

# Order of grooming

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Why groom:

- a. to check him for injuries or problems
- b. to prevent sores from dirt under tack
- c. to condition his skin and make the coat shiny
- d. to promote good circulation of the blood
- e. it feels good to the horse

When to groom:

- a. check pony everyday
- b. before you saddle
- c. after you ride to remove sweat

The ORDER of Grooming

## 1. Tie up your horse

- use breakaway halter
- use quick release knot

## 2. Pick out feet.

- use brush to clean off front of hoof
- check each shoe (on tight and clinches smooth)

## 3. Rubber or plastic currycomb to break up caked on mud & stimulate skin

- rub in circles
- start at top of neck, work back and down
- don't use on head, lower legs
- metal currycombs are never used on horses - they are for cleaning other brushes

## 4. Dandy brush to take away dirt stirred up by currycomb

- start at top of neck
- short, snappy strokes to flick away the dirt
- don't use in areas where the horse has been clipped
- another name for Dandy brush is "hard brush" and "stiff brush"

## 5. Body brush to clean away dust and scruff

- start at the top
- use short, firm strokes in direction of hair

- clean the brush after a few strokes
- can be used everywhere, every where clipped
- another name for body brush = soft brush
- it is the best brush for getting horse's coat clean & shiny

#### 6. Mane and tail

- pick out the big twigs, burrs, etc.
- separate the tangles by hand, a small section at a time
- start at the BOTTOM, work up, use a mane brush, plastic comb, or dandy brush.
- try not to break or pull the hair
- stand off to one side when working on the tail

#### 7. Rub the coat

- use rub rag or stable rubber
- bear down and rub firmly, in long strokes in direction of the hair
- rubbing warms up the skin, brings out the oils, and make the coat shiny and sleek

#### 8. Clean head and face with small, soft face brush

\* optional - can use soft (body) brush instead

#### 9. Clean eyelids, nose, lips

- use damp sponge or cotton balls

#### 10. clean the dock and sheath/utter

- use a separate sponge

#### 11. hoof dressing

- wipe away excess

#### 12. tame the mane

- wet water brush to dampen the roots of the mane
- brush it neatly to the right side of the neck

#### 13. fly spray