

Western Instructor Lunging notes

Lunging at this evaluation demonstrates the Instructor's ability to safely and competently lunge a horse that is quiet and well trained to lunge and to ensure it is safe to lunge a mounted rider. The Instructor will not be required to lunge a rider or use side reins.

Instructor ensures that all doors/gates are closed, and that all equipment/area is safe

Horse's tack: saddle, snaffle bridle with well-fitting, snug but not tight, halter or lunging cavesson. Halter or cavesson must not slip or interfere with bit or horse's eyes. Halter is put on over bridle. A lunging cavesson is put on top of bridle with the cavesson cheek pieces put under the bridle cheek pieces. No nosebands.

Horse is protected with minimum of boots/bandages on front legs. Overreach boots on front and boots/bandages on back if necessary.

Instructor ensures that cinch is tightened, and bridle reins are secured up into throat with throatlatch, through the gullet and tied to the saddle horn. Length of reins are to allow freedom of horse's movement, but not so long as to be unsafe.

Instructor attire - appropriate western attire – cowboy hat, sleeved shirt, jeans, belt and gloves, no spurs. May wear helmet.

Lunge line attachment: with halter and bridle – snap on inside ring; with cavesson – snap on top centre ring.

Lunge line, as it comes from the horse's head, is safely held in one hand (left hand if horse is moving to the left, right hand if horse is moving to the right). Excess line is held in other hand with whip, in even, untangled circle or figure 8 loops. Loops large enough to not wrap tightly around hand if horse makes sudden movement away from lunger, but not large enough to go below knees of lunger.

Lunge line does not touch the ground, but if it does rarely, it is corrected immediately. Smooth adjustments are made to loops as needed to shorten or lengthen line. No chain. Thick material. Held like a sword is acceptable but held like a rein is preferable to mimic feel when riding.

Lunge whip is never dropped or cracked. When not in use, lash is coiled up around handle and whip is tucked under arm away from horse. Whip is handled so as not to scare horse or give unwanted signals.

Before **changing direction** with halter on, move lunge line snap to centre ring while securing horse by holding a rein. After direction change replace lunge line snap to side halter ring, again while securing horse by holding a rein.

When changing direction with cavesson on, no need to change lunge line snap position.

The **circle size** should be appropriate to horse size - approximately 50- 60 feet diameter. Instructor remains at centre of circle with minimal movement and keeps circle in same area.

Lunging skills – Instructor will demonstrate calm control at walk, jog, lope and stop in both directions. Instructor will maintain triangle of control with whip, line, and horse for most of the time. Horse to remain out on circle, not turn in towards lunger.



Instructor uses whip, line, voice commands, and body language effectively to control horse's movement for most of the time.

Instructor will be asked to assess horse's suitability to lunge a beginner rider.