

PCA News

Pony Club Australia Monthly Newsletter



PONY CLUB AUSTRALIA

OCTOBER 2021

Here's to our Pony Club families



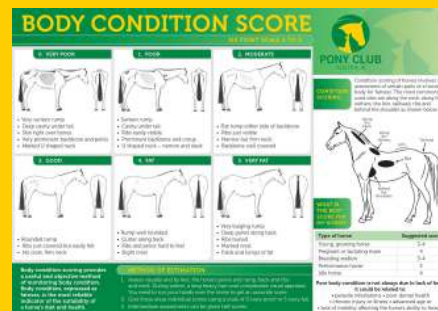
Last month we used the photo on the far left to acknowledge Pony Club dads for Father's Day.

Jess Payne, of Little River & District Pony Club, responded with an update - her Dad Tim is still holding her horse for her 16 years later.

Pony Club - a great activity for all the family!

Free PCA body condition score chart

Inside this issue



Feedrooms and Rodents

More Page 13

Nationals Update p 2
PCA Annual Awards. p 3-9
Competition: State Showdown
. . . p 14

PCA Nationals Underway



The full South Australian Nationals team lines up following their trot up on Day 1 - in matching rugs!

Competition dates for some Eastern states have been extended due to lockdowns and different roadmaps to recovery.

Tasmania, South Australia and Western Australia have all kicked off their events.

All State teams competed online in the 2021 Thoroughbred Industry Careers PCA National Championships Virtual Quiz Championships last week. They were delighted to see several Olympians had taken time to make videos asking questions about themselves for the 'Famous Olympians' Quiz phase.

We thank our Tokyo silver medalists (l to r) Andrew Hoy, Shane Rose and Kevin McNab, along with past



Olympian Wendy Schaeffer, for their contribution to the 2021 Quiz by taping questions for the teams.



The Tasmanian Sub-junior and Junior Quiz teams, with team manager Carol Hobson, all competed virtually at home on their devices via Zoom.

As with all Nationals events, the Quiz recordings will be professionally edited and then available to watch online, complete with the scores and placings, on a night to be advised. Stay tuned!



Usain Bolt stance from the WA Tetrathlon team!



PCA AWARDS - 2021 FINALISTS

Find out more about our finalists before the awards are announced later this month

Finalists for Rider of the Year Under 13yrs - how did they do it?



Hayley Dagnall
Wallangarra Riding
& Pony Club, WA

Hayley is her Club's vice captain and she and her pony stepped up this year to compete in WA State events for the first time, including mounted games and tetrathlon, with success. She is aiming to do her C certificate next as well.

Her pony's care comes first and they have a strong bond. The wellbeing of her pony is more important than competition and this has helped her progress through the levels confidently.



Robin Henry
Quirindi Pony Club NSW

Robin has been a member since she was four, and has attended every camp, most rallies and three jamborees in that time. She is an active member and now helps other juniors walk their courses or get their ponies ready. She completed her C Certificate at 11 years and is working on her C*.

Robin has competed at State level since she was eight, and is a true allrounder competing in eight different disciplines and placing in seven, including three State titles in showing, showjumping and jumping equitation.

She has brought one of her ponies from E Grade to B Grade showjumping.



Tehani Badke
Coffs Harbour PC NSW

Tehani attended all provided rallies in the past 18 months. She is ambitious and receives instruction and challenge positively. There have been no community and fundraising events due to Covid, but previously she was very actively involved. She volunteers for instructor schools and NCAS assessment days as a demonstration rider.

Her competition highlights include winning Preliminary and Novice actual and online dressage competitions, and qualifying for the NSW State Dressage Championships (cancelled due to Covid). She caters for her pony's health and wellbeing issues due to age and health, and can assess how much warm up is required for certain events on certain days, for example.

She was a finalist in last year's PCA Awards in this category.

Best achievement Rider 18 - 25 years



J'Aime Mallon
Riddells Creek Pony
Club VIC

J'Aime is an exceptional role model to members and supporters. She attained her A Certificate early in 2021, putting in long hours of study and training. This also developed her interest in coaching and she is waiting on her Level 1 NCAS coaching test. She also assists candidates for C* and K via Zoom catchups and a closed Facebook group.

Together with the senior Club Captain she planned and participated in the Christmas rally. She organises volunteer rosters for rallies and clinics outside of rallies. She has a can do attitude and enthusiasm that picks members up and encourages them to reach for and achieve more.

She has taken one horse to Grade 1 eventing; in less than a year she has taken a second horse to the same level and placed at State Championships and been selected for Nationals.

PCA AWARDS - 2021 FINALISTS

Find out more about our finalists before the awards are announced later this month

Finalists for Rider of the Year 13-17yrs - how did they do it?



Lili Taylor
Riddells Creek PC VIC

Lili Taylor rarely misses a rally and volunteers when she is not riding. In 2021 she attained her K Certificate and is working on her B. At the PCV state championships she was reserve champion Grade 2 Individual Dressage Champion and her team were State Champions.

It was even more satisfying as she trained up her mount from a green broken young horse. Lili is on the PCV Junior Dressage team for Nationals. Lili always helps the Club's junior members and they all look up to her; she also seeks feedback from the senior riders to help improve herself.

She always volunteers to help at the competitions run by her Club, and is the first to help those who fall off or have two horses in one class.



Sarah O'Connor
Coffs Harbour PC NSW

Sarah is committed to assisting her Club with community and fundraising activities, and attends rallies even if unmounted, to help out and learn. She shares with others any research she does on breeding, bloodlines, feeding and dental care – her latest interest. This year she shaved her locks for Shave for a Cure.

She placed at the NSW state championships 2021 in ODE, combined training, and showjumping. At a team event at Coffs Harbour gymkhana she took responsibility of creating teams of equal mixed ability to provide equal opportunity for all.

Sarah was awarded the PCANSW 2020 service award for her outstanding involvement at Club and Zone level.



Zoe Addinsall
Dunkeld Pony Club
VIC

Zoe is actively involved in her small Club's rallies. She has a strong knowledge of tetrathlon and pentathlon and encourages others to get involved and as such is a great role model; in the past two years she has lifted the profile of the sport immensely in her Zone.

Zoe trained her 22 year old campdrafter, who hadn't jumped till the age of 20 to State Champion in tetrathlon and represented Wannan Zone in the Vic State Championships earlier this year, and they are set to compete at the Nationals. She won the North East Zone Tetrathlon Championships on her new, younger horse.

Zoe is Victorian State Champion and has gone undefeated in Under 15 events for the past two years. She also competes in five disciplines for pentathlon, in Modern Pentathlon Australia events and now competes and places in Ride To Time. Restrictions meant she was coached online, ran with her dog and turned her front hall into a shooting range!

Thanks to our 2021 PCA
Awards sponsors



PCA AWARDS - 2021 FINALISTS

Find out more about our finalists before the awards are announced later this month

Finalists for Miss Kay Irving Coach of the Year - how did they do it?



Karen Charles
Strathalbyn PC SA

Karen Charles (NCAS Level 1 Coach) encourages others to take on coaching roles, and encourages any children who are struggling and want help, or want to achieve their proficiency certificates.

Her lessons show great variety and she is always professional, observant and patient, and brings out the best in each rider. She takes the time to find out riders' goals.

She has been SA State Show Jumping Coach since 2015 and taken teams to Nationals since 2007. She is currently chief instructor at Strathalbyn Pony Club and Southern Zone chief instructor, and runs the Monarto Camp every year and organises the Zone Games competitions, freshman's showjumping and more. Her Club says the behind the scenes work she does is also outstanding.



Meaghan Johnston
Macarthur PC VIC

Meaghan Johnston (NCAS Level 1) continued to teach riders via Zoom during lockdown, asking them to video their achievements and complete sections of their manuals, including parents in discussions with their children.

After competitions, she goes through riders' dressage tests with them and explains things they are not sure about. She mentors new coaches, organises rally groups, coaches and activities.

Her Club sees her as a breath of fresh air who is always relaxed, supportive and organised - and she donates her time to other Clubs as well for scoring and judging.



Meaghan Sutherland
Riddells Creek PC VIC

As District Commissioner and coach, Meaghan is innovative and astute. She realised the usual rally structure did not work for all members, and senior riders can now swap and change their lessons depending on the discipline underway, their level or grade and the number of horses. Hence these riders, often out competing, get the instruction they need each month.

Because the Club is a large one, Meaghan implemented the rolling rally program which meant during restrictions she hosted a rally every weekend of the month, each for a different discipline. This kept numbers low but meant riders could keep riding, get out and receive quality instruction from their coaches.

Meaghan is a higher level certificate assessor, and mentor for A certificate candidates and several B, C* and K candidates, running classes from her home for 18 months. Her Club values her as she has a way of involving every member and making them feel special.

Thanks to our 2021 PCA Awards sponsors



PCA AWARDS - 2021 FINALISTS

Find out more about our finalists before the awards are announced later this month

Finalists for Gill Rolton Alumni of the Year - how did they do it?



Clare Lindop
- Racing

Clare was a member of Warrnambool Pony Club who went on to make a name for herself in the racing industry by achieving many 'firsts' and being a strong advocate for female equality.

In 2001/02 she was the Leading SA Country Jockey, and in 2004 she again starred by riding four winners at three consecutive race meetings. The same season she rode a record breaking 111 wins for a female jockey in a racing season.

She was the first female jockey to win the SA metropolitan jockeys premiership (feat she achieved more than once), and received the SA Great Sports award before being inducted into the Racing SA Hall of Fame. In 2008 Clare became the first Australian female to ride in the Melbourne Cup.

She joined the Racing SA team as the Industry and Development Training Manager- working closely with Pony Clubs to identify talent and create pathways in to racing.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sfzhy29A9DM>

Clare actively supports rehoming horses and is also an ambassador for several charities.



Sally Francis, OAM

Sally spent her Pony Club years as a riding member of Mornington Pony Club. Sally was acknowledged with an Order of Australia Medal in 2019 for services to horse sports and to people with a disability. Sally has been a team assistant at five Paralympic Games, World Para-Equestrian Championships and World Equestrian Games. She assisted Joanne Formosa in winning gold at London Olympics.

Sally has coaching accreditations with PCA, EA and RDA. Sally is also on the PCV Sports CONNECT panel and often gives her time to review Pony Club members' needs to ensure they can compete on a fair playing level as other members.

In 2007 Sally started Equine Facilitated Learning in Australia. She supports two Pony Clubs on her family's property - Tooradin Dalmore (where she is Chief Instructor) & Pearcedale (who lost their grounds) - and hosts events there as well.



Sharon Jarvis
- Paralympian

Sharon is the first Australian to be selected to the Australian Paralympic Team for three Paralympic Games in equestrian (Beijing, Rio and Tokyo). Best performances include placing 4th, 6th and 7th in Beijing, and two bronze medals at the World Equestrian Games in Kentucky in 2010. In 2010 she was awarded the Domestic rider of the Year by Equestrian Australia and the next year, Western Australian Institute of Sport Athlete with a Disability of the year

Sharon received an AIS Scholarship for Women in Sport, and is now a Level 2 NCAS Coach. She is employed as Pathways Co-ordination for Para Equestrian Australia.

She joined Donnybrook Horse and Pony Club when she was five years old and two years later had to stop riding due to a cancer diagnosis; she resumed riding at 13. She joined Capel Horse and Pony Club until she was 25, and was Chief Club Coach at Blackwood Horse and Pony Club for five years.

She regularly gives motivational/inspirational talks to Pony Club riders at rallies and camps.

PCA AWARDS - 2021 FINALISTS

Find out more about our finalists before the awards are announced later this month

Finalists for Volunteer of the Year - how did they do it?



Belinda North
Mudgeeraba Pony
and Hack Club Qld

Belinda is a very supportive mum, coach and Club secretary for her Club. Everyone loves her enthusiasm, teaching ability and encouragement and support for members, particularly the younger ones. In the years she has been secretary, membership has risen from 50 to over 100 in 2021.

She works with the local show society and plans events, and is the first to put her hand up to pencil, pick up rails or work on the gate.

She's first to the rallies and helps set up or pack up. Thanks to her work gaining sponsors the Club has new yards and a jump course.

Belinda is humble, enthusiastic and popular, and a real asset to her Club.



Candace McInnernay
Surat Pony Club Qld

Candace has been the driving force getting the Surat Pony Club up and running over the past three years, from the point of almost folding. She holds the roles of secretary and chief instructor and her commitment has seen Club numbers grow from five to over 20 in that time, with some families travelling long distances to attend Surat.

Candace dedicates countless hours to fundraising and applying for grants and the grounds have gone from a state of disrepair four years ago, to being well maintained with two safe arenas and safe equipment, all due to her dedication.

She pursued coaching qualifications to ensure the Club had accredited instructor and shows a huge dedication to lesson planning.



Peter Tornabene,
Samford Golden
Valley Pony Club Qld

Peter gives an amazing amount of time and energy to his Club, Zone and nearby Zones even though his son no longer rides.

He spends countless hours setting up for musters, fixing up fences, and helping riders. He is always so supportive and encouraging to the kids, even in competitions outside of Pony Club. At a regional show recently while judging the showjumping, he took a few minutes to calm a young rider's nerves and help her to smile.

Since Peter has taken over the Presidency he has almost doubled the membership. As an instructor he shows consistent encouragement and patience with young and inexperienced riders and brings a positive and growth energy to the club.

Peter is approachable and knowledgeable. He ensures that club protocols are met and encourages a team effort from committee members.

Others comment on the welcoming atmosphere of the club and the resulting fun and positive energy generated by the club members.

PCA AWARDS - 2021 FINALISTS

Find out more about our finalists before the awards are announced later this month

Finalists for the Club of the Year - how did they do it?

Londonderry Pony Club NSW



Londonderry Pony Club is increasing their local presence through a new social media profile and reinvigorated website. During lockdown a 'Toilet Paper Challenge' video (made from individual members' videos) received large exposure on Facebook and lifted members' spirits.

For certificate testing, members successfully submitted videos of the practical components, and the Club interacted with the PCA 'Plan B' initiative to keep Club spirit high among the 98 members; in the online Kahoot quizzes the Club won the highest participation ratio award.

The Club held regional schools as lockdown receded, and organised unmounted talks by local equestrians, weed experts, vet, dentist and more.

For good governance, the Club has assistant roles for every position, a strong Junior Committee program, and a horse welfare officer. It co-hosted two NCAS assessment days for new instructors, along with Zone 19. The Club also has several junior members on national and state Pony Club committees.

The Club produced a video to show members how to use the MyPonyClub online system, with PCA and PCANSW endorsement and over 1000 views.

Riddells Creek Pony Club VIC



To cope with Covid19 and density quotas, RCPC staged 'rolling rallies' for the second half of 2020, with themed rallies (dressage, games, jumping) spread over Saturdays and Sundays on multiple weekends. A reduced Covid Membership fee was introduced for that period to help families.

The knowledgeable and experienced senior riders are used in a variety of roles, including co-ordinating events, so they become good role models and confident for leadership roles later.

RCPC has three club captains who communicate member ideas and suggestions to the committee and help with social media promotions.

Competitions, with a reputation for being run well using great facilities, attract large entries which usually cover half the year's running costs and ease member fees.

Samford Golden Valley Pony Club QLD



Samford Golden Valley, as a big Club, provides a large range of disciplines for riders to try, like working cattle, polocrosse, cross country, vaulting, troop drill, mounted games etc, to help them choose their future path.

Riders complete certificate books online during Covid. Successful grant applications saw the Club receive \$100,000 to add a new block of covered yards, extra land next door, a set of new cross country jumps and solar panels.

Training days teach and explain safety is up to everyone. Hence new members happily step up and take on positions and succession comes automatically.

MyPonyClub has been used by SGVPC since 2015, for memberships, purchases, enquiries, uniform and product sales, and event nominations for the Club's events.

A sponsorship program has seen the Club attract four \$2000 per year Gold Sponsors. Additionally, all major events are sponsored by community businesses covering all running and trophy expenses.

Numerous junior members have begun their pathway to becoming an instructor thanks to the inspiration from our instructors.

The Centre Page

Finalists for the Centre of the Year - how did they do it?



Claremont Therapeutic Riding Centre, WA

With a focus on inclusion and participation, Claremont Therapeutic Riding Centre (CTRC) provides horse riding for therapy, sport, recreation and training for up to 150 children and adults of all abilities. Attention is paid to members' physical and mental development, including children with special needs.

The Centre has a solid risk mitigation strategy, teaching young people how to act around, and care for, horses in a safe manner.

Once participants have reached an accepted standard, CTRC endeavours to integrate them into other equestrian environments such as Pony Clubs, adult riding clubs, trail riding, dressage competitions and ultimately Para and Special Olympics. Parent: "The support and training the centre gives our daughter is amazing. They provide a service for people with disabilities you can't put a price on."

<https://claremonttherapeuticridingcentre.org.au/>



Junction Farm Equestrian Academy, Tasmania

JFEA runs 'rally days' for their Centre PC members where members care for their horse the whole day. There is now a waiting list, with the first cohort of 13 riders having now done six rallies and achieved 11 proficiency certificates. They have taken part in a mini ODE with parents and guardians helping out with the day. Families learn about what to look for in a first pony, how rallies operate, and respect for coaches.

JFEA has two PC accredited coaches and have added a third due to demand. One rider has already moved on to Pony Club. The Centre invites local Pony Clubs to any special events and takes part in local events such as Pony Club gymkhanas.

<https://www.facebook.com/JunctionFarmEquestrian/>



Phoenix Acres Equine Centre, Queensland

This is a supportive Centre for people of all walks of life to share the experience of horses. This centre's Pony Club Program runs like a real Pony Club, with riders catching, grooming and tacking up their own mounts. There are currently 23 members of the Pony Club Program with enquiries coming in every week.

There are also rally days which are opened up to riders from other Clubs to come and participate. Phoenix Acres also offers a range of services from horse care lessons to riding lessons, trail rides, school holiday camps and pony parties.

[More: https://www.facebook.com/phoenixacres/](https://www.facebook.com/phoenixacres/)

Careers with Horses

Check out what's on offer through programs at [Thoroughbred Industry Careers](https://tbindustry Careers), including being paid to learn!



Applications for the February intake of the 2022 Explorer Cadetship Program are now open.

<https://tbindustry Careers.com.au/>



WIN



7 Prize Packs to be WON!

ENTER THE 3 MONTH CHALLENGE

WIN a MITAVITE® Cool Vitality prize pack

Does your horse get 'hot' on hard feed but needs to put on, or keep condition?

MITAVITE® Cool Vitality muesli has been designed as the perfect blend of cool energy and condition for 'hotter' horses. To be in the running to WIN 1 of 7 MITAVITE® Cool Vitality prize packs, visit <https://mitavite.com/pages/cool-vitality>.

Mitavite are proud sponsors of the Dressage and Showjumping competitions at the 2021 Thoroughbred Industry Careers Pony Club Australia National Championships

CLUB MARKETING TOOL KIT REMINDER

Have any Clubs started using the marketing tools? The guide was emailed to all Clubs. If any Clubs still need the link to the website, please email us. We'd also love to hear from you about how it is going.

marketing@ponyclubaustralia.com.au



Horse Deals HORSE HEALTH DIARY



PRE-ORDER NOW

SPECIAL OFFER TO PONY CLUBS

GREAT FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITY!

Contact for further details

Phone 08 8725 4744 or email info@horsedeals.com.au

Bronwyn Wheatley is retiring from PCA after two and a half years as Marketing and Development Officer. Bronwyn has been the driving force behind the many PCA programs that have connected Pony Club. This member newsletter has gone from strength to strength, sharing good news stories and education. The Discipline of the Month has given clubs ideas and tools to introduce new activities. Bronwyn's education background was applied to write the assessment tools for PCA proficiency certificates. As a long time Pony Club member, Bronwyn initiated campaigns that highlighted the values of the organisation, like the "Living Legends" during PCA's 80th birthday year in 2019, ANZAC Day tributes, the PCA polo design competition in 2020, and the Golden Ponies for treasured horses in 2021. Her knowledge of horses, riders and Pony Club, along with her great communication skills will be greatly missed.

Bronwyn reflects on her time at Pony Club Australia below.

- Dr Catherine Ainsworth, PCA CEO



Marketing and Development Officer - Bronwyn Wheatley

I joined PCA in early 2019 and have enjoyed the last two and a half years immensely. I have been able to utilise my previous skills as a teacher, journalist, and PR and events manager for two large regional hospitals, to help PCA on its visionary path.

I went right through Pony Club, as did my two daughters, and we all still ride. I spent several years as a Pony Club Chief Instructor. It has been a privilege to end my career back in this wonderful youth organisation, and see the traditions still hold while equitation science and other new research are brought in. Thanks to all those who helped me, let me bounce ideas off them, or simply encouraged me along the way, and I wish you all well.



Marketing and Communications Coordinator

Belinda Raveane joined the team in September. She brings an extensive background in digital content and print marketing to Pony Club Australia. She has travelled extensively worldwide, and collaborated with television networks in over 20 countries.

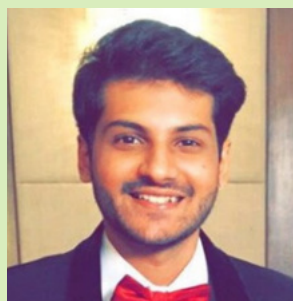
With her experience reaching regional and rural areas, she feels she can help Pony Clubs around Australia stay in touch and lift their profiles in their communities. Belinda is a member of Bright & District Pony Club along with her daughter Lola.



Participation and Development Manager

Sally Wiseman joined the team in September. She has over 20 years' experience in senior leadership roles within large retail, travel, sporting and government organisations.

She has been a member of Mudgeeraba Pony Club for many years, and is now a PCANCAS coach and Chief Instructor. Sally is passionate about encouraging children from all backgrounds to enjoy equestrian sport through joining like-minded friends in the grass roots organisation of Pony Club, and sharing the benefits to riders, parents, carers and volunteers.



Sports Development Officer

Monil Shah joined the team in 2020. He has a Masters of Sports Management with a strong interest in developing sports from the grassroots level and a passion for youth development, increasing participation, and community sports engagement.

He has management experience in Sports Administration, Sports Development, and Sponsorship.

Monil is helping develop the new PCA Participation Strategy and manages the PCA membership and events software which is being upgraded.

What's happened on facebook ?

- Pony Club Australia Facebook page -

Beware Barley Grass

Source: ABC Landline 2018

In times of drought especially, it can be hard to source good hay. A problem to watch for is barley grass. It is an invasive weed with a nasty seed head that sticks to your clothes, and can stick in your horse's mouth if he eats it because of its super sharp end. Not to be confused with barley.

If you know you have it in your hay or in your paddock (it comes up before most other grasses), or your horse starts to eat differently (or not eating at all) make sure you check his mouth often and seek treatment.

Source: ABC Landline, 2018



You told us:

Arianne: Ebony! can you check your ponies and let me know if you see anything like this?

Mollie: Owww poor pony!

Destiny: Our experience with barley grass a couple of years ago

Ebony: I've had a bale before that got stuck in my horse's teeth - always really cautious about it.

Necia: Brome grass is another culprit



Horses, Hearing and Cute-shaped Ears

- A horse will rotate its ears in the direction of a sound and the funnel shape assists sound detection.
- Horses can hear higher frequencies than us so they might react to something we cannot hear, like ultrasonic rodent repellents.
- A horse can recognise its humans and stable mates from sound alone.
- Hearing ability weakens with age but other senses adapt.
- Research shows many horses prefer classical music or instrumental guitar.

What music does your horse like?



Jackie: "There have been times in the drought when I have tossed out large sections of bales of what was supposed to be lucerne because they had too much barley grass seed and weeds in them when I "broke" the bale. It is a worry. Such a wasted expense but not worth risking my horses. Barley grass gone to seed is a problem in the paddocks. Many times over the years I have picked the seeds out of sheep's eyes in a good season and monitored the horses for seeds stuck. Even the working dogs needed checking!"

Dr Jennifer Stewart
BVSc BSc PhD
MRCVS Dip BEP,
Equine Veterinarian
and Consulting
Nutritionist
and Jenquine CEO



Feed Rooms and Rodents



Horse feed, hay, bedding, saddles and rugs are very, very attractive to rodents – ie rats and mice! But there are many really important reasons why you should not let them into your tack and feed rooms.

Rats and mice ruin 10 times as much food as they eat. Contamination with urine, droppings and fur destroys stored feed. They also chew on rugs, saddle cloths, buildings and electrical cables – causing fires. They also carry fleas, mites and ticks as well as diseases such as leptospirosis and salmonella that affect horses, dogs, humans and other animals.

Rodents are not something you want in your feedroom. But the first step in the battle to keep your tack and feedrooms hygienic and rodent-free, is to 'know your enemy!' Once they have set up home, rats will occupy a territory within 50 metres of their nest. They are able to squeeze through gaps as little as 13mm wide, jump about 90cm in height, deposit 45 droppings a day and the females can produce 70 babies a year. When you count their children, a single pair of rats can multiply to 15,000 in one year.

They prefer grains and meat but will eat anything from plaster to soap and dead animals. They are more suspicious than mice and stay away from traps and poison baits if other food is around. Mice can do 75 droppings a day and squeeze through gaps the size of a pencil! They can run up vertical surfaces and jump 30cm.

Signs you may have rodents include chewed feed bags and droppings. Sometimes you'll see or hear them – but for every rat or mouse you see, there will be 25 more not far away – usually hiding in the walls, under the floor and in the ceiling.

If you have such a serious infestation that you need to use poison, it's really important to understand the risks. Crucially, you must ensure that birds and other animals do not get access to the poison. Carefully read the instructions on the pack and follow them to the letter. Horses, dogs, cats and people have all been poisoned by rodent baits.

Rodents usually move outside when the weather warms up and if you follow the steps above, you'll ruin the chances and desire to come back in autumn.

If rats continue to be an issue, reach out to your local department of agriculture or university for additional recommendations they are usually very happy to help you with suggestions!



MORE:

[NSW EPA calling for removal of unsafe mouse bait from homes](#)

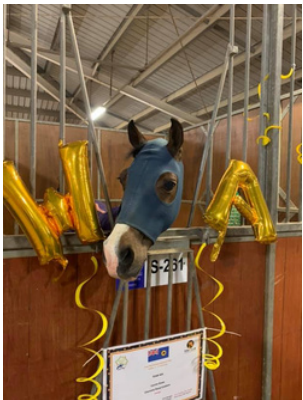
NINE steps to reduce a rat or mouse infestation

IT WOULD be great if we could make every building rodent-proof, but this is really difficult. However, there are several steps to reduce and hopefully prevent rodents infesting your feedroom:

1. Store feed in metal containers with lids
2. Sweep up any feed spills straight away – if other people use the feedroom, you could post signs to remind them to do the same.
3. Regularly move feed containers away from the wall and thoroughly sweep the feed room floor
4. Keep windows and doors closed
5. Rugs, bandages and saddle cloths are much sought after as nesting materials, so store them off the floor and ideally in rodent-proof containers. These pieces of equipment are sought after as bedding material and nesting sites by industrious rodents.
6. Rodents like to have water nearby to their nests so do everything you can to prevent water pooling and keep water and food bowls away from the feedroom – non-venomous snakes, cats and terriers are often used for catching rats and mice – but if their food and water bowls are within the rodents territory, you might actually be encouraging them to move in
7. Keep weeds/grass around your buildings really short; rodents travel along walls and love having cover
8. Traps can be set along walls where rodents run and near holes – big advantage is that you can remove the bodies and stop the chance of nasty smells if they die behind walls or in the ceiling. One of the biggest mistakes with traps is not using enough of them.
9. Poisons can be used, but have many downsides as you don't know for sure where they will end up – many birds and pets are killed due to eating poisonous baits. They can also be a risk for children.



Cheer for your State!



WA Pony Club members know how to show team spirit (from PCA Nationals 2019)



THE PONY CLUB AUSTRALIA
YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL PRESENTS

THE VIRTUAL STABLES SHOWDOWN

September 18th - October 20th, 2021
Thoroughbred Industry Careers, Pony Club Australia
National Championships

Show off your State Spirit by sharing with #ticpcanationalsshowdown
All members of Pony Club across Australia are welcomed to partake!

Join in now and support your State at the PCA Nationals

[Find out more here](#) or go to ponyclubaustralia.com.au/News/Events/National_Championships

Show us your "State team spirit" by sharing on Facebook or Instagram with the #ticpcanationalsshowdown and tagging Pony Club Australia.

Entries can also be sent via email to yac@ponyclubaustralia.com.au

Entries can be photo(s) or video. Examples may include showing off a team cheer, or decorating your own stable/horse float /etc in your State colours.

Entries close early October.

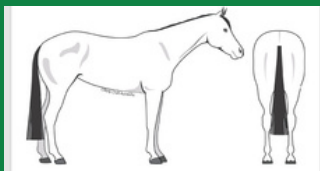
Brought to you by the PCA Youth Advisory Council

ENQ: yac@ponyclubaustralia.com.au



Free Poster - Next Page

Learn your horse's Body Condition Score



This poster can also be printed as a booklet or A3 Poster **from the PCA website**

www.ponyclubaustralia.com.au/Members/Horse_Resource



BODY CONDITION SCORE

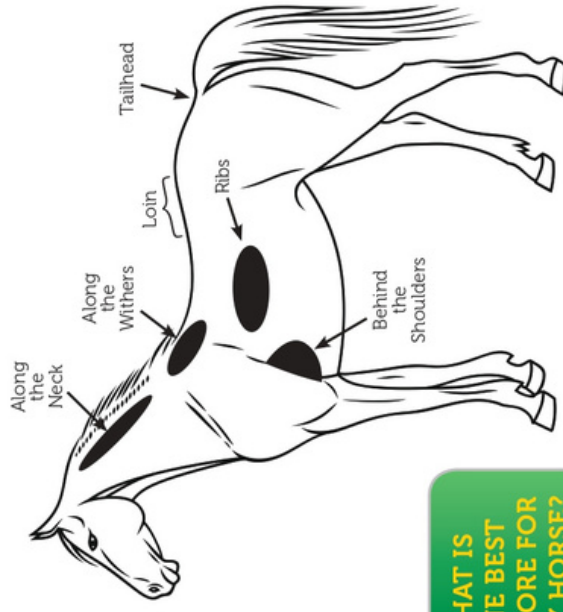
SIX POINT SCALE 0 TO 5



PONY CLUB
AUSTRALIA

Condition scoring of horses involves an assessment of certain parts of a horse's body for 'fatness'. The most commonly used sites are along the neck, along the withers, the loin, tailhead, ribs and behind the shoulder as shown below.

CONDITION SCORING



WHAT IS THE BEST SCORE FOR MY HORSE?

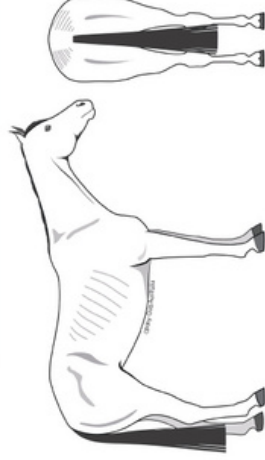
Type of horse

Type of horse	Suggested score
Young, growing horse	3
Pregnant or lactating mare	4
Breeding stallion	3-4
Performance horse	3
Idle horse	3

Poor body condition is not always due to lack of feed; it could be related to:

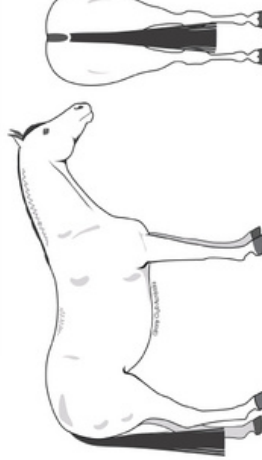
- parasite infestations
- poor dental health
- chronic injury or illness
- advanced age or
- lack of mobility affecting the horse's ability to forage.

2. MODERATE



- Flat rump either side of backbone
- Ribs just visible
- Narrow but firm neck
- Backbone well covered

5. VERY FAT



- Very bulging rump
- Deep gutter along back
- Ribs buried
- Marked crest
- Folds and lumps of fat

1. POOR



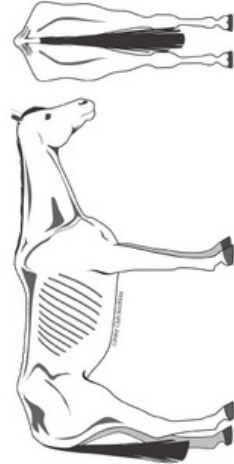
- Sunken rump
- Cavity under tail
- Ribs easily visible
- Prominent backbone and croup
- U shaped neck – narrow and slack

4. FAT



- Rump well rounded
- Gutter along back
- Ribs and pelvis hard to feel
- Slight crest

0. VERY POOR



- Very sunken rump
- Deep cavity under tail
- Skin tight over bones
- Very prominent backbone and pelvis
- Marked U shaped neck

3. GOOD



- Rounded rump
- Ribs just covered but easily felt
- No crest, firm neck

METHOD OF ESTIMATION

1. Assess visually and by feel, the horse's pelvis and rump, back and ribs and neck. During winter, a long heavy hair coat complicates visual appraisal. You need to run your hands over the horse to get an accurate score.
2. Give those areas individual scores using a scale of 0 (very poor) to 5 (very fat).
3. Intermediate assessments can be given half scores.

Body condition scoring provides a useful and objective method of monitoring body condition. Body condition, expressed as fatness, is the most reliable indicator of the suitability of a horse's diet and health.