



# Míssoula



# County 4-H



## Míní Horse Project

### Horsemanship 2

## Introduction

So you want to be a 4-H Horse Program member! This can be an exciting and worthwhile experience both for you and for your horse. Many people young and old, are discovering the satisfaction and pleasure that horses can bring them.



The six main objectives of Missoula 4-H Mini Horse Project are:

- Learn to problem solve using your knowledge and other resources
- Learn to select and know a good mini horse
- Learn to care for mini horses
- Learn to use your mini horse
- Learn to train and handle mini horses
- Enjoy a healthful outdoor recreational lifetime activity
- Learn safety in housing, handling, hauling and showing your mini

The Missoula County 4-H Mini Horse Program has been divided into areas:

**Mini Horse Horsemanship:** designed to help you develop basic handling skills and more advanced training skills of a mature miniature horse.

**Mini Horse Driving:** learn driving skills and train your horse to drive.

**Mini Horse Obstacle:** learn skills and train your horse to safely complete an obstacle course.

**Mini Horse Jumping:** learn skills and train your horse to complete a Hunter Jumper course.

These are very brief descriptions of the projects. There are many opportunities to learn about all different types of horses and horse-related activities. The skills you learn through your 4-H Horse Projects will be skills that you will use throughout your life, as a hobby or, perhaps, as a career.

Before entering these project areas, all new 4-H Horse Program members must complete this introduction. All of the Horse Projects are progressive in nature, and most are divided into levels. It is necessary to master the skills in the first levels in order to continue safely and successfully through each project.

At the end of this introduction, you will be asked to answer a few short questions, and to complete a project assessment. As you complete each of the project workbooks and your project assessment, you will go on to the next level. Horsemanship is the

foundation program in this project; in order to enroll in any of the projects besides Horsemanship you must have completed or currently be enrolled in the comparable level of Horsemanship. For example, if you wish to take obstacle 2, you must be enrolled in Horsemanship 2, or have completed Horsemanship 2 in a previous year. In the three basic horsemanship levels, you will have some *hands-on* experience in handling and caring for your horse. You will talk with veterinarians and horse trainers, visit places where horses are raised and read about horses.

You may enroll in each level 1 or 2 times, according to your interest and ability. County or club project leaders, or other adults you have identified can assist you in developing the skills and knowledge to progress from level to level. Of course the most important step to progressing is your time and effort.

You may use your own mini horse for this project, or you may enter into a lease or horse care agreement to use a mini horse someone else owns. The rules for eligible mini horses can be found in the Missoula County Horse Project rules.

Before beginning each level, it is important to glance through the entire workbook. You may want to work on several parts of a level at the same time. First time exhibitors in *any* project must attend the countywide Horse Project clinic, usually held in May. For example if you have completed Mini Horse Horsemanship 3, and are starting Mini Horse Driving, you need to attend the clinic.

Once you have advanced through this introduction, you may enroll in the project areas in which you are interested and qualified for. There are some guidelines which should be followed when you enroll in the various projects.

1. Members may not exhibit stallions, except as yearlings.
2. Certain projects have age guidelines for mini horses. You need to be aware of these guidelines and be certain your mini horse qualifies.

Each project has its own guidelines. While you are progressing through the Horsemanship levels, take the time to explore other projects you are interested in and know the rules for participating in those projects so that you can make a seamless transition into new project areas.

## **Objectives**

The Missoula County 4-H Mini Horse Program seeks to:

- Provide an opportunity for 4-Hers to learn to handle, care for, and perhaps drive the mature mini horse.
- Develop leadership, responsibility, initiative, self-reliance and good sportsmanship.
- Learn the principles of equine nutrition and what constitutes a balanced ration to feed your animals.

- To develop knowledge of safety precautions to prevent injuries to self, others and their animals.
- Learn about proper equipment and its care.
- Learn the anatomy of a horse.
- Promote love for humane treatment of animals.
- Learn to accept the results of our work and how to use these in planning and managing your next goal.
- To stimulate interest and provide an opportunity for members in the horse of horse related industries.
- Develop patience, cooperation, decision making ability and public speaking skills through participation in demonstrations, tours, judging and/or exhibits.
- To explore career opportunities.
- To develop skills, knowledge and attitudes for life-long use.
- To share knowledge gained with others.

#### Project Assessment:

Your project leader will determine if you have completed your project based on your completion of the workbook, 4-H record book and other factors predetermined by you and your project leader. Showing your horse at the Western Montana Fair is not required by the county to complete your project, although it may become a part of your plan for project completion as approved by you project leader.

## Safety

Because of their smaller size and loveable characters, you may not realize the importance of safety when handling a mini horse.

Our first concern must be safety for handlers and any other persons who may be in proximity to our horses.

- Always treat a mini horse with the same respect and awareness of a large horse.
- Mini horses have the same instincts and intuition as a large horse. When frightened they have a “flight or fight” response.
- Never stand directly in front of a mini, stand to the side.
- Be aware of your mini and his attitude of the moment. Be prepared in case he spooks or kicks.
- Use proper fitting equipment in good condition.
- Wear protective footwear like cowboy boots or other leather boots when handling minis. Their hooves can easily bruise or damage your feet.
- Never wrap a lead rope around your hand. Always coil any excess lead in a figure-8.
- Move calmly and deliberately around a mini horse. Loud voices and sudden movements can spook a horse.
- Don't try to out-pull your mini. Use a quick pull on the lead or get assistance.
- When following other horses, always leave at least a horse length between you and the horse in front of you.
- Use a red ribbon in your horse's tail if he kicks.
- You must maintain your composure at all times when handling a mini horse.

## **Missoula County 4-H Mini Horse Projects**

Mini Horsemanship 1  
Mini Horsemanship 2  
Mini Horsemanship 3

Mini Horse Jumping 1  
Mini Horse Jumping 2  
Mini Horse Jumping 3

Mini Horse Obstacle 1  
Mini Horse Obstacle 2  
Mini Horse Obstacle 3

Mini Horse Driving 1  
Mini Horse Driving 2  
Mini Horse Driving 3

Mini Horse Exhibitors can explore AMHA/AMHRA style showing in the Horse showing project.

The Mini Horse project is supervised by the Mini Horse Committee and approved by the Missoula County Horse Committee.

# Introduction to Workbook

Complete this page and signature approval before starting your project.

1. I have read the introduction and understand the Missoula 4-H Mini Horse Project.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Date

2. How will your project be assessed? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. I have determined how to access all suggested resource materials. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

4. After I have completed the introduction and three basic levels of mini horsemanship, I plan to enroll in... (which projects)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. I want to learn about horses because:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. My project leader is \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Project leader signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Handling and Hauling your horse Safely

How can you or your mini get hurt when loading or unloading your mini in a horse trailer?

What's important to remember, when tying your horse in a trailer or to a fence?

Would you tie your horse to a post or to a rail? Why?

### Pointers for Trailering your Mini

- 1) Most trailers are designed for big horses. Minis may be able to go under dividers. Tie your mini so this does not happen. You may find it safest to remove dividers when hauling minis.
- 2) It is important to tie minis in the horse trailer when hauling more than 1 horse.
- 3) It can be a big step up or down when loading and unloading your mini. Be prepared for your mini to leap in and out of the trailer. Be careful about the footing you are unloading onto.
- 4) Make sure your mini cannot step over his lead rope.
- 5) When tying your mini to your trailer at a show, be aware of hazards. Tie rings are placed for big horses and may need to be modified for a mini.

### Pointers for Tying your Mini

- 1) Always tie to a post, not a rail, gate, or wire.
- 2) Use a quick release knot when tying your mini.
- 3) Make sure your mini cannot step over the rope when tied.
- 4) Make sure your halter fits your mini properly.
- 5) Check on your tied mini regularly.
- 6) Minis may be small, but leads and halters still need to be sturdy and in good repair. Some items marketed to minis may be cute, but are not safe for tying your mini.

## Health Care

Use books, the internet or other resources to answer the following questions.

What is the average temperature of a mini horse?

How do you take the temperature of your mini?

How many respirations per minute should a mini have?

How do you count them?

How are dewormers usually administered to horses?

The dose size is based on your horses what?

How can you quickly estimate your horse's weight?

Why do you have to be very careful in measuring a dose for a mini?

\*Note: some dewormers like QWEST, can be toxic if the dosage is exceeded, even by a small amount.

What annual shots are administered to minis in your region?

Why is it especially important for minis to have good dental care?

Minis can be prone to certain conditions. Name two health concerns that are a risk for mini horses.