

Directions: Read the article “**Help on the Hoof**” and read the article “**The Guide Horse Training Process**,” then answer the questions that follow.

Help on the Hoof

- 1** When Dan Shaw gets up from the couch in his suburban home in Ellsworth, Maine, Cuddles is never far away. When he wants to go outside, he doesn’t take Cuddles out for a walk—Cuddles takes him for a walk. Cuddles is clearly no ordinary family pet. Cuddles is a two-foot-high miniature horse and serves as the guiding eyes of Shaw, who is visually impaired.
- 2** In the early 1920s, Morris Frank made history by becoming the first person in America to receive a guide dog. In 2001, Dan Shaw became the first person to receive a guide horse. Trained by the Guide Horse Foundation in North Carolina, these tiny horses are finding their niches in the world of assistance animals.
- 3** Shaw began losing his sight as a young man and had difficulty holding jobs due to his failing vision. Even when he bumped into furniture and knocked things over, he refused to accept his condition. When getting around on his own in public proved to be too difficult, he opened a bait shop in his own home.
- 4** Finally, his wife begged him to get some help and suggested that he apply for a guide dog. Shaw, an avid animal lover, said he couldn’t bear to part with a dog (which usually lives about eight to ten years) and adjust to a new one, perhaps several times in his life.
- 5** Then Shaw heard of a program about the tiny guide horses. Janet and Don Burlison of Kitrell, North Carolina, had trained their miniature horse, Twinkie, to lead a woman who is blind through a shopping mall. Soon after, they started the Guide Horse Foundation to provide an effective alternative to guide dogs.
- 6** Shaw learned that the horses are clean, friendly, and easy to train. They can be housebroken and learn to live in an urban setting, but they are best suited for suburban or rural homes. Best of all, they live for 25–35 years, which would enable Shaw to have the same guide companion for most or all of his life.

- 7** The Burlasons got the idea of training their pet pygmy ponies one day when they were in New York City. There, they visited the Clermont Stables, which were located right in the heart of the busy city. They noticed how the horses remained calm in the midst of heavy traffic and were impressed by their ability to negotiate complicated traffic patterns. When they further considered the history of service horses, such as cavalry horses and police horses, they recognized that horses were already successfully working in chaotic situations. Why couldn't they be useful in helping individuals who are blind?
- 8** Horses possess many qualities that make them an ideal choice for guiding people. They can be trained to remain calm in noisy and crowded places. They are smart, have great memories, and are not easily distracted. Horses are naturally on the lookout for danger and demonstrate excellent judgment in obstacle avoidance. With eyes on the sides of their heads instead of in front, they have an excellent range of vision and also can see extremely well at night. In addition, they are sturdy animals with the stamina to withstand lengthy excursions.
- 9** Shaw immediately applied to be and was accepted as the first person to receive a guide horse. He went to the Burlasons' farm to begin his training. The instant he met Cuddles, he knew he was making the right choice. "It's like it was meant to be," he said.
- 10** As part of their training, Shaw and Cuddles learned to navigate busy streets, step over curbs, and find doorknobs and elevator buttons. Cuddles even demonstrated his ability to step in front of Shaw and block him, to prevent him from walking into a dangerous situation. The little horse also expertly led Shaw through grocery stores and busy shopping malls. When walking inside, Cuddles wears two pairs of tiny sneakers to prevent him from slipping on smooth surfaces.
- 11** Later, Shaw and Cuddles went on a tour of Washington, D.C., and Boston, drawing curious stares from passers-by. Eventually, they took the ultimate test: They toured the congested streets and attractions of New York City. They visited the Empire State Building, the Statue of Liberty, and even rode the subways. They got along without any difficulties.
- 12** Shaw is confident that Cuddles will change his life for the better. Years ago, he never would have imagined himself owning a guide horse. Sometimes, however, it is the less obvious choice that works out for the best.

Reference:

California State Department of Education (2009), "Horse and Hoof." California State Department of Education. *Released Test Questions: English -Language Arts Grade 9* (p. 36). Public Domain. <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sr/css05rtq.asp>

The Guide Horse Training Process

In developing their guide horse training strategy, Don and Janet Burleson incorporated the techniques of the world-famous horse trainer John Lyons and the animal training concepts of behavioral psychologist B.F. Skinner.

During the physical portion of the training process, the guide horse learns:

1. to walk at appropriate speeds, navigate around obstacles, and use everyday transportation tools such as elevators and escalators.
2. to communicate to the handler the presence of obstacles. Although the horse is naturally aware of obstacles in its own path, the horse must learn to recognize obstacles in the path of its handler as well. These skills enable the horse to remain calm in difficult situations, therefore helping to prevent injury to the handler.
3. to alert the handler to changes in the surface or elevation of the path. The horse should walk two steps ahead of the handler and pause when arriving at steps or curbs, telling the handler that it is necessary to step up or down.
4. to develop better bladder control and learn where and when it is appropriate to “go.”

During the verbal portion of the training process, the guide horse learns:

1. to recognize over twenty voice commands that will be used by the handler.
2. that if the handler gives a command that may put the handler or horse into an unsafe situation, the horse should disregard the command.

Reference:

California State Department of Education (2009), “The Guide Horse Training Process.” California State Department of Education. *Released Test Questions: English -Language Arts Grade 9* (p. 37). Public Domain. <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sr/css05rtq.asp>

Answer the following questions using the text entitled “Help on the Hoof.”

1. The text structure of this passage may best be described as:
 - A. Cause/effect
 - B. Narrative
 - C. Chronological
 - D. Descriptive
2. In paragraph # 1, the author’s use of the phrase, “miniature horse and serves as the guiding eyes of Shaw” is an example of:
 - A. Hyperbole
 - B. Paradox
 - C. Oxymoron
 - D. Metaphor
3. The word which best describes the mood of the article is:
 - A. Sentimental
 - B. Frustrating
 - C. Discontented
 - D. Content
4. Which literary device is used in the following line?

The Burlasons got the idea of training their pet pygmy ponies one day when they were in New York City.

- A. Alliteration
 - B. Assonance
 - C. Allusion
 - D. Consonance
5. The word stamina in line 6 of paragraph 8, most likely means:
 - A. Eyesight
 - B. Agility
 - C. Strength
 - D. Flexibility

6. The fact that “the horses remained calm in the midst of heavy traffic” can best be described as an example of this literary device:
- A. Oxymoron
 - B. Personification
 - C. Paradox
 - D. Hyperbole
7. Which line from “Help on a Hoof” best communicates an enthusiastic tone?
- A. Cuddles is a two-foot-high miniature horse and serves as the guiding eyes of Shaw, who is visually impaired.
 - B. In the early 1920s, Morris Frank made history by becoming the first person in America to receive a guide dog.
 - C. When getting around on his own in public proved to be too difficult, [Shaw] opened a bait shop in his own home.
 - D. Best of all, [guide horses] live for 25–35 years, which would enable Shaw to have the same guide companion for most or all of his life.

“The Guide Horse Training Process”

Answer the following questions using the text entitled “The Guide Horse Training Process.”

1. Which book would NOT be useful in learning more about horse training?
- A. *Equipping Your Horse Farm*
 - B. *How to Think Like a Horse*
 - C. *Equine Fitness*
 - D. *Dressage for the Not So Perfect Horse*

2. Read the lines below and answer the question.

During the physical portion of the training process, the guide horse learns:

To walk at appropriate speeds, navigate round obstacles, and use everyday transportation tools such as elevators and escalators.

The literary device used in this passage is:

- A. Alliteration
 - B. Consonance
 - C. Assonance
 - D. Imagery
3. The author’s purpose of writing this passage is most likely:
- A. to inform the reader of the horse training process.
 - B. to question the horse training process.
 - C. to tell a story about the horse training process.
 - D. to argue for a better horse training process.
4. The most important technique a miniature horse will need to learn is:
- A. to disregard the handler’s command in an unsafe situation.
 - B. to recognize over twenty voice commands that will be used by the handler.
 - C. to develop better bladder control.
 - D. to alert the handler to changes in the surface or elevation of the path.

Comparison of “Help on the Hoof” and “The Guide Horse Training Process”

Answer the following questions comparing both passages.

1. All of the following are similarities between “Help on the Hoof” and “The Guide Horse Training Process” EXCEPT:
- A. Both describe training horses
 - B. Both tell the story of a specific guide horse
 - C. Both reference the expertise of Don and Janet Burleson
 - D. Both stress the ability of the trained horse to remain calm in the middle of confusion

2. The reader can infer that Dan Shaw’s miniature horse, Cuddles,:
 - A. likes Shaw’s wife
 - B. has taken him for a walk
 - C. does not enjoy city living
 - D. has utilized the Guide Horse training program

3. If you were training a horse in Ellsworth, Maine, you should be sure to:
 - A. learn to navigate busy streets
 - B. visit a big city
 - C. adopt a guide dog
 - D. always remain calm

4. Based upon the texts “Help on the Hoof “and “The Guide Horse Training Process,” which sentence is probably true?
 - A. Both authors believe in the Guide Horse Foundation.
 - B. Both authors believe that less obvious choices are best.
 - C. Both authors believe horses need to develop bladder control.
 - D. Both authors believe horses need intense training in learning to avoid obstacles in their own paths.

Released Test Questions from 2009 California Test.

1. Based upon the texts “Help on the Hoof” and “The Guide Horse Training Process,” what can the reader best conclude?
 - A. All visually impaired individuals use guide horses.
 - B. It is common to be selected as a guide horse owner.
 - C. Guide horses require extensive training but are a valuable resource.
 - D. Guide horses learn the most during the verbal portion of the training process.

2. What principle idea connects the information in *both* articles?
- A. The guide horse training process integrates the techniques of various experts.
 - B. The primary duty of an assistance animal is to protect the handler from danger.
 - C. Assistance animals can live for several decades.
 - D. Guide dogs are still more effective than guide horses.
3. Which source would be most helpful for a student who wants to write a report on the general use of assistance animals?
- A. Franco, Julia. *Training Guide Dogs*. Los Angeles: Guiding Lights Publishing, 2002.
 - B. Lee, Sung. “Sasha: A Canine Hero.” *Kennel Club Newsletter* Spring 2001: 2–3.
 - C. Quinn, Michael. *Guide Dogs and Other Companions*. San Francisco: Ice House Publishing, 2001.
 - D. Scott, Ken. “Local Police Seek Funds for K-9 Unit.” *The Daily Ledger* 2 Jan. 2003: 4C.
4. Which question about the uses of assistance animals could *best* be answered through further research?
- A. How are various types of animals utilized as assistance animals?
 - B. Which animal serves as the best assistance animal?
 - C. When did Dan Shaw first hear about various types of assistance animals?
 - D. How did Don and Janet Burleson learn to train assistance animals?