra items which are not on the REL which are present in the tack room and/or barn area for a Competitor's use, unless the item is prohibited by the rules of competition.

### References

- USPC Horse Management Handbook & Rules for Rallies – 2010  
Note: "HMxx refers to a specific rule or section from this Handbook.
- USPC Manual of Horsemanship: Basics for Beginners – D Level, Susan E. Harris
- USPC Manual of Horsemanship: Intermediate Horsemanship – C Level, Susan E. Harris
- USPC Manual of Horsemanship: Advanced Horsemanship – B, HA, A Levels, Susan E. Harris
- USPC Standards of Proficiency – All rating levels
- USPC Guide to Bandaging Your Horse

These references and other helpful information are available from the USPC Bookstore.

## Grooming Kit

### Purpose

Each Competitor is expected to bring their own Grooming Kit to Rally. Sharing grooming equipment is unsanitary and can lead to many health issues for the mount and sometimes the rider. Pony Club members are expected to be responsible for their own grooming equipment and use it correctly.

Note: The USPC Manual of Horsemanship has detailed information on grooming mounts.

### Requirements

- One kit per mount
- Labeling: Individual equipment should have the Competitor's name or number.

### Checklist

#### Hoof Pick

Used for picking out a mount's hooves before and after riding. For health reasons each mount must have their own hoof pick and they should never be shared (imagine sharing your toothbrush).

- Should be: Reasonably clean; about a day's worth of dirt
  - Shouldn't be: Broken, rusted
  - Tip: If the hoof pick has a hole or opening in the end, tie a piece of ribbon or landscaping tape through it and knot it, then write the correct label in permanent ink.



#### Rubber or Plastic Currycomb\*

A good currycomb has concentric rings with serrated or 'tooth' edges to trap the dirt, which can then be tapped off using the sole of your boot. A currycomb has three uses:

1. To loosen caked mud and scurf (scaly or shredded dry skin, such as dandruff) from your mount's coat
2. To rub and stimulate the mount's skin, and
3. To clean your brushes after several strokes.

- Should be: Reasonably clean; no more than a day's worth of dirt.
- Shouldn't be: Plastic curries with hose attachments for washing horses don't work well for cleaning brushes. Competitors need to bring an additional approved currycomb with which to clean brushes.
- Tip: Place a piece of masking tape across the back of the currycomb and write the Competitor's name in permanent marker.

In addition to the traditional rubber/plastic currycomb, items like the tools pictured here may be used. These types of currycombs are approved and meet the requirement.



The currycombs shown below are not acceptable. Metal currycombs with three concentric rings and a handle work well for cleaning brushes, but are too sharp to be used on a mount. Some of them do not have concentric rings of serrated edges. If you bring one of these, you must also have a currycomb like one of those pictured above.



## Grooming Kit, continued

### ❑ Dandy Brush\*

A dandy brush is a stiff brush used to remove heavy dirt, dried sweat and mud. It works very well on mounts with long coats. They can be made with synthetic or natural bristles.

- Should be: Reasonably clean; about a day's worth of dirt.
- Shouldn't be: Softer than your body brush



### ❑ Body Brush\*

A body brush has shorter, softer bristles than the dandy brush and is used to remove dust, scurf and dried sweat from a mount. This is the brush that adds the shine! Oval brushes with handles across the back are usually (but not always) body brushes.

- Should be: Bristles should be soft. Reasonably clean; about a day's worth of dirt.
- Shouldn't be: Stiffer than the dandy brush.



### ❑ Rub Rag

Great for removing stains, rubbing out sweat marks and giving a great final polish after grooming.

- Should be: Reasonably clean - about a day's worth of dirt; at least the size of a hand towel, absorbent, made of a towel-like material.
- Shouldn't be: Potholders, washcloths
- Tip: Retired dish towels make great rub rags. Label with a permanent marker.

### ❑ Wet Wipes, moistened Towelettes or 2 Sponges

Used to clean the mount's eyes, nose and dock. Don't use the same wipe/sponge on the face and dock.

- Should be:
  - Wet wipes should be moist; thrown away after use.
  - Sponges should be neat and reasonably clean. Store wet sponges in sponge drying rack. They must be marked to indicate which is for the dock and which is for the face.
- Shouldn't be: Wet wipes should not be dried out or contain any alcohol -- think baby wipes.
- Tip: Label dry sponges with a permanent marker. 'F' can stand for 'face', 'D' for 'dock'. Wet wipes store well in a sealed zip-close bag labeled with a permanent marker.

### ❑ Body Sponge

Body sponges are usually large and squishy, and easily fill your hand. Can be synthetic or natural sponge.

- Should be: Large
- Shouldn't be: Sponge mitts or kitchen sponges
- Tip: Label dry sponges with a permanent marker. 'B' can stand for 'body'.



### ❑ Wash Bucket

- Marked 'Wash Only'
- Should be: At least two gallons. "Pickle" buckets are acceptable. Refer to the description under Feeding Equipment – Top Off Buckets.

### ❑ Scraper

A scraper pulls the extra water off a wet horse, which speeds the drying/cooling time. Scrapers are usually plastic, aluminum or rubber.

- Shouldn't be: A metal scraper with teeth along one side, which is called a Shedding Comb.

### \* Cleaning Brushes

Clean dandy and body brushes with the currycomb after every few strokes. Clean and disinfect them thoroughly on a regular basis to remove embedded dirt and dust. Fill a small bucket with warm water and a few drops of liquid dish detergent. Swish the brushes in the warm water for about a minute. Fill another small bucket with a gallon of warm water and about 3 tablespoons liquid disinfectant. Swish the brushes for about one minute to rinse. Shake out the excess water then let them dry, bristles down, overnight. Try not to soak brushes with wooden or leather handles for more than one minute.

Another method is to add one-half a cup of baking soda to a pan with one to two inches of white or apple cider vinegar (make sure the pan has high sides, the mixture will foam!). Put the bristles into the mixture. The foaming action cleans and loosens the dirt. Rinse as directed above.

## Individual Equipment

### Purpose

Each Member must be prepared to care for their mount, tack and equipment while at a USPC Rally or Activity. Members must also have the right equipment for the riding phases of the Rally or Activity.

### Requirements

- One per rider/mount

### Checklist

In addition to personal tack & equipment that is needed for the specific discipline, the team must bring:

#### Saddle rack

Each Competitor must have their own place to store their saddle(s). This can be individual saddle racks, a team rack or a combination.

- Should: Store only up to two saddles for one Competitor on one rack with a clean, dry saddle pad between them to prevent damage.
- Tip: Limit the amount of weight stored on top of your saddle. Stacking may cause damage to the lower saddle because of the weight resting on it.

#### Bridle Rack

Each bridle should be hung on a separate holder or hook. This can be individual bridle hooks, a team rack or a combination.

- Tip: Flat round cat food or tuna fish cans screwed to a 1x6 board make a great bridle rack.

#### Boot Trees (legs and toes)

Required for every team member who is wearing tall leather boots. Leather boots are an investment that can last years if cared for correctly and boot trees and toes help them maintain their shape and prolong their life. Paddock boots or tall rubber boots that stand up on their own don't need boot trees.

- Should be: Stiff enough to help boots stand up and maintain shape.
- Shouldn't be: Crumpled paper or material
- Tip: Plastic shoe trees make very good toes. Boot trees can be made by rolling and taping newspaper, cardboard, or even an empty drink bottle and then taping it up or placing the roll in a large tube sock. Toe stuffing can be made from rolled socks (preferably clean ones), rolled and taped paper, tennis balls cut in half, or a HM favorite, kitty litter in a nylon stocking (hey, it absorbs odors!).

#### Stall Card (checked on HM App. D-1 "Set Up & Safety")

Blank Stall Cards and directions for complete information needed on each card may be found in Appendix I of the current USPC Horse Management Handbook & Rules for Rallies.

- Should be: Easy to read, correct and complete.
- Shouldn't be: Hard to read, inaccurate, missing required information.
- Tips: Stall cards can be slipped into clear page protectors to keep them clean. Remember to add your Competitor number when you arrive at Rally!

#### Halter (checked on HM App. D-1 "Set Up & Safety")

Every mount must wear a clean, properly fitted safety (leather or breakaway) halter at all times when not under saddle, unless approved by the CHMJ. All halters used at Rallies must:

- Fit correctly (HM8b.1)
- Have breakaway capability (HM8b.2), and
- Have some form of identification on it at all times. (HM8c)

## Individual Equipment, continued

### ❑ Lead Rope (checked on HM App. D-1 "Set Up & Safety")

Refer to HM10b for information on what types of lead ropes are permitted at USPC Rallies and Activities. You will also find information on the use of chain shanks.

- It is recommended, but not required, that Members use breakaway loops made of twine between the lead rope and the secure object to which the mount is tied.
- Tip: Wrap a piece of duct or masking tape around the end of the lead rope and label it correctly.



### ❑ Water Buckets (checked on HM App. D-1 "Set Up & Safety")

The decision about how many buckets you are required to have at a Rally depends on the type of Rally (one day or overnight) & whether your mount is getting electrolytes in their water. Electrolytes are a way to help replace minerals a horse loses when they sweat (very similar to Gatorade). If a horse is receiving electrolytes they must also have fresh water available at all times.

- Should be: Heavy-duty, five gallons each. If adding electrolytes to one of the buckets, that bucket should be clearly marked "Water and Electrolytes".
- May also be: Heavy-duty muck buckets, which are used only for this purpose.
- Shouldn't be: "Pickle" buckets or buckets less than five gallons.

From HM13b:

"All mounts must have a constant supply of fresh water accessible at all times. Mounts drink about 10-20 gallons of water per day."



### FAQs

When do I need one water bucket?

- One day Rallies when the mount is not getting electrolytes in his water.

When do I need two water buckets?

- One day Rallies when the mount is getting electrolytes in his water. (One bucket for plain fresh water, the other water with the added electrolytes.)
- Overnight Rallies when the mount is not getting electrolytes. (Two buckets of fresh water.)

What if I'm at a trailer Rally and there is no place to safely hang a water bucket?

- From HM13b: "When tied to trailers, or when there is no suitable location or it is impractical to secure a water bucket (e.g., Trailer Rallies), mounts must be offered water at least once an hour."

### Hanging Buckets:

Refer to HM11d for details concerning how to hang buckets.

Flat back buckets need one point of attachment (one snap); round back buckets need two points of attachment. Muck tubs should be placed in a far corner of the stall.

- Tips:
  - An easy way to hang buckets and tubs is to use double ended snaps, but they are not required. You can keep extra snaps in a correctly labeled bag.
  - If you use snaps:
    - Should: Hang snaps with snap end away from mount.
    - Shouldn't be: Broken or rusted.
  - Tip: Bring at least two snaps. Extras always come in handy.



## Feeding Equipment

Feeding Equipment is only required at overnight Rallies.

### Purpose

What would happen if, for some reason, you were unable to feed your horse(s)? How would a team mate or chaperone know which hay was yours? Which meal to feed to your horse? How much grain he should eat?

Does he get any medication?

Feed Charts and appropriate labeling can make this very clear and simple.

Competitors at Rallies are encouraged to set up their Feed Rooms as if someone else was going to feed their mounts.

### Requirements

- Per team and/or mount
- Horses may be fed two ways at overnight Rallies: prepackaged meals or from loose feed.
  1. Prepackaged meals:
    - Before you go to Rally, you can "serve up" each of your mount's meals in non-airtight bags. Then, at Rally, you can just empty the bag into your mount's feed bucket. Refer to HM13d for complete information on preparing prepackaged meals for Rally.
    - Note: Prescription medication may not be included in pre-packaged meals. Refer to HM14b - 14f.
  2. Meals from bulk (loose) concentrates/grain:
    - You can bring your bag of grain and containers of supplements to Rally and measure out your mount's meals at Rally. Refer to HM13d for complete information on preparing meals from bulk concentrates for Rally.
    - If you chose to feed in this way, your team must include a feed measure (an appropriately labeled scale, scoop or can) in their Required Equipment.

### Prescription Medication Rules

USPC follows USEF rules regarding equine medications. Any mount requiring medications must have a prescription or vet letter from the prescribing veterinarian. Refer to HM14b through 14f for details on administering medication.

### Checklist

#### Feed Chart

Refer to HM13a for complete information to include on the Feed Chart.

Remember to include mount's name, Competitor's number, normal feeding times, feed types and amounts by weight. You can add volume as well, if you use a volume scoop to feed. Remember to list any medications or nutraceuticals that a mount gets on the Feed Chart.

A sample Feed Chart can be found in the HM Handbook & Rules for Rallies, Appendix I.

- Should be: Easy to read. Hung in the feed area.
- Tip: Make one Feed Chart per mount.

#### Feed Measure

Only need be included if mount's feed is not pre-measured (if they have loose feed).

- Should be: Labeled with the mount's name
- Shouldn't be: Glass



## Feeding Equipment, continued

### ❑ Appropriate Feed Storage (Secured)

If a feed room is located in a spare barn stall then grain storage needs to have secondary security. Stall doors might be accidentally left open and are exactly the right size for a horse to walk through.

HM13d states that if feed must be stored where a loose horse can get to it (such as a feed stall or tack room), the feed must be in a second, sturdy, non-airtight container. The lid must be secured with rope, chain or snaps to prevent horses and other animals from getting to it.

Examples of a second, sturdy, non-airtight container:

- Metal container with lid: small galvanized trash cans with handles make good grain storage containers. Secure the lid with a rope or chain pulled tightly across the top of the container.
- Sturdy plastic container with lid: Plastic should have holes poked in it to encourage air circulation. Secure with a rope or chain pulled tightly across the top of the container.
- If the changing areas of trailers and other spaces with narrower latching doors are used then grain may not need secondary security since the smaller door opening acts as a barrier. The CHMJ may use discretion and allow the Competitors to dispense with a secondary feed container if they consider the situation is appropriate.

### ❑ Heavy-Duty Feed Tub

One per mount. Can be a feed bucket or tub that sits on the ground.

- Must be: Heavy-duty
- Must not: Have handles that a horse could get a leg caught in if it's being used on the ground. If handles cannot be removed they can be taped down with duct tape (from the Utility Kit).
  - Bucket Hanging Tip: Use double ended snaps as an easy way to hang buckets. Hang snaps with snap end away from horse.
  - Double ended snaps have many uses. Extras always come in handy, so you might want to bring at least two. Keep extra snaps in a bag and label it correctly.
  - Shouldn't be: Broken or rusted.

### ❑ Top-Off Bucket

One per horse.

Since this bucket is not going to be hung in a stall, it can be a 'pickle' type bucket, which has a thinner bail and straight walls. They are called 'pickle' buckets, because sliced pickles (along with other kinds of food) are delivered to many restaurants in these sturdy food-grade 5-gallon plastic buckets. Many restaurants give them away free. These buckets are usually sturdier than similar ones sold at hardware stores and the pickle buckets also have a snap-on lid (so you can store other items in them between Rallies). Be careful using old paint or drywall compound buckets, since they are hard to clean and those ingredients can be toxic.



'Pickle' Bucket

- Must: Have five gallons of water available outside each stall, so water buckets can easily be topped off during the HM night check.
- Top Off Buckets must be emptied and stored during the day. They may not be left in the aisle.
- Tip: Because a full five-gallon bucket is often difficult to handle, two buckets equaling five gallons may be used.

### ❑ Salt Block or Loose Salt

One per horse.

Horses should have salt available to them while in their stalls. Loose salt fed with their feed is acceptable if it is noted on Feed Chart and Stall card.

- Tip: "White salt blocks contain nothing but salt. Blue salt blocks contain cobalt and iodine as well as salt. Brown salt blocks contain additional minerals. Red blocks contain iodine." Katherine Blocksdorff, "Your Guide to Horses", <http://horses.about.com/od/feedingyourhorse/ff/saltblocks.htm>.

## Equine First Aid Kit

### Purpose

The items in the Equine First Aid Kit were selected to:

- Make a horse more comfortable after a day of competition.
- Assess the condition of a horse, and
- Help perform emergency first aid on injured horses

The bandaging materials listed in the Equine First Aid Kit are geared toward the treatment of multiple emergency leg wounds, with the worst injury during competition being a traumatic leg wound that requires blood stoppage.

### Definitions

#### Expiration Date

The expiration date of a medicine is the date at which the manufacturer can still guarantee the full potency and safety of the drug. If you are treating your mount, you want to make sure you give him/her everything you paid for. This date usually is based on proper storage in sealed containers away from harmful factors like heat and humidity. Drugs can have 'half-lives', and as they mature, the potency of the drug can change and they may become stronger or weaker. No expiration date on a package means the product contains no 'real' antibacterial, antimicrobial, antibiotic or antifungal ingredients in the pharmaceutical sense of the word. Items that should have an expiration date are tagged **Expiration Date ALERT!**

#### Shelf Life

Shelf life specifies the period of time during which a product can be stored, under specified conditions, and remain in optimum condition and suitable for use. It is also the length of time that a given item can remain in a saleable condition on a retailer's shelf. Items that might have a shelf life are tagged **Shelf Life ALERT!**

#### The "/" symbol

In medical terminology "/" means "or" so the topical agent you use needs to say on the packaging that it is either antibacterial, antimicrobial, or antibiotic (or any combination of the three).

#### Antibiotic

The word antibiotic means "against life". An antibiotic is a drug that weakens or stops bacteria and other microorganisms from growing. It is used to treat infections and prevent the growth of bacteria within the body. Antibiotics are not effective against viral, fungal and other nonbacterial infections. Various antibiotics can target different types of bacteria, so you may need different antibiotics for different types of infections.

#### Antiseptic

An antiseptic is a germicide that is used on skin or living tissue for the purpose of inhibiting or destroying microorganisms, including bacteria, fungi, protozoa, and viruses. Using antiseptics reduces the possibility of sepsis or infection by germs. Disinfectants are similar, but they are used on non-living objects such as thermometers and scissors.

#### Antimicrobial

An antimicrobial is an agent that acts against bacteria, fungi, and parasites in the body. Antimicrobial is a general term for something that kills or slows the growth of bacteria (antibacterial activity), fungi (antifungal activity), viruses (antiviral activity), or parasites (antiparasitic activity).

#### Antibacterial

An antibacterial is an agent that interferes with the growth of bacteria. While antibiotics and antibacterials both attack bacteria, these terms have evolved over the years to mean two different things. Antibacterials are usually described as products that are used to disinfect non-living surfaces and eliminate potentially harmful bacteria. Unlike antibiotics, antibacterials are not used as medicines for humans or animals. Antibacterials are found in products such as soap, detergent, skincare products and household cleaners.

## Equine First Aid Kit, continued

### Requirements

- One kit per team
- Easily accessible
- All printed expiration dates current
- Sufficient supplies for all mounts on team
- Labeling: Everything should be correctly labeled.

### Checklist

#### Petroleum jelly

Primarily used to lubricate the thermometer. It can also be used on a mount's chapped heels (from standing in mud) to protect them from wet and weather.

- Should be: At least half a jar.
- Tip: It is a good practice to use synthetic protective gloves or gauze squares when applying any topical, so you do not contaminate (get germs in) the topical. Using squeeze tubes lessens the chance of contamination.

#### Digital Thermometer (or Veterinary Thermometer with thong and clip)

Used for taking a horse's temperature. Before using the thermometer, wipe it with alcohol to disinfect it, and then apply a thin coat of petroleum jelly over the end. After use, clean it well with alcohol. (Refer to USPC Manual – Level C for instructions on taking a mount's temperature).

Glass thermometers

- Caution! Use care when opening the case, because the thermometer may be broken!
- Make sure the thong (string) and clip (something like a clothespin) are attached and ready to go.
- Glass thermometers will be maxed out in their temperature reading if they have been stored in a hot location such as inside a car or trailer. Shake the thermometer down to make sure it reads correctly. If there is a space in the filling liquid, then the thermometer is no longer accurate and must be discarded.

Digital Thermometers

- Turn on the digital thermometer. Make sure the battery is not low.
- Digital thermometers are intended to be held in place during use. They take temperature readings quickly and usually beep when they are finished. (Do not let go of it while you are taking your mount's temperature. It doesn't have a thong and clip and you don't want it to disappear!)
- Tip: You may wish to tape a tongue depressor to the end of the thermometer for ease of handling while taking the horse's temp.

#### Liniment or Body Wash

A small amount can be added to wash water.

**Shelf Life ALERT!** May have shelf life date. Does not need expiration date.

- Should be: The bottle should be at least half full.
- Tip: Put it in a zip-close bag so it doesn't leak.

#### Isopropyl Alcohol

Isopropyl alcohol, also known as rubbing alcohol, is used to clean and disinfect items like bandage scissors and thermometers.

**Shelf Life ALERT!** May have shelf life date. Does not need expiration date.

- Should be: The bottle should be at least half full.



## Equine First Aid Kit, continued

### ❑ Antibacterial or Antimicrobial or Antiseptic Scrub

An easy way to think about the difference between an antibacterial/antimicrobial/antibiotic 'solution' and a 'scrub' is that the solution treats a wound and the scrub cleans it. Somewhere on the label the words 'antibacterial', 'antimicrobial' or 'antibiotic' must appear.

**Shelf Life ALERT!** May have shelf life date. Does not need expiration date.

- Should be: At least eight ounces.
- Shouldn't be: A "solution".
- Tips:
  - A scrub can be made from a antibacterial/antimicrobial/antibiotic "solution" by adding a quarter to a third of the volume in liquid soap, then after mixing it gently pour a little out and see if it makes suds or at least feels slimy between your fingers.
  - Because scrubs usually come in large bottles, it is okay to pour some into a smaller plastic bottle with a tightly fitting lid. Be sure to label the smaller bottle with the name of the scrub, the shelf life and/or expiration date and team/Competitor identification.
  - Antibacterial liquid soap is an inexpensive option for this item.

### ❑ Topical Antibacterial or Antimicrobial or Antibiotic Agent

- Must contain the words "antibacterial" OR "antimicrobial" OR "antibiotic".

**Expiration date ALERT!** **MUST have a current expiration date.**

WARNING: While the active ingredients in topical agents are effective in the treatment of wounds in horses, they can be hazardous to your health. It is a good practice to use synthetic gloves or gauze squares when applying these topical agents.

- Should be: At least two (2) ounces (which is roughly the amount of a half-stick of butter)
- Shouldn't be: Anything without an expiration date. No expiration date = no active ingredient.
- Tip: Human treatments of any triple antibiotic ointment are an acceptable topical agent. You would need at least 2 ounces to treat a horse. This makes it more expensive than many equine specific treatments.

### ❑ 4" Sterile Wound Dressings

Each dressing must be individually wrapped to be sterile. The USPC Manual of Horsemanship, C Level (See 'Treating Minor Wounds' above), recommends a minimum of four to treat a minor wound; two to clean, one to blot, then one to dress.

- Should be: At least four dressings in sealed packages that say "sterile".
- Tip: Additional sterile wound dressings of other sizes may be included.



### ❑ 1 Roll Gauze (at least 2" wide)

This is very helpful in keeping a gauze pad in place over a wound.

- Should be: At least one full roll.
- Tip: Roll gauze can be the brown type that veterinarians use, or stretchy cling gauze available in grocery stores.

### ❑ 2 Flexible Stretch Adhesive/Cohesive Bandages

These are very useful in keeping a gauze pad or other wound padding in place. Apply snugly enough to keep it in place, but use caution, since it can stretch and cut off circulation.

- Should be: Checked every year to make sure they are still useful. They can break down over time and become a solid mass of rubbery stuff that you can't unroll, especially if they are left in hot environments (like cars or trailers).
- Shouldn't be: A human stretch bandage, because they stretch too much and can cut off circulation.
- Tip: At the beginning of Rally season, take last year's flexible bandages and have members practice wrapping wounds. This will refresh their skills and you can start the season with new rolls of bandages.



## Equine First Aid Kit, continued

### ❑ 1 lb Roll of 12" Absorbent Practical Cotton

Absorbent practical cotton is used when building a bandage over a bleeding or oozing wound, otherwise the other paddings (pillow, no bow, sheet cotton) are used.

In building a bandage from the items in the Equine First Aid Kit, the first layer against a wound should be 4" sterile wound dressings (gauze pads or non-stick pads) and roll gauze. Over this sterile layer, apply a layer of practical absorbent cotton (sterile or non-sterile), then a Leg Wrap to hold it all in place. Because you are using absorbent practical cotton, there is no plastic "barrier" layer to cause problems to bandaged area (retention of heat, increased moisture, plastic binding against the skin, tabs taped on skin, etc.) and layering is easy.

Roll cotton is multi-purpose. It can be cut or pulled apart to make small sized pieces, saturated with Isopropyl Alcohol and used like a sponge to apply to an overheated horse or cut to fit the base of a hoof to wrap as sole pad, etc.

- Should be: At least 12" wide, can be wider; highly absorbent; at least one pound. Roll cotton can be open; it does not need to be sterile, since it should not be used next to a wound.
- Shouldn't be: Pads, absorbent or not, disposable diapers, etc. These are not wide enough nor of variable length to accommodate bandaging different sized legs or parts (forearm, carpus, cannon, fetlock, pastern, hoof, gaskin, hock). Should not be non-absorbent sheet cotton, the type used to make standing bandages.
- Tip: This item can be somewhat hard to find. Do not leave this for a last-minute shopping trip!

### ❑ Bandage Scissors

Bandage scissors are used to cut a bandage off a mount. The blunt tip allows the scissors to cut close to the skin without cutting it.

- Should be: Blunt tipped and capable of cutting through thick bandages.
- Shouldn't be: Regular scissors, since the points are too sharp or kid's school scissors.
- Tip: Tie a long piece of ribbon or landscaping tape to the handles, then label correctly.



### ❑ 1 Roll Adhesive Tape (1" Minimum Width)

Adhesive tape is very useful in keeping a gauze pad or other wound padding in place. This tape is specifically designed to hold bandages on. It is also known as cloth sports tape or bandage tape.

- Should be: At least one full roll
- Shouldn't be: Masking tape, duct tape, cellophane tape

### ❑ 4 Leg Bandages with Appropriate Padding for Four (4) Stable Wraps

These can be applied over treated leg wounds. Remember to bandage the adjacent leg to provide support.

Bandages: If bandages do not have Velcro closures, at least two bandage pins or strong safety pins per bandage must be included. Note that diaper pins may also be used, but the plastic ends can shatter easily.

- Acceptable: Track bandages, flannel bandages, knit bandages
- Unacceptable: Polo-wraps



### ❑ Padding

- Should be sized to fit every mount on the team.
- Acceptable: No-bow wraps and pillow wraps are acceptable as long as they are the correct height and sufficiently thick for stable wraps. Non-absorbent sheet cotton is acceptable, but may take more time to fold to fit a mount. At least two bags (of 12 sheets each) are required to reach the minimum number of six sheets recommended for a stable wrap in the USPC Guide to Bandaging Your Horse.
- Unacceptable: Very thin quilted pads, usually the thickness of a mattress pad with a binding sewn along the edges. You would need several of these to achieve the correct thickness of a stable wrap.

## Equine First Aid Kit, continued

### Frequently Asked Questions

Why do I need all this equipment in the Equine First Aid Kit? When might I use it?

Treating Minor Wounds (excerpted from The United States Pony Club Manual of Horsemanship, C Level, pages 230-231)

- If a wound bleeds quite a lot, press a gauze pad firmly against the wound.
- Non-bleeding wounds: Hose the wound & the area around at a slight angle with a gentle stream of cool water for ten minutes to dislodge dirt & particles. Note: Hosing may stimulate bleeding, so be cautious of hosing a formerly bleeding wound.
- Clean the wound gently using water and an antibacterial soap or scrub. Gauze pads are preferred for cleaning more severe wounds, because using cotton may leave cotton fibers in the wound. Clean the area above the wound first and work your way down, discarding gauze pads as they become soiled.
- Gently blot the wound dry with sterile gauze square or allow to dry without touching.
- If the wound is small, apply a small amount of the topical antibacterial/antimicrobial/antibiotic agent. Some veterinarians prefer that you don't put anything at all on the wound. Don't use peroxide, alcohol or iodine or any other strong antiseptic on the wound as these can damage the tissues and may interfere with healing.
- To dress the wound, place a large, sterile, preferably non-stick gauze dressing over the wound, then if needed, pad with roll cotton and apply a stable bandage.
- If the wound cannot be dressed, check it frequently to make sure it is not becoming contaminated with dirt or bedding. If it gets dirty again clean it with gently running water. Don't scrub the wound as you may damage the healing tissue.

## Human First Aid Kit

### Purpose

The Human First Aid kit is intended to provide first aid and comfort to Competitors. It has the items needed to take care of the simplest of cuts/scrapes when further care is not indicated. Of course, in a serious situation, medical personnel may need to be called. Some of the materials in the Equine First Aid Kit are acceptable for use by humans, such as gauze bandaging, scissors and adhesive tape. Medicated products from the Equine First Aid Kit are not intended for human use.

Additional items may be added to the kit, such as:

- Tweezers
- Instant cold compresses
- Human digital thermometer
- Antiseptic wipes
- Hand sanitizer
- Aloe Vera cream/sunburn cream
- Blister bandages

Accordingly, items that should not be included in the team Human First Aid Kit are:

- Over-the-counter medications such as aspirin, decongestants, allergy relief, etc.
- Prescription pharmaceuticals, including inhalers and epinephrine auto-injectors.  
HM6c Drugs and Medications states: "Competitors must note any prescribed medications and/or health related conditions on the USPC Medical Card. A current copy of the form must be maintained in the Armband and is required to be worn at all USPC activities.  
HMJs or Organizer(s) may not take possession of, or administer, any medications.  
During a USPC activity, Members risk disqualification from further participation if they possess or are under the influence of illegal drugs or controlled substances."

### Requirements

- One kit per team
- Easily accessible
- All printed expiration dates current
- Sufficient supplies for all team members
- Labeling: Everything should be correctly labeled. Loose items like synthetic gloves should be in a bag or container and correctly labeled.

### Checklist

- ❑ 1 Extra Medical Armband with Blank Medical Release Card
  - If a Competitor's original armband is lost, the parent/guardian or team Chaperone may complete the blank card for that Competitor's use.
  - Competitors should not fill out the form on their own unless they are over 18.
  - Tips:
    - If the extra armband or form needs to be used, the Competitor needs to place a note in the Kit alerting the team to that fact. This allows the team to alert the HMJ doing the equipment check to the location of this item.
    - It is a good idea for each Competitor to bring 2 completed Medical Release Cards to Rally. One for your Armband and the other can be kept in a zip-close bag in your Grooming Kit. It will be ready to use with the extra Armband if you lose yours.

## Human First Aid Kit, continued

### ❑ Band-Aids

- Should be: At least a dozen Band-Aids. Label the box/bag.
- Tip: Stock the Human First Aid Kit with a large selection of bandage sizes and shapes. Bandages made especially for blisters are always useful. Store them in a zip-close plastic bag labeled correctly.



### ❑ Triple Antibiotic Cream

Triple antibiotic ointment is effective protection against infection from minor cuts, burns, abrasions and other first aid emergencies.

**Expiration date ALERT!**     **No Expiration Date = No active ingredient and that's not good!**

- Must: Contain the words 'antibiotic' on the label. Have a current expiration date.

### ❑ 3 Pair Synthetic Protective Gloves

Can be latex, vinyl or other synthetic material. The kit must contain at least three pairs.

- Shouldn't be: Taped together. Should not be dishwashing gloves, since these are too clumsy to be useful.
- Tip: Check for cracks and holes. Put them in zip-close bag for easy access. Vinyl gloves are usually a good choice, since some people are allergic to latex.



### ❑ Sunscreen

Can be spray, lotion, roll-on, etc. Can be individually packaged.

**Shelf Life ALERT!**

- Should be: At least half a bottle or at least one individual pack per team member.
- Tip: Store in a zip-close plastic bag to avoid spills. Aloe Vera gel is helpful to have on hand as well to treat sunburns and minor cuts and scrapes.

### ❑ Bug Spray (for Humans)

Can be spray, lotion, roll-on, etc. Can be individually packaged.

**Shelf Life ALERT!**

- Should be: At least half a bottle, or at least one individual pack per team member.
- Tip: Store in a zip-close plastic bag to avoid spills.

## Tack Room Equipment

### Purpose

These required items are necessary for barn safety, team communication and use and knowledge of the rules of competition.

### Requirements

- One kit per team

### Checklist

- Team/Individual Identification (posted at entrance)

- Flashlight

The flashlight should be accessible. It must be hung by door of tack room, low enough for the shortest member of the team to grab without needing a stool. Make sure it is visible and easy to get without untangling or untying.

- Should be: Working with a strong, bright light
- Shouldn't be: pen-type or miniature flashlights
- Tips:
  - Hang it with a double ended snap, so it is easily removed for use.
  - Include a set of spare batteries in the Utility Kit, marked with the month and year purchased.



- Fire Extinguisher (Charged)

The fire extinguisher, like the flashlight, should be accessible. It must be hung by door of tack room, low enough for the shortest member of the team to grab without needing a stool. Make sure it is visible and easy to get without untangling or untying. It must be a Type "A" or "ABC" extinguisher.

- "A" = capable of extinguishing cellulose/wood fires,
- "B" = capable of extinguishing gasoline, grease or oil fires
- "C" = capable of extinguishing electrical fires.

Make sure the indicator reads "charged" or "full".

- Should be: Portable and hung by door of tack room.
- Tips:
  - Hang with a double-ended snap so that it is easily removed for use.
  - Many local fire departments run classes in how to use a fire extinguisher. This makes a great unmounted meeting.



- Notice Board

This can be a dry erase board, chalkboard, cork board, etc. Be sure to bring the proper markers or pens to use on your board! You can use the notice board to write things such as ride times and notes to team members.

- Trash Container:

- Should:
  - Be least 3 gallon size.
  - Have a lid to keep flies and other insects to a minimum.
- Tip: A large trash container can double as a storage/transport container for other team kits when not at Rally.

## Tack Room Equipment, continued

### ❑ Horse Management Handbook

Each team is required to have a copy of the Rulebooks, so every Competitor has easy access to the rules both before and during competition.

Each team must have Part 1: USPC Horse Management Handbook & Rules for Rallies, all Addenda, all HM Appendices (A – I) and the current annual HM Newsletter.

These can be found on the USPC website: [www.ponyclub.org](http://www.ponyclub.org) > Forms Page > "R" for Rulebook.

- Should be: In logical and sequential page order. Make sure you include any addenda (marked in the footer of pages on which changes have been made).
- Optional: Bring Parts 2 and 3 to help you understand how the judges and organizers make decisions.

### ❑ Discipline Rulebook

Each team is required to have a copy of the Rulebooks, so every Competitor has easy access to the rules both before and during competition.

The Rulebook is considered complete if it is current and includes all Addenda and the current annual Discipline Newsletter.

These can be found on the USPC website: [www.ponyclub.org](http://www.ponyclub.org) > Forms Page > "R" for Rulebook.

Should be: In logical and sequential page order. Make sure you have included any addenda. (These changes are marked in the footer of pages on which changes have been made.)

!! Note on Rulebooks: Electronic forms of the Rulebooks are allowed, but...

It is acceptable to bring electronic forms of the rulebooks, but remember it is not always possible to recharge electronic devices during a competition. Additionally, the small display screens of some devices make looking up rules difficult. Check before the Rally to make sure your device displays the rulebooks in an easy-to-read format and check with the Rally Organizer to make sure you will be able to keep your device charged throughout the Rally!

### ❑ Boot Hooks

Used to help pull on your boots.

One set of boot hooks per team is required only if one or more team member(s) are wearing tall boots that do not have a zipper opening.

- Tip: Boot hooks are inexpensive. It's a good idea to get a pair and keep them in your team trunk. You never know when somebody might need them.

### ❑ Boot Jack

Boot Jacks are very helpful in getting boots off, especially on hot sweaty days.

A boot jack is only required if one or more team member(s) are wearing tall boots that do not have a zipper opening.



## Utility Kit

### Purpose

Pony Club teams need to be prepared to deal with many situations when they arrive at Rally. The Utility Kit is stocked with items that help repair stall boards, hang water buckets, post notices, loosen stuck doors, etc. The list is endless. Additional items may be included in the kit, such as plastic cable ties for mounting items that don't need breakaway capability. This list is the minimum that must be included.

Tip: You can tie a piece of ribbon or neon landscape tape to the handle of many of these items and label correctly. It makes it easier to find them if they land in the grass!

### Requirements

- One kit per team, easily accessible

### Checklist

#### Hammer

- Should be: A medium to heavy duty all-purpose claw hammer type.
- Shouldn't be: A specialty hammer such as a carpenters maul (all wood) or rubber hammer.

#### Nails

- Should be: Heavy duty type and have a distinct head.
- Shouldn't be: Lightweight 'panel' type or finish nails. Should not be rusted or bent.
- Tip: Include a selection of nails in various sizes and weights. Can be stored in snap top plastic containers and labeled correctly.

#### Screwdriver

Can be either a Phillips head (+ sign tip) or flathead (- sign tip).

- Should be: Medium to heavy duty recommended.
- Shouldn't be: Rusted, bent.
- Tip: Include both a Phillips head and a flathead screwdriver.

#### Pliers

- Should be: Medium to heavy duty.
- Shouldn't be: Damaged.

#### Scissors

Can be used for cutting gauze for first aid, bailing twine, ribbons, etc.

- Should be: Sharp.
- Shouldn't be: Dull or broken.

#### Jackknife

In an emergency situation, a horse may become trapped and need to be cut free. It is important to have a sharp, sturdy knife on hand. A jackknife is considered a solid, reliable and safe form of knife for this purpose. It is extremely important that all Pony Club Members know how to use it safely.

- Should be: Sharp. Test on piece of bailing twine.
- Shouldn't be: Dull or broken. Heavy-duty box cutters or utility knives, which use retractable, replaceable thin razor blades are not considered a suitable alternative to jack knives, because the blades can snap very easily. The blades dull quickly and can be tricky to replace.
- Tips: Serrated edged knives cut easier than smooth edge. Make sure all team members know how to open as well as close the knife, because they often have tricky latches.

The Boy Scouts of America have an excellent program that teaches proper use of jackknives. Contact your local troop and ask them to come to your next unmounted meeting and instruct your group.

A good handout on jackknife safety can be found at [www.scoutxing.com/leadertips/tip027.htm](http://www.scoutxing.com/leadertips/tip027.htm)

A Pony Tube video on knife safety can be found at [hm.ponyclub.org/HM\\_Pony\\_Tube.html](http://hm.ponyclub.org/HM_Pony_Tube.html)



Utility Kit, continued

## ❑ Leather Punch

A leather punch comes in very handy for last minute tack adjustments.

- Should be: Easy to operate.
- Shouldn't be: Rusted or broken.

## ❑ Thumbtacks

Useful for putting notices up on the notice board and for Judges to leave notes.

- Should be: At least one dozen (12) per team.
- Shouldn't be: Dull, rusted or broken
- Tip: Larger thumbtacks with colored tops are easier to find if spilled.  
Thumbtacks can be stored in a small snap-lid plastic container. Label the container correctly.



## ❑ Duct Tape

Duct tape has 1,001 uses.

- Should be: At least half a roll.
- Shouldn't be: Masking tape or cellophane tape or too old to be useful! (Old duct tape can get so gummy that it will not unroll!)
- Tip: Write team name in permanent marker on the inside of the roll.



## ❑ Two Pony Club Pins

These are spares in case a team member loses or forgets one. The pin must bear the official image of USPC (see picture). Official USPC Championship pins with USPC image, discipline and date are acceptable. Colored felt backings, indicating rating, are optional.

- Should be: Clean with working latches or backing.
- Shouldn't be: Regional or commemorative pins.
- Tips:
  - Leave a note in the Utility Kit if they are in use - then return or replace it as soon as possible!
  - Can be stored with the thumbtacks.



## Tack Cleaning Kit

### Purpose

Good tack, when properly cared for and fitted, can give many years of service. The process of cleaning tack can be broken down into three stages.

1. **Cleaning** - If tack is fairly dirty (i.e., covered with sweat, mud, dirt, etc) use a sponge and cleaner to remove dirt. Care should be taken not to allow the soap to foam - this indicates the use of too much water, which will dry out the leather. The tack is then rinsed off with a slightly damp sponge to remove the cleaning agent, which is too harsh to be left on the saddle or bridle. Some good cleaners are: Lexol Cleaner, Castile Soap (Kirk's), LeatherCare, Ivory Soap.
2. **Conditioning** - Determine if the leather should be oiled or conditioned. Leather should be soft and supple, with no cracks, and should not squeak while you're riding. If oil is needed, use a 1" to 2" paintbrush to apply in thin layers to the "flesh" or rough side of the leather, then work the leather by hand, bending it back and forth as well as rolling. The heat from your hands will help the leather soak up the oil or conditioner. Don't go overboard - condition your leather gradually!
3. **Protecting** - Bar glycerin soap is the traditional choice of protection, since it will seal the pores of the leather to protect and nourish it. It acts as a type of raincoat for the leather, but does not clean it. If oil is applied after this step the leather will be duller, lacking polish, and the oil will not get into the fibers of the inner layers of the leather, because they have been sealed. Some good protectors: bar glycerin soap, Fiebing's Saddle Soap, Belvoir Glycerin.

(Excerpted from "2002 USPC Horse Management Rulebook", Part VI - Tack Care, Section 2, pp. 42-43)

### Requirements

- One kit per team

### Checklist

#### Ordinary Bar Soap \*\*

Used for the first step of tack cleaning; cleaning the leather. May also be used to wash your hands.

- Should be: A solid cake-type ordinary soap (Ivory Soap, Castile Soap)
- Shouldn't be: Deodorant soap or anti-bacterial liquid soap. These types of soap may damage leather.
- Tips:
  - Keep the soap cake in a soap container with the team's initials.
  - Stick the point of your stock pin into the bar of soap to help it through the knot of your stock tie.

#### Tack Oil or Conditioner \*\*

Used for the second step of tack cleaning; conditioning.

- Should be: Oil or conditioner
- Tip: Olive oil is a great tack oil. Since no glass is allowed in Rally tack rooms (unless taped), pouring the oil into a small, clean plastic water bottle with a screw top lid helps prevent spills. Label bottle with masking tape and a permanent marker. Warning: olive oil can go rancid (or spoil) quickly in hot weather.

#### Saddle Soap or Leather Cleaner \*\*

Used in the third step of tack cleaning; protection.

- Should be: Glycerin bar okay, other saddle soaps are fine but should be glycerin-based. If in jar or bottle make sure Competitors can open.

\*\* Product note: Multiuse products are acceptable as one of each of the three steps of tack care, but you must have three separate products for the soap, oil/conditioner and saddle soap.

Tack Cleaning Kit, continued

## ❑ Metal Polish

Used to clean any tack metal that DOES NOT come in contact with the horse's mouth. Bits should not be cleaned with metal polish; use toothpaste instead.

- Should be: At least half a bottle or can.
- Tip: Some containers of metal polish can rust easily. Make sure you can open it.

## ❑ Tack Sponge

Used to apply tack cleaners, conditioners and protectors.

- Should be: Smaller sponges that can easily fit in your hand - large bath sponges are clumsy.
- Shouldn't be: Very dirty. Should not be stored wet in your kit – use the sponge drying basket.
- Tip: Stock your tack cleaning kit with several small sponges.

## ❑ Cleaning Cloths

Used for applying tack cleaners, conditioners and protectors as well as metal polish.

- Should be: Reasonably clean.
- Shouldn't be: Very dirty.
- Tip: Keep separate cleaning cloths for metal since you don't want the residue of metal polish on leather. Old terrycloth face cloths work great.

## ❑ Pail

Fill with warm or tepid (if available) water for tack cleaning.

- Should be: Big enough to get sponges wet; at least one quart.

## ❑ Cleaning Hook

Used to hang tack on while cleaning it.

- Should be: Hung up while cleaning. Does not need to be out while not in use.
- Should Not: Use a nail on a board. This is dangerous and doesn't work very well.
- Tip: Cleaning hooks should be stored when not in use.



## ❑ Drying Basket

Used to dry all sponges and wet cloths.

- Should be: Hanging or free standing. Does not need to be out while not in use.
- Tip: Mesh laundry bags work well and can be hung by their string.

## ❑ Boot Polishing Kit (if applicable)

If any member of the team is wearing mounted footwear (tall or short boots) made of leather.

- Should: Include boot brush, boot polish and creams (at least half full) and cloths used only with the boot polish and creams.
- Tip: Keep a Boot Polishing Kit in its own small bag or container, marked with team name or initials.  
Note: You may want to keep a small Boot Polishing Kit with your Tack Cleaning Kit all the time. You may end up on a Scramble Team with a Competitor that has leather boots!

## Cleaning Equipment

### Purpose

Keeping the stable area neat and clean is one of the primary goals of good horse management.

### Requirements

- One kit per team, clean, in good repair, and appropriate to the task.
  - Tip: Tying the equipment together to secure it ensures that the items are less likely to fall and become a tripping hazard.

### Checklist

Manure Fork or Shovel

Forks and shovels are used for mucking stalls and picking up manure outside of the stall. Make sure you bring the correct fork for your bedding; pitchforks with tines work well with straw, manure forks AKA "muck rakes" with baskets work well with shavings and sawdust.



Rake or Broom

A rake or broom is handy for sweeping stalls and aisles and picking up smaller pieces of dirt and manure.



Manure Basket or Wheelbarrow

Used for carting manure to the designated manure piles.



## Extra Equipment

### Purpose

Each team must come to Rally with certain pieces of extra equipment in case a piece of tack breaks or is not safe or suitable at Rally. This means that if a rider breaks a stirrup leather, or if a girth is found to be unsafe, the team must have enough extra equipment to replace the item. Since all the equipment a Competitor uses must be in the tack room at the beginning of the Rally, all extra or replacement equipment must be there as well. Every piece of extra equipment could be called into use at a moment's notice, so it should all be Turnout Inspection clean to the highest-rated member of the team who would use that piece of equipment.

- Note: Storing extra equipment. Many clubs store extra equipment in airtight sealed plastic containers. While this is a good way to keep out dust and works well for bits and stirrup irons, it can cause mildew in leather and fabric. A better suggestion is to store extra equipment in a zippered sports bag that can be hung on a hook by its handles.

### Requirements

- One set of extra equipment per team. (Individual riders may bring their own extra equipment.)
- Sufficient sizes and types to fit all team mounts/members. This means that if the team has several sized mounts, there must be a selection of girths, halters, etc to fit the different sizes.
- One solution is for each team member to bring their own extra equipment, clearly and correctly labeled with their name or number, hung on separate hooks.
- Another solution is to bring adjustable equipment (adjustable halters, girth extenders), so the tack can be adjusted to fit different mounts.
- All extra equipment must be clean to the USPC Standard of Proficiency for Turnout Inspection of the highest rated member of the team who would use that piece of equipment.

### Checklist

- Two Extra Lead Ropes, one with Chain Shank

- See the explanation under Individual Equipment "Lead Rope" and HM10b.

- Halter(s)

Make sure your team Extra Equipment includes an extra halter to correctly fit every mount on the team. You may be able to bring an adjustable halter that can be modified to fit all the mounts. If the mounts on your team are very different sizes, you will need to bring more than one halter. Refer to HM8b.1 for information about correctly fitting halters.

Remember:

- All halters used at Rallies must have breakaway capability (HM8b.2);
- The mount's halter must have some form of identification on it at all times (HM8c). If you need to use a halter from your Extra Equipment, you need to put your identification on it.

- Complete Bridle(s) with Bit(s)

Extra bridles must be complete and assembled.

As with the extra halter, extra bridle(s) and bit(s) must be able to fit all the mounts on the team. Team members need to make sure the extra bridle(s) and bit(s) included with the team equipment will be safe and suitable for their mount. If a team member can't ride with the extra bridle or bit for safety reasons, they need to bring an extra one that they can use. Often, you can borrow the extra bridle and/or bit for the Rally (especially if you return it clean!).

- See HM8e for exceptions to USEF tack requirements at USPC activities.

- Girth(s)

There must be an extra girth to fit all the mounts on the team. The team may need to bring more than one girth or a girth extender may work to make the one girth fit multiple mounts.

Make sure you know what kind of saddles your team mates are bringing! For instance, dressage saddles use very short girths that will not work on all-purpose type saddles.

## Extra Equipment, continued

### Pair Stirrup Leathers and Stirrup Irons

Stirrup leathers may be leather or synthetic. All stitching must be in good repair with no broken stitches. Any cracks in leather may not go through more than one-half the thickness of the leather. Fillis stirrup irons must have stirrup pads

- Should be: Make sure the stitching on the extra leathers is in good repair. There's no use in exchanging a broken leather for another broken one. Also, take the time to place every member's foot in the extra stirrup irons, since there should be 1 inch of extra room (or 1/2 inch on each side) when the widest part of a rider's foot is placed across the stirrup iron.

### Two Rubber Bands for Peacock Irons (if used)

These are only required if one or more riders are using peacock safety stirrup irons. There are some rubber bands that are designed to be used without leather straps, these have an extra rubber tab that hooks to the bottom of the stirrup. Make sure that your extra rubber bands are in good repair, or replace them.



- Should be: Rubber bands for safety stirrups (also called Peacock Irons) should be smooth and elastic.
- Shouldn't be: Office style rubber bands! Bands should be as pictured, intended solely for use with peacock safety stirrups. They should not be cracked, brittle or stretched out.
- Tip: Place extra bands and leather tabs in a zip-close bag and label it correctly.

## Extra Polocrosse Equipment

### For Polocrosse Only

#### Additional Extra Equipment Requirements

- One kit per team
- Sufficient to fit all team mounts/members

#### Checklist

- Extra Racket
  - Each team should have at least one extra.
- Breastplates(s)
  - At least one that fits all mounts.
- Two Pair Boots or Bandages or Combination of Both.
  - Should: Fit all mounts on team.
- Two Pair Bell Boots
  - Should: Fit all mounts on team.