

**UNITED STATES PONY CLUBS
POLICY STATEMENT**

SUBJECT: MOUNTS

**EFFECTIVE DATE: 02/07/98
REVISED DATE: 1/29/00**

POLICY NO: 0135

I. PHILOSOPHY:

In order that Pony Club members participate on suitable mounts in USPC-sponsored instructional, competitive and recreational activities, the Board of Governors recognizes the importance of a policy governing mounts.

II. POLICY STATEMENT:

The Policy of the Board of Governors is that mounts used in USPC instructional, competitive and recreational activities must be healthy, safe and suitable.

III. AMPLIFYING INSTRUCTIONS AND GUIDELINES:

A. Suitable mounts are defined as follows:

1. Stallions are not considered suitable mounts.
2. Mounts must be serviceably sound, in good overall health and in condition for the activity in question.
3. Mounts must be appropriate for the rating level of the rider and must be at a level of training to participate safely in the activity.
4. Mounts must be at least five (5) years of age in order to participate in USPC competitive, instructional, and recreational programs and activities. Bs and above are allowed to participate in noncompetitive programs on horses or ponies that are four(4) years of age. In establishing the age of mounts, the first year is considered to be January 1 following the date of foaling.

- B. A mount must be excused from any activity if in the opinion of the instructor, examiner, or appropriate official at a competition, it is unsafe either to its rider or to other riders or mounts.
- C. Ownership of a mount is not a prerequisite for membership in USPC, Inc.
- D. The responsibility for obtaining a suitable mount for mounted activities rests with the parents or guardians of the individual member.
- E. Applicable horse management standards may further define suitable mounts.

IV. DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY:

- A. The DC and RS shall have the responsibility for this policy at the local and regional levels.
- B. The Vice President of Instruction and the Vice President of Activities shall have oversight of this policy.

V. ENACTMENT:

Established: _____ Date: 01/29/00
Board President