



## ICEY-GYMKHANA CHALLENGE

After a long winter with challenging weather and a lack of daylight hours, a lot of us have struggled to get out with the horses. The aim of this challenge is to get everyone back into the swing of things, as spring approaches.

- This challenge has been put together with the aim that everyone and anyone can join in. You may enter this challenge inhand with a young horse, not yet backed and just starting its education and partnership with you, your ridden Icelandic or a now retired and much-loved companion. There will also be a Youth class where you may lead or ride.
- You may enter multiple times with a different horse. If you loan, borrow or help a friend with their Icelandic horse, you can enter.
- We wish to encourage a wide range of entries from our members all over GB and EU countries. Please do give this a go! This challenge has a £5 surcharge but is discounted to no charge for IHSGB members.
- The aim is that the challenge will be a fun exercise to do with our horses, but also encourage training on the trail, bonding with the horse, desensitising to the environment around us, encouraging, listening and concentration for the horses. Clear aids, improving balance, stretching, bending, fitness, and a sense of achievement at the end of it!

There is a list of 28 Elements within the challenge. A minimum of 10 is required to enter bronze class, 15 for silver class and 20 for gold class.

You may complete these in a time frame that is suitable for you and your horse. The challenge will last 8 weeks to enable you time to train, practice and record your achievements.

Each element can be videoed individually, on separate occasions to suit your training and development, but upon the deadline of submission for your entry, you must collate the video clips to be complete entries. These will need to be uploaded in 5 elements per video. All videos to be uploaded to YouTube and you send us the link. More details will be available nearer the time and help can be given if needed.

The speed and gait in which you complete each element is left up to you to decide, as you know the level of fitness, capability and education of your own horse/horses. Each element that is safe to complete in a faster gait, will earn an extra point if executed with skill and control. For example: Walk 1 point. Trot/Tolt 2, canter 3. There will also be extra points awarded for good ridden harmony and execution of the elements. For example? Inhand working with a "smile in the rope" or any harmonious liberty work or the partnership of the handler and horse combination. Horses focussed purely on treat rewards will not gain the extra marks if it is deemed that this is their sole focus. Of course, extra points may also be awarded for any "bloopers" added. - We all love a giggle! Please do always try and stay as safe as possible.

There will be rosettes awarded at the end of this challenge as a reminder of what you have achieved. I do hope we get lots of support for this challenge....

Best of luck to you all and happy training!

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## **1. Hooves**

Pick up each hoof calmly, whilst untied in the field, yard, school, or stable.

## **2. Long rein/Longline (Any speed)**

Demonstrate skills of long reining/longlining. Element to include minimum of 1 left turn, 1 right turn, straight line, Halt and backup in a straight line. This can be from a bridle or head collar.

## **3. Mounting Block**

IH) Lead horse to mounting block. Lineup beside the mount. Stand. Mount the Block at top tier. Stand for 5 seconds. Dismount block and lead calmly away.

R) Walk horse to the mounting block. Lineup beside the mount. Stand. Mount the horse. Stand for 5 seconds before calmly walking away.

## **4. Gate**

IH) Lead your horse through a gate calmly, without barging. Stand quietly to open and close.

R) Ride to a gate, open and ride through. Close behind you. Dismount if unsafe to stay on or gate not equine friendly.

## **5. Immobility**

IH) Lead horse to an area. Halt. Walk away. Horse to stay. 10 seconds, then return to collect. Ideally horse to stand, not graze.

R) Ride horse to an area. Halt. Dismount. Secure reins and stirrups. Walk away. 10 seconds, then return to collect horse. Ideally horse to stand, not graze.

## **6. Washing line (Any speed)**

IH) Put up and take down a large coat or other item of clothing from a washing line or similar. Use your environment to your advantage if one not available. Put the item on, lead them around and then place back up again.

R) Ride to a washing line or something to hang items up. Put coat or other large item on, whilst sat on the horse. Ride around. Remove the item whilst still mounted and hang back up.

## **7. Flag (Any speed)**

IH) Lead horse to Flag in bucket/holder. Pick up and carry flag up next to the horse. Move around with the horse and Flag. Fly flag over horse whilst they remain calm. Place flag in a bucket/holder. A minimum of 30 seconds ideally.

R) Ride to bucket/holder and pick up flag. Ride around with the flag held up. Place in bucket/holder. A minimum of 30 seconds ideally.

## **8. Curtain (Any speed)**



IH ) Lead horse through a recycled/ material and plastic curtain. Can be a plastic fly curtain or made with anything that can be recycled. Plastic bottles, materials, old rags, plastic bags. Horse to walk through calmly. R) If safe to do so, this element can be ridden or lead through from the ground.

### **9. Low Branches (Any speed)**

IH) Lead horse under some low branches. If non available, then make an obstacle with sticks or poles to walk under.

R) Ride under some low branches or again, make an obstacle with sticks/poles.

### **10. Surefooted Obstacle (Walk Only)**

IH) Lead horse through a pile of unorganised poles/sticks/ other items that they must navigate through. It is to mimic a forest floor with roots and branches to step over or through. The aim is to step carefully through and not bulldoze through! R) The same but ridden.

### **11. Pole dance (Walk Only)**

IH) Lead horse over a pole or branch. Standing over the top. 2 feet either side, encourage your horse to step sideways for the length of pole. They should always keep 2 feet either side of the pole. R) Step over the pole, ride sideways along the pole. 2 feet on either side of the pole always.

### **12. Balance (Walk Only)**

IH) Using whatever you have available, encourage your horse to stand and walk over some old cushions, a mattress, balance mats, or a wooden seesaw if you're good at DIY. This item should encourage the horse to walk on unfamiliar footing, whilst engaging their core muscles and balance. R) The same can be ridden if safe.

### **13. Back up (Walk Only)**

IH) Build a corridor from poles or branches, as your environment allows. Ideally approximately 3 metres long by 1 metre wide. Lead your horse down the corridor. Halt. Back up in a straight line. You must stay in the corridor.

R) Ride your horse into the corridor. Halt at the end. Back up calmly, in a straight line. Stay within the corridor.

### **14. S – Bend made with poles/branches or anything to hand (Any speed)**

IH) Lead horse around the S-Bend. Making sure to stay inside the markers. Smooth bends around the corners.



R) Ride horse around the S-Bends. Making sure to stay inside the markers and smooth movements, bending around the corners.

### **15. Meet a Buggy/Bike or Umbrella (Walk Only)**

At home or out on the trail. Possible spooks. A pram, cyclist, umbrella or similar is often required to negotiate out and about. The aim is to show your trust in the partnership. Reassurance to your horse and how you manage a situation if needed.

### **16. Meeting other Animals (Walk Only)**

Cattle/ Dogs/ Alpacas/ Poultry/ Sheep/other horses... Lead or ride your horse past other animals in a calm manner, with confidence. Remember the more you challenge yourself, the better exposed your horse will be for the future.

### **17. Traffic (Walk Only)**

Lead or ride your horse to an area where you and they are safe. Show your horse vehicles. This can be on or off the roadside. Please wear Hi-Viz when out with traffic. Only do so if you feel confident and safe.

### **18. Bridge (Walk Only)**

If you have access to a bridge, show that you can cross calmly. This could be a small footbridge or a main bridge.

### **19. Tarpaulin (Any speed)**

Lay a piece of Tarpaulin or plastic on the ground. Lead or ride over the top. This should be at a calm and relaxed walk.

### **20. Water (Any speed)**

Lead or ride your horse through the water. This will depend on what you have available. It could be a giant puddle, a stream, a river or the sea.

### **21. Weaving (Any speed)**

Set up a line of obstacles. This could be weaving poles, fence posts, traffic cones, buckets. Space them out evenly. 2 metres apart. This is great for bending, steering and having a bit of fun! Lead or ride your horse through the poles. This can be done at a faster speed as you practice more. Have fun but stay safe!



## **22. Jump (Any speed)**

You can set up a man-made jump pole or use a tree log, or other materials found in your environment. Ideally 1 foot off the ground approximately but anything is fine. You can lead or ride your horse over the jump. You can walk over the obstacle if you or your horse do not wish to jump it. This can be ridden at any speed to suit you and your horse.

## **23. “Refreshment/Beer Tolt”**

Using your imagination and a ½ pint (ideally plastic for safety) glass, fill with the refreshment of your choice. Arm out to the side of your horse, either inhand or ridden, set off in Tolt or as close too it as you can! Ride tolt for a length of area, that is the equivalent of a school. (20 metres approx.) Ride each direction or if you have room to do so, then continue. Once you have completed this, you show us what is left in your glass. Remember that due to being at home, and different environments and vessels, it will not be an exact measurement but if you are able to measure in a jug to get as close as possible to the quantity, then it will be a fairer playground for all. Inhand entries only need to jog for 1 length of a school in distance (20m). Remembering that we are doing this for fun but also a good learning experience and great for your balance and control. - (or not!) good luck!

## **24 – 27. Transitions**

We are looking for a smooth transition as the horse changes gaits with minimal rein/rope contact. When changing up or down to the desired gait, you can ride the other gaits for a short distance. For example,

- From Halt – Walk 10 strides – Halt. Repeat x3 times
- From Halt –walk 5 strides to Trot 10 strides –to walk 5 strides - Halt. Repeat x3 times
- From Halt –walk 5 strides- Tolt 10 strides – walk 5 strides- Halt. Repeat x 3 times
- From Halt –walk 5 strides – Canter 5 strides – walk 5 strides Halt. Repeat x3 times.

You can go from walk to canter and back with a Trot/Tolt transition if needed.

## **28. Circles (Any speed)**

Lead or ride your horse in a circle on both reins. The circle can be a small circle if you have limited space or large circle if you have more room. You can mark the area out to help the circle to be more accurate.