

Conformation Clinic

Levels: C1, C2

Objectives:

- Identify good and bad points of basic leg conformation
- Name five basic conformation qualities that you want in a pony for your own use.

Materials Needed:

- Pictures of horses (you could use pictures from the conformation clinic in *Practical Horseman*)
- Reference books on conformation and/or magazine articles
- Construction paper, markers, etc.
- Index cards with a common conformation fault printed on each one

Activity 1:

- Give each candidate an index card with an assigned conformation fault. Each candidate should draw the fault and then list three reasons why it is an undesirable trait.
- Encourage each candidate to present/share their conformation fault with the group.

Activity 2: (This activity can be done with live horses instead of pictures if desired)

- Place pictures of horses in a central location where all the candidates can easily view them. Using three pictures works well.
- Instruct the candidates to place the horses 1-3 according to their conformation. Each candidate should write reasons for their preferences.
- Discuss the candidate's choices and their reasons. If you chose to use pictures from the conformation clinic in *Practical Horseman*, you could also share the how the class was placed in the magazine and the reasons given.

Conclusion:

- Discuss why conformation is an important consideration when looking to buy a new pony.