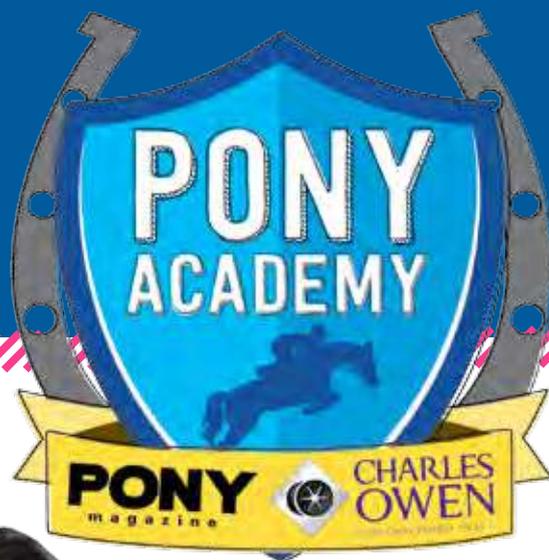




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” JOIN IN... All topics and questions are based on features in previous issues of PONY magazine. “



THIS MONTH: *Hacking* problems



This month, our paper is all about hacking and common hacking problems. Answer as many of these questions as you can, but don't worry if there's an answer you don't know – you can still send us your paper for marking. **This paper is based on the *Hacking problems: solved!* feature that appeared in the August 2016 issue of PONY. Missed it? Buy the issue at ponymag.com/shop.**

1 What should you do if you feel nervous about going hacking?

- Build up your confidence slowly. Go on a few hacks with a friend on a sensible pony first.
- Kick on! You'll soon forget your nerves.
- Use a strong bit and a martingale on your pony so you'll have more control.
- Don't hack often. It'll knock your confidence.

2 Doing which of these will help you relax?

- Going for a gallop straightaway.
- Thinking positively, taking a few deep breaths and smiling!
- Dismounting if your pony misbehaves. That way, you can't fall off!
- Hacking with a friend on a naughty pony – it'll make your pony seem less naughty.

3 Which of these is essential to wear hacking?

- Your medical armband in case you fall.
- Your hat, body protector and high-vis.
- There's nothing essential.

4 What can you do to help reduce the amount your pony spooks out hacking?

- Only hack a couple of times a month. The less you hack, the less he can spook!
- Hack him out often – the more he sees and experiences, the more confident he'll become.
- Only hack him out alone.

5 Which of these things could cause your pony to be strong out hacking?

- Doing slow work because he'll want to go faster.
- Not getting enough exercise and being fed too much hard feed.
- Spending lots of time in the field with his friends, which makes him excitable.



6

Why is it not advisable to canter in the same places on every hack?

- There's nothing wrong with doing that, it won't make any difference.
- Your pony might anticipate it and become strong.
- He'll get bored of cantering in the same places and become lazy.

7

Why might your pony not want to take the lead and go in front of other ponies on a hack?

- He doesn't know the route, so feels happier following another pony.
- He'll have to do more work if he's at the front.
- Ponies are herd animals, so he might feel vulnerable.
- Most ponies love taking the lead!



8

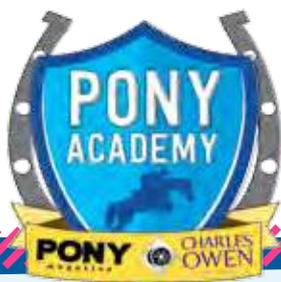
What can you do if you think your pony might get excited on a hack?

- Do lots of fast work straightaway to use up his energy.
- Lunge or ride him in the school before you take him out.
- Try to keep him calm by only walking.
- Ride with your reins shorter than usual.

9

Doing which of these things could cause your pony to be lazy out hacking?

- Nagging him with your legs and being at the back of the ride every time.
- Riding with an exercise sheet on as it'll make him warm.
- Riding through water as it saps energy.



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