

Patrick King  
*Horsemanship*

*Developing Solid Foundations in Horses and Riders*

*Green & Growing*  
**Stage One**

*Official Promotion Evaluation*

Student Name:

Date:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Country:

Phone:

Email:

Horse's Name:

Breed:

Mare  Gelding  Stallion

Age:

**Results:**     **PROMOTION TO STAGE TWO**     **SOME RESUBMITS**

**Official Evaluator:**

**Signature:**

**Date:**

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# Green & Growing

## Stage One

### Skill Criteria and Official Evaluation

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#### Ground Skills

##### Online

Tools: Halter & Lead

EVALUATION NOTES:

#### Skills

##### 1) Approach your horse in a corral or arena

- Approach confidently, but at the appropriate pace for the horse.
- Offer your right hand for the horse to make first contact, then politely rub head, neck, and shoulders
- Lead is doubled and hung over your elbow
- Halter is hanging on your left hand, ready for use

**PASS**

**RESUBMIT**

##### 2) Halter your horse

- Stand at your horse's shoulders.
- Right hand holds crown of the halter, with right arm on horse's neck, left hand holds the cheek piece.
- Ask your horse to turn head and neck into you to help with putting the halter on.
- Tie the sheet-bend knot correctly in the halter.

**PASS**

**RESUBMIT**

##### 3) Walk and trot, into backup

- Give plenty of lead to the horse.
- Horse should follow with energy and respect.
- When you stop and back up, your horse should stop and back up without their shoulder passing your shoulder.
- You can send life down the rope, spin the end of the lead, or wave your arms to help the horse back up.

**PASS**

**RESUBMIT**

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# Green & Growing

## Stage One

### Skill Criteria and Official Evaluation

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#### Ground Skills (continued)

EVALUATION NOTES:

##### Online

Tools: Halter & Lead, Flag

##### Skills

#### 4) 'Flog' with lead rope

- Stand confidently and use rhythm with the end of your lead.
- 'Touch & Go' with the end of your lead so that it doesn't slap your horse.
- If your horse moves around, show that you can continue 'flogging' to help them relax.
- Stop 'flogging' when your horse is showing signs of acceptance and confidence.
- Toss lead around neck, barrel, hindquarters, and legs. Show this from both sides.

**PASS**

**RESUBMIT**

#### 5) Rub with flag first, then hands

- Safely and quietly rub your horse's entire body with the flag, showing acceptance and confidence.
- If your horse moves around, show that you can continue rubbing to help them relax.
- Rub head, neck, barrel, hindquarters, inside and outside of legs. Show this from both sides.

**PASS**

**RESUBMIT**

#### 6) Pick up all four feet with rope, then hands

*WITH ROPE:*

- Confidently wrap the lead around your horse's leg.
- Rub the leg up and down to show horse's confidence with the rope.
- Cause horse to shift their weight from light/medium pressure of your rope around their knee or fetlock/ankle

*WITH HANDS:*

- Rub the leg up and down to show horse's confidence.
- Use chestnuts on front legs, cap of hocks on hind.
- Horse should willingly lift each foot.

**PASS**

**RESUBMIT**

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# Green & Growing

## Stage One

### Skill Criteria and Official Evaluation

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#### Ground Skills (continued)

EVALUATION NOTES:

##### Online

Tools: Halter & Lead

#### 7) Rope-Around

- Stand at horse's shoulder.
- Toss the lead to the off side of your horse and wiggle it back until it rests off the hindquarters, above the hocks.
- Wait for your horse to show relaxation and a slight bend toward your lead before walking backwards, away from horse's head.
- Horse should bend and turn around to face you, following your lead, and stop in front of you.
- Show this from both sides.

**PASS**

**RESUBMIT**

#### 8) Direct yielding (*backwards from nose and chest, head down, shoulders, hindquarters, ribs*)

- Lead rope should rest over your elbow with plenty of slack for your horse.
- Show your horse's acceptance by first rubbing, then applying pressure to move your horse, and rubbing after your release until your horse stops.
- Pressure should be as light as possible, increasing as needed.
- Hindquarters and shoulders do not need to pivot at this stage. If the appropriate body parts are yielding, this is sufficient.
- Hindquarters and shoulders should move equally when yielding ribs.

**PASS**

**RESUBMIT**

#### 9) Back your horse off of your lead 8-10ft.

- Stand in front of your horse.
- Your lead should start out touching the ground.
- Initial wave sent down the lead for a backup should not contact your horse. Increase as necessary, release for each try.
- Backup should be reasonably straight.

**PASS**

**RESUBMIT**

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## Stage One

### Skill Criteria and Official Evaluation

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#### Ground Skills (continued)

EVALUATION NOTES:

##### Online

Tools: Halter & Lead

#### 10) Indirect yielding (*shoulders, hindquarters, ribs*)

- Horse should have plenty of slack from the lead.
- Increase supporting pressure as necessary, release for each try.
- Horse should maintain some slack in the lead when yielding all parts.
- Stay in the correct position to yield each part.

**PASS**

**RESUBMIT**

#### 11) Lunge on the lead

- Show clear separation of the three parts of lunging: 1) Send them out 2) Leave them alone 3) Bring them back.
- Horse can maintain at least one lap at the walk before asking for the trot. Horse maintains two laps at the trot before you ask for the walk again. Must walk at least one-half lap before you bring back.
- Some slack should be maintained in the lead during sending and circling.
- Maintain your position during sending and circling. It is acceptable to walk into hip when bringing back.

**PASS**

**RESUBMIT**

#### 12) Back horse off your lead, through a gate

- Show ability to accurately position yourself and your horse for best results.
- Lead should start on the ground.
- Initial wave sent down the lead for a backup should not contact your horse. Increase as necessary, release for each try.
- Backup should be reasonably straight.

**PASS**

**RESUBMIT**

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## Stage One

### Skill Criteria and Official Evaluation

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#### Ground Skills (continued)

EVALUATION NOTES:

##### Online

Tools: Halter & Lead, Flag (optional)

#### 13) Send horse over a small jump

- Direct onto a line, rather than a circle.
- Direct and drive from a couple feet away from the jump.
- Release the lead and allow some drift as the horse goes over jump.
- Flag is used as supporting pressure, but remains in neutral as much as possible.
- It is acceptable to walk into hip when bringing back after jump.

**PASS**

**RESUBMIT**

#### 14) Show Rump-Around tying exercise

- Use flag to move horse or wave lead at hindquarters.
- Horse shows willingness to move hindquarters, and confidence to keep forehand limited in motion.
- Moving twice each direction is sufficient.

**PASS**

**RESUBMIT**

#### 15) Load in a trailer by standing at the door or by walking in ahead. Door/Rump bar should remain open.

WHEN SENDING IN SOLO:

- Stand beside trailer, directing horse into trailer.
- Flag or end of lead is used for support, if necessary.
- Horse should remain in trailer until asked to back out.
- Horse should back out quietly by tail and lead pressure.

WHEN WALKING IN AHEAD:

- Walk confidently into trailer with plenty of slack in the lead (not facing the horse or pulling).
- Horse should follow in without stopping.
- Horse should remain in the trailer until asked to back out quietly by lead pressure.

**PASS**

**RESUBMIT**

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# Green & Growing

## Stage One

### Skill Criteria and Official Evaluation

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#### Ground Skills (continued)

EVALUATION NOTES:

##### Online

Tools: Halter & Lead, Saddle & Pad/Blanket, Snaffle  
Bridle or Hackamore

#### 16) 'Pony' your horse (from another horse, golf cart, ATV, car/truck, etc.)

- Horse leads with slack in the rope majority of the time, walk and trot, back to walk, into backup.
- Initial wave sent down the lead for a backup should not contact your horse. Increase as necessary, release for each try.
- Backup should be reasonably straight.

**PASS**

**RESUBMIT**

#### 17) Saddle your horse from the 'off' side

- Hang lead rope off your right elbow, with some slack.
- Hold saddle correctly under your left arm, pad/blanket in your right hand.
- Maintain correct position at your horse's right shoulder.
- Pad/blanket and saddle are swung gently onto your horse.
- Left hand rubs horse's belly when reaching for cinch/girth.
- Saddle is tightened in two or three stages, moving horse between each tightening.

**PASS**

**RESUBMIT**

#### 18) Bridle your horse

- Maintain position at your horse's left shoulder.
- Right arm rests on horse's neck, holding crown of bridle in right hand.
- Left hand holds snaffle bit (unless using hackamore – then left hand is on the check/nose of the bosal)
- Bring horse's head down and around to you.
- Push ears forward through the crown piece.
- Wait for horse to lower head before putting the reins over their neck.
- Be sure that your horse helps you each step of the way.

**PASS**

**RESUBMIT**

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## Stage One

### Skill Criteria and Official Evaluation

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#### Riding Skills

EVALUATION NOTES:

Tools: Saddle, Snaffle Bridle or Hackamore

#### 1) Mount/dismount from both sides

##### MOUNTING

- Holding near rein, with slack taken out, but not enough to bend your horse.
- One hand holds rein, other hand holds horn/pommel, or cantle.
- Horse stands still.
- Maintain correct body positioning, facing horse's head during mounting.
- Sit softly and quietly.

##### DISMOUNTING

- Hold reins in one hand, dismounting to same side.
- Swing leg over smoothly.
- Step or slide down smoothly, facing horse's head.

**PASS**

**RESUBMIT**

#### 2) Lateral flexion

- Sit squarely
- Show correct rein preparation and position.
- Horse needs to show softness back to your hand.
- Release with each effort, asking again if necessary.

**PASS**

**RESUBMIT**

#### 3) Move hindquarters and then forequarters

- Show correct rein and leg position and timing.
- Horse should show understanding of reins and legs.
- Should be equally smooth to both sides.

**PASS**

**RESUBMIT**

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## Stage One

### Skill Criteria and Official Evaluation

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#### Riding Skills (continued)

EVALUATION NOTES:

Tools: Saddle, Snaffle Bridle or Hackamore

#### 4) Back up 8-10 steps

- Show correct rein preparation and positioning.
- Shift your weight rearward, without leaning back.
- Wait for horse to respond and release each try.
- Horse backs up willingly and straight.

**PASS**

**RESUBMIT**

#### 5) Leg yield from standstill 3 or 4 steps, both directions

- Ask first for softness.
- Open one side, close another.
- Maintain proper body and rein position.
- Ask a release each step

**PASS**

**RESUBMIT**

#### 6) Leg yield at a walk 5 or 6 steps, both directions

- Ask first for softness, maintaining forward momentum.
- Open one side, close another.
- Maintain proper body and rein position.
- Ask a release each step

**PASS**

**RESUBMIT**

#### 7) Leg yield at a trot 5 or 6 steps, both directions

- Ask first for softness, maintaining forward momentum.
- Open one side, close another.
- Maintain proper body and rein position.
- Ask a release each step

**PASS**

**RESUBMIT**

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## Stage One

### Skill Criteria and Official Evaluation

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#### Riding Skills (continued)

*Tools: Saddle, Snaffle Bridle or Hackamore, Markers for patterns*

EVALUATION NOTES:

#### 8) 'Horseshoe' canter departures

- Show softness with each bend at the ends of your horseshoe. It is acceptable to circle 2 or 3 circles to achieve softness, if necessary.
- Show proper inside rein use.
- Supporting hand use, if necessary, spanking outside hip.

**PASS**

**RESUBMIT**

#### 9) Ride 'clover' pattern at trot and canter

- Ride 2 full circuits of the pattern each way at a trot first, then at the canter.
- If horse doesn't stop when you ask at "X", ask for backup into "X."
- Keep a steady focus around the pattern.
- Allow slack in the reins when horse is on your line, make corrections only when necessary.

**PASS**

**RESUBMIT**

#### 10) Ride 'four squares' pattern at a trot, yielding shoulders and hindquarters at corners

- Alternate asking for turns of shoulders/hindquarters at each corner.
- One full circuit each direction is sufficient.
- Allow slack in the reins along the straight lines, only using reins for corrections when necessary.
- If horse doesn't stop when you ask at the corners or at "X", ask for backup back to where you asked for stop.
- Keep a steady focus ahead throughout the entire pattern.

**PASS**

**RESUBMIT**

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## Stage One

### Skill Criteria and Official Evaluation

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#### Riding Skills (continued)

EVALUATION NOTES:

*Tools: Saddle, Snaffle Bridle or Hackamore, Markers for patterns, Rope, Cavalletti or small jump, Ground poles, Tarp, Gate*

#### 11) Swing a rope while walking and trotting

- Maintain correct riding position.
- Left hand holds reins and extra rope coils
- Right hand holds rope
- Swing confidently but quietly
- Horse shows confidence with rope swinging at each side and above.

**PASS**

**RESUBMIT**

#### 12) Cross obstacles (ground poles, small jump, tarp)

- Horse should cross obstacles willingly and straight.
- Reins should show plenty of slack to allow horse the confidence to move forward.
- Some negotiation and discussion with the reins is acceptable.
- Keep a forward focus as you ride over obstacle.

**PASS**

**RESUBMIT**

#### 13) Work a gate

- Horse should leg yield to gate and wait while you unlatch.
- Horse needs to show acceptance of moving toward and away from gate as it's being worked.
- Reins should be held in one hand, gate worked in the other.

**PASS**

**RESUBMIT**

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