

Drive Instructor Lunging Notes

Lunging at this evaluation demonstrates the ability to safely and competently lunge a horse that is quiet and well-trained to lunge and to ensure it is safe to lunge.

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

Horse's tack: surcingle well-fitting, snug but not tight, halter or lungeing cavesson. Halter or cavesson must not slip or interfere with bit or horse's eyes, suitable lunge line.

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

Student ensures that girth is tightened, and all equipment adjusted correctly.

Instructor attire – appropriate, professional attire for the activity including gloves and proper footwear. May wear helmet (recommended).

Lesson horse/student requirements – horses/ponies and student must be capable of at least attempting the topic to be taught but not above the level. Horses/ponies should be calm, trained and safe to be lunged at walk, trot, canter in both directions. The Instructor must be prepared to step in and demonstrate the lungeing topic then help the student achieve the skill.

Lunge line attachment: with halter– 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 figure 8 loops. Loops large enough to not wrap tightly around hand if horse makes sudden movement away, but not large enough to go below knees of person lunging.

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. After direction change replace lunge line snap to side halter ring.

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

Side reins – if being used, an open bridle with bit will also have to be on the horse/pony with side reins correctly adjusted

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

Lunging skills – Instructor will have the student deliver the lesson. If necessary, the Instructor will demonstrate calm control at walk, trot, canter and stop in both directions. Student (or 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.