What I do before I ride

By: Hannah Bell

Today, you will be reading about how I prepare myself and my horse before I ride. Also, this is how I tack up Daisy. I don’t’ know how to tack up some other horses in the barn. So, let’s begin. There are three steps grooming, tacking, and getting myself ready.

First to prepare my pony, Daisy, I will start by grooming her. There are a few things that I do as part of her grooming. First, I will use a tool called a hoof pick. I use the hoof pick to pick out all the rocks, sand, and muck out of her hooves. I do this because, if there was something stuck in her hooves, it could cause pain and make it harder for her to walk. Then I move on to the body. I start by grabbing a currycomb. I use the currycomb by going in fast tight circles all over her body. I do it because it lifts all the dirt from underneath her fur to the top of her fur so then I can brush it away afterwords. Next, I grab a body-brush. I use the body-brush to wipe away all the dirt and sand of her body. I brush her because regular grooming is good for her skin and fur. So, that is what I do for the grooming part. Also, for any animal you should take good care of them.

Now, it is time for Daisy’s tack. I always start with her overreach boots. I put these boots on her front two hooves by using the velcro straps. She wears these boots to protect her front legs from hitting each other. The next thing I put on her is her martingale. I take two straps and buckle them together on her neck. I have to use this because it helps her to slow down. The third thing I do is put the saddle pad on her. I gently place the pad on her back and straighten it, so the saddle is in perfect position. I do this, because the saddle has to be in the perfect position, or it could hurt her back. After I put the saddle pad on, I put the saddle on. I also gently place the saddle on her back and straighten it up. I put the saddle on her back so that I have a place to sit. Next, I grab my girth. I take the girth and buckle it to the saddle on both sides as tight as I need it to be. I do this so the saddle doesn’t slide forward and it stays in one place. So, that is what I do for tacking up Daisy.

Now it is time for my gear. First, I put on my vest. I put it on and clip it together. I need the vest, because, if I fall, there is a string connected to my saddle and if it’s pulled enough it will blow up like a cars airbag. The last thing I put on is my helmet. I would put my helmet on like any other helmet. I need the helmet, because, if I fall, the helmet protects my head. So, that is what I do to get myself ready.

Now that Daisy and I are ready, it’s time for the final step: putting the bridal on. Now, I’m going to take my hand and push the bit in her mouth. Once I have that in, I buckle the two buckles on the bridle known as the throat latch and the nose-band. Now once I’m done with that. I take the reins and walk her over to the mounting block and get on and that is all I do to prepare myself and Daisy before we ride.