



GROUNDWORK 1

RIDER AND HORSE DETAILS

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Application date (m/d/y) | 05/04/2016 |
| Name rider | Ruth Chapple |
| Country | UK |
| Name horse | Grays Dino |
| Age horse | 9 |
| Gender horse | Gelding |
| MemberID | 6168 |
| YouTubeURL | https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bvmBKakW7MU |

RESULTS

| | |
|-------------|--|
| Your score | 78 |
| Star rating | ☆ |
| Evaluator | Elaine Coxon |
| Remark | Congratulations, you passed this touchstone. Good luck with the next one! |

star rating classes

☆ = 77-90 / ☆☆ = 91-104 / ☆☆☆ = 105 - 118 / ☆☆☆☆ = 119 - 140

SCORING ELEMENTS

| # | Description | Score | Comment |
|---|--|-------|--|
| 1 | <p>a. Halt at the center line with the horse's nose towards a long side.</p> <p>b. Forward down at a standstill.</p> <p>c. Lateral bending at a standstill to the left and to the right.</p> | 6 | <p>Welcome to your first Touchstone Ruth and Dino. Nice to see you have arranged your excess line in loops in your non leading hand, you have a good length of whip. The cavesson noseband may be a little too loose - one or two flat fingers is a good measure.</p> <p>Be careful not to hold on the line for too long, because that triggers a 'resistant response' in Dino and he is clearly getting a little annoyed. Close your hand shortly and release often, soon, quickly and long and invite him to do the exercise with you.</p> |
| 2 | <p>Minimum two – maximum four circles to the right.</p> | 6 | <p>Nice to see you connect the previous exercise to this one, well done. It may have been better to start the circles a little closer to the camera so that you wouldn't end up so close to the short side, because the fence can act like a magnet and draw Dino towards it, also they are a little too big. With slightly smaller circles you will be able to help Dino find the L and S easier. Sometimes Dino goes into this resistant state and bites at the line. Horses are always looking for the release, so when there is resistance we need to check that we are not holding the line for too long, too fast, too quick. Its nice to see you do open your hand, so now strive for a bit more consistency. Ask and give, ask and give. Take care not to pull him forward with your leading hand, as this can cause him to fall into the movement and bring the centre of mass onto his shoulders, this can also contribute to bringing Dino into a resistant state because the emotions live in the shoulders. Rather think of the energy from his inside hind, over his back and into your hand. If you position your hand closer to the clip then you will be able to help with little half halts and feel sooner what is happening. A softer leading arm will also help you gain more feel - so have a little bend in your elbow rather than a straight arm. This softer body language will also encourage more of a dialogue between you and Dino, rather than too much telling style.</p> |

- 3
- a. Stop in the middle of the circle with the horse's nose towards the other long side.
 - b. Forward down at a standstill.
 - c. Lateral bending at a standstill to the left

5

- a). Nice to see you walk backwards to guide Dino to the halt. Now take care not to cause him to go into a resistant state. Prepare him with little half halts on your line which means that you close your hand shortly and you release often, soon, quickly and long.
- b). Nice to see you adjust his head position when he goes too low. Low enough is just so the under-neck is soft - like a turkey's neck. If the neck is too low this can cause the centre of mass to come too far forward.
- c). Take your time with the lateral bend to be aware that the bend goes all the way through to the hip. Keep the essence of the exercises in mind and remember that every movement is related to the next.

- 4
- Minimum two – maximum four circles to the left.

6

Some nice steps of LFS on this rein. At 2.53 you can see you have a softer arm position with more bend in the elbow. See Comment 2. Take care with the first steps that you invite him to step forward from the inside hind leg so as not to pull him forward with the line which causes him to lose balance.

- 5
- a. Stop in the middle of the circle with the horse's nose towards towards the camera.
 - b. Forward down at a standstill.
 - c. Lateral bending at a standstill to the right.

6

- a). Nice to see you walk backwards to guide Dino to a halt. Prepare him for the halt with little half halts and then make use of your body language and energy to melt to the halt. Strive to release often so that he doesn't feel the need to resist the pressure.
- b/c). Nice you took your time. Now just take care not to pull his head round too far in the lateral bend which upsets his physical and mental balance.

- 6
- a. Make half a circle and go to the short side and continue with LFS to the right on a straight line.
 - b. LFS on the straight line on the long side (towards the camera).

6

- a). A nice sized half circle to take you to the short side. Now take care not to pull him into the movement from the stand still exercise and thus create imbalance in body and mind. Some nice LFS on the short side.
- b). Make little half halts as you come along the long side to be sure that he does not get into a pushy state.

- 7
- a. At the middle of the long side make a halt and ask the horse a few steps backwards.
 - b. Forward in LFS.
 - c. Continue in LFS on the short side.
- 5

a). Nice to see you can bring Dino to a halt. Now he is a little against your request to back up and in a pushy state. So I would ask him to gently back up and then let him think about that for a little while – Release, Reward, Relax. Be careful not to reward him whilst he is still in this resistant state, but wait for him to make a change. Be very aware of where you are sending energy so as not to confuse him and put him into this ‘against’ state. At 5.12 you are asking him to back up, but your whip is still behind the drive line, which asks for energy to come forward. This is confusing to him, like putting on a hand brake whilst having a foot on the throttle.

b). Some nice steps of LFS on the short side. Soften your elbow, take care not to pull him forward, and give little half halts – close the hand, horse yields, open hand, horse searches – this is a little mantra.

- 8
- On the next long side a few steps haunches-in (away from the camera).
- 5

Nice to see you can reach Dino’s outside hind leg – well done. Also nice to see you are using the haunches in cue on the neck. At times Dino loses the concavity on the inside, so have the idea of creating the bend with a little twinkle on the girth area, rather than with the whip held high in the haunches off the wall cue that is used for the half pass. When you feel Dino in a more pushy state, then slow him down with little half halts and if you feel you couldn’t halt, then you must halt, and take the weight out of the shoulders by a soft backing up. When he rushes with his weight too far forward, and by applying constant pressure on the rein, then there is a tendency for him to start to curl. Slow it all down so that he has to really think about what is happening, and then reward this thinking behaviour by using the Reinforcement Triad of Release, Reward, Relax. And of course, remember – close your hand shortly and open the moment Dino meets your request.

- 9
- a. Turn in at the middle of the short side and make a halt.
 - b. Forward down at a standstill.
 - c. Lateral bending at a standstill to the left.
- 5

a). Nice you walk backwards into the halt. Now take care not to pull him into the turn as that can cause him to go against you, also encourage a forward down by not raising your hand for the halt. When he raises his head this causes him to shorten his top-line.

b). Nice invitation for forward down, now take your time with the lateral bend, using your inner picture, inner feeling and strive not to pull his head, which causes him to go against the pressure.

10 a. Make half a circle and go to the short side and continue with LFS to the left on a straight line.
b. LFS on the straight line on the long side (towards the camera).

6 a). Nice to see you end up on the short side because the circle wasn't too big – well done. Some nice LFS on the short side.
b). When you feel the start of a push, give little half halts – close the hand, horse yields, open hand, horse searches.

11 a. At the middle of the long side make a halt and ask the horse a few steps backwards.
b. Forward in LFS.
c. Continue in LFS on the short side.

5 a). Nice you can halt Dino. Because he was already a little bit in a pushy state – because of the way you asked him to stop - he was a little against your request. Take care not to pull him inwards, and to have hands that open quickly so that he has nothing to be resistant against. Nice you asked for forward down before the back up. See Comment 7a.
b). Some nice steps of LFS, and a softer arm position, well done.

12 a. On the next long side a few steps haunches-in (away from the camera).
b. Turn in at the middle of the short side and make a halt.

5 Nice you can find the outside hind leg on this rein too – well done. Nice to see you use the haunches in neck cue. Dino is trying very hard to meet your request. Now take care not to pull him forward, but give little half halts to keep the weight back. See Comment 8.

Congratulations Ruth and Dino on passing this your first Touchstone – well done.
The main points to help you progress further are;

1. Focus on refining your pressure and release technique, so that there is nothing for Dino to brace against. Close your hand shortly and open your hand the moment Dino meets your request, to avoid too long and too much contact on the line. Otherwise he will only use his brain to avoid the pressure, go against the pressure, or start to nip at you. By refining your pressure and release technique you can make sure there is nothing to brace against and it will encourage him to think about how to use his body whilst doing these exercises.

2. Take care not to pull Dino forward, which will cause his Centre of Mass to fall on his shoulders, but rather encourage him to bring energy from his inside hind leg, over his back and into your hand. With a little bend in your elbow you will be able to be softer with your requests, and with your hand closer to the clip you will be able to feel sooner and become more subtle and precise with your half halts. With this softer body language you will be able to be more inviting to come to a conversation together and a little less telling style.

3. Slow everything down in the Haunches in, so that you can reduce the push and give him time to think about when he does a correct step. Use the Reinforcement Triad – the 3Rs – Release, Reward, Relax.

You have done well to teach Dino the basics and I look forward to seeing his mental, emotional, physical and spiritual changes and your relationship deepen as you continue on your journey. Well done Ruth and Dino.

13 Overall impression (counts double). 2x 6

Video Tip

- Well positioned in the frame - well done.