

LEVEL
Refinement **3**

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Version: 11/1/2000



PNH Levels Program

ON LINE PHASE

Tools: Halter, 12' Line, 22' Line, 45' Line, 6' String, Carrot Stick, Flag or String.

With 45' Line

OL1. Show the Yo Yo Game, sending your horse backwards and coming in to you at the trot.

LEVEL 3

- *Low phases, 1 or 2. If rope has to come off the ground, it should be brief and no more than one time necessary.*
- *Horse is straight.*
- *Horse goes all the way to the end of the line, but without lifting it off the ground.*
- *Horse comes in willingly, does not rely on the feel of the rope. One time limit for brief rope contact.*

PRE-LEVEL 3

- *Phases too high, student has to wiggle whole rope, it comes off the ground more than once.*
- *Horse is crooked for more than a few steps and student does not correct it.*
- *Horse escapes backwards, strains against the line at the end.*
- *Horse unwilling to come in, student has to rely on rope to reel him in more than one brief time.*

OL2. Send horse cantering in circles over an obstacle course: jumps, around trees, up and down hills.

LEVEL 3

- *Horse goes willingly, maintains canter most of the time (min. 75%).*
- *Jumps whatever is in front of him, does not try to avoid it (unless it is student error in setting it up).*
- *Belly of the rope is on the ground at least 75% of the time so horse is almost at liberty.*

PRE-LEVEL 3

- *Horse mostly trots instead of cantering.*
- *Horse avoids jumps, scared to go around trees.*
- *Student uses only half the 45' line. Must use at least 75% of line, some coils permissible.*

OL3. Include a jump that is at least 3 ft high.

LEVEL 3

- *Horse jumps willingly, without hesitation.*
- *Student does not need to be 40 feet away. Can get as close as 20 feet.*

PRE-LEVEL 3

- *Horse refuses.*
- *Jump is too low, not 3 ft.*
- *Student stands right by jump to cause horse to go over it, as in a 12' rope Squeeze Game exercise.*

OL4. Back him up a hill.

LEVEL 3

- *Low phases, 1 or 2.*
- *Straight.*

PRE-LEVEL 3

- *Phases to high*
- *Horse resisting: head up or to the side, faltering steps, stops and starts.*
- *Crooked.*

OL5 Send horse sideways without a fence for at least 20 ft.

LEVEL 3

- *Horse to be at least 30 feet away from student, that is, greater than half the length of the line.*
- *Little or no tension in line.*
- *Low phases, slapping ground with Carrot Stick and String in a rhythmic fashion is acceptable.*

PRE-LEVEL 3

- *Horse too close.*
- *Horse escaping forward and needing repeated correction. One time brief correction is acceptable.*
- *Phases too high, vigorous rope or Carrot Stick usage.*
- *Horse won't stop going sideways.*

OL6. Send horse into a horse trailer at the trot or canter and bring back to you.

LEVEL 3

- *Student at least 30 feet away.*
- *Little or no tension in the rope. The belly of the rope may be dragging.*
- *Horse enters trailer at the trot as minimum. If it breaks from canter to trot as it reaches the ramp or trailer door, this is acceptable.*
- *Horse stays in trailer until asked out.*

PRE-LEVEL 3

- *Student too close, closer than 30 feet.*
- *Horse straining against end of rope.*
- *Horse escapes trailer, does not load.*
- *Horse stops at trailer entrance and then walks in. Must go in with "velocity" and intention.*
- *Horse won't stay in until asked out*
- *Horse backs out in a hurry, scared, escaping.*

With 12' Line and 22' Line

OL7. Place the 12' Line on the halter and the 22' Line as a ring rope around horse's flanks. Play the Circling Game (#5) with slack in the 12' Line so you are circling horse mainly by the flanks. Stop horse by pulling on the flank rope.

LEVEL 3

- *Horse is undisturbed by flank rope, no tail swishing, raised head, resistance, bucking, etc.*
- *12' Line (if used) must be slack, no tension.*
- *Horse stops straight when flank rope is slowly pulled tighter. If horse faces in a little, this is acceptable.*

PRE-LEVEL 3

- *Horse bucks, strains against flank rope, swishing, raised / tossing head, etc.*
- *12' line is shorter than flank rope so horse is responding to halter and line instead.*
- *Horse speeds up when tension applied to stop.*
- *Horse runs in to student, fearful.*

With Snaffle and Partnership Reins extended into full length reins:

OL8. Drive your horse from Zone 5 forwards in a straight line, then backwards at least 10 feet.

LEVEL 3

- *Low phases, horse does not open mouth.*
- *Head is low, may be vertically flexed.*
- *Straight.*
- *Use of Carrot Stick permissible.*

PRE-LEVEL 3

- *High phases used: too much Carrot Stick for forward, too much rein pressure for backwards.*
- *Head is high or too low (between knees) trying to avoid pressure.*
- *Horse opens mouth.*
- *Horse travels crooked.*
- *Student uses halter and 22' line instead of snaffle bridle.*

OL9. Stand in Zone 3 or 4 and play the Circling Game, sending your horse around you to the right at the trot.

LEVEL 3

- *Student keeps feet still, pivoting or handing rope behind back. Should not move out of a 3' diameter "circle".*
- *Rope is competently handled, does not fall below horse's hocks.*

PRE-LEVEL 3

- *Student walks around instead of staying in their circle.*
- *Rope falls below horse's hocks and horse is resistant or scared.*

LIBERTY PHASE

Tools: Round Corral, Carrot Stick, Horseman's String / Flag

L1. Send horse around corral to right at trot.

LEVEL 3

- *The send is correctly performed, zone 1 first, horse shifts weight backwards a little and leaves off.*

PRE-LEVEL 3

- *The send is sloppy, horse leaves on front end and runs by student, zone 1 does not leave first and weight does not shift back.*

L2. Transition to canter. Show 4 laps.

LEVEL 3

- *Student asks for trot to canter correctly: direct (comes out of neutral, 'lead' zone 1) and support ('push' zone 5 at least 180 degrees from horse as phase 1).*
- *Horse maintains gait without breaking to a trot.*
- *Student is in complete neutral, relaxed, leaning on Stick for example.*

PRE-LEVEL 3

- *Student uses incorrect methods for asking for transition, example: does not direct, stays in neutral, makes no body change; and support is directed at zone 4 instead of zone 5.*
- *Phases not used correctly.*
- *More than phase 2 is required.*

L3. Change of direction to left with flying change.

LEVEL 3

- *Flying change is executed. Being a little late behind is okay.*
- *Student does not have to run back further than half way across the corral.*

PRE-LEVEL 3

- *Horse is disunited in change for more than a couple of strides.*
- *Horse does a simple change instead of a flying change. (Trotting before the change is okay as long as the change is made at the canter, therefore the horse trotted, then cantered again, then made the change).*
- *Student runs backwards in a drawing arc instead of a straight line.*
- *Student has to run all the way back across the corral, lacks refinement.*
- *Too much Carrot Stick (phase 3 or 4) used to make the change.*

L4. Transitions to trot, walk, stop, back up.

LEVEL 3

- *Smoothly executed, not more than phase 2 required.*
- *Student stays in their "circle".*
- *Each transition clearly shown for at least several steps.*

PRE-LEVEL 3

- *Phases too high, student has to leave their circle.*
- *Transitions blurred together and not distinct enough for evaluation.*

L5. Bring horse to you. Play Friendly Game with Carrot Stick.

LEVEL 3

- *Draw needs to be willing, without hesitation, but not necessarily fast.*
- *Horse is confident during Friendly Game, relaxed, head may be slightly lowered, keeps feet still.*

PRE-LEVEL 3

- *Horse does not draw well, takes student out of their circle to come in.*
- *Horse cannot maintain relaxation, feet still while Friendly Game being*

L6. Lead horse by the lip.

LEVEL 3

- *Top or bottom lip is acceptable.*
- *Horse does not resist, follows feel without hesitation.*
- *Constant feel is maintained and not broken.*

PRE-LEVEL 3

- *Not a consistent feel, keeps breaking contact.*
- *Horse resists, breaks away.*

L7. Lead horse backwards by hocks (22' line optional)

LEVEL 3

- *Student is in zone 5, or at least the back of zone 4 if using hands on hocks instead of rope.*
- *Horse shows not resistance, comes backwards willingly.*

PRE-LEVEL 3

- *Resistance, kicking, sluggish, etc.*
- *Only one or two steps shown, need to show several steps for evaluation clarity.*

L8. Lead horse backwards by tail

LEVEL 3

- *Tail only is used for this task (no additional ropes on hocks or halter).*
- *Horse shows no resistance, but it could be a little slow.*
- *Tapping horse or ground with Carrot Stick is acceptable.*

PRE-LEVEL 3

- *Horse resists, leans against pressure instead of yielding to it.*
- *Other physical assistance used, example: rope on hocks, around neck or pulling on halter. Carrot Stick permissible).*

FREESTYLE PHASE

Bareback and bridle-less

FS1. Mount your horse from both sides.

LEVEL 3

- *Student mounts without assistance (unless can provide sufficient medical reason).*
- *Student shows some athletic ability and/or savvy by teaching horse to lift them up on the neck or get lower*
- *It's permissible to stand horse on a down hill slope or in a small ditch in the ground.*
- *Student can vault on or teach horse to lift them up with their neck.*
- *Horse stands still.*

PRE-LEVEL 3

- *Using a fence or mounting block, or having help from another (unless medical condition dictates).*
- *Horse does not stand still.*
- *Student is noticeably unfit and has not put effort into learning how to get on their horse unassisted.*

FS2. Climb all over him, rub his rump with your legs and feet, stand on his back.

LEVEL 3

- *Student proves the horse is confident by not sneaking. Climbs around confidently.*
- *Horse stands still, relaxed.*
- *Student shows enough balance to be able to stand up.*

PRE-LEVEL 3

- *Student falls off.*
- *Student sneaks around on the horse trying not to disturb him.*
- *Horse is bothered, can't stand still, head up and worried.*

FS3. Back him up 10 steps.

LEVEL 3

- *Student backs horse using rhythmic pressure with feet (phase 1 or 2) and / or lifts mane and rides backwards.*
- *Horse backs up willingly, but not necessarily fast. Steps must flow and not stop.*

PRE-LEVEL 3

- *Phases too high.*
- *String or other physical aid is still needing to be used.*
- *Horse is unwilling to back up, hesitates, stops, falters.*
- *Legs wrapped around horse's neck or shoulders... too high a phase.*

FS4. Walk forward, turn left, turn right, turn a full circle (pivot) and back up.

LEVEL 3

- *Student shows balance and confidence.*
- *Impulsion is good, horse not trying to run off.*
- *Each turn is completed with rider focusing ahead (not looking at the horse) and riding with whole body: arms, legs, belly button.*
- *Pivot is close to horse planting hind foot, should not exceed a circle size determined by a hula hoop (approx. 3' diameter)*
- *Back up is willing, steps flow in succession without faltering.*

PRE-LEVEL 3

- *Student loses balance.*
- *Pivot is inadequate, horse spins back en around, exceeds circle of 3' diameter.*
- *Horse gets faster when student puts leg on for turns.*
- *Horse puts ears back when rider puts leg on or asks horse to back up.*

FS5 Move up into a canter. Canter 3 circuits (in a corral) and stop in the center.

LEVEL 3

- *Impulsion is good, horse canters without hesitation from the walk or trot.*
- *Student shows balance, does not get left behind at the transition. Okay to hold mane.*
- *Horse maintains gait.*
- *Stop in the center is achieved, may drift to a stop, does not have to be abrupt or a slide.*

PRE-LEVEL 3

- *Student loses balance, independent seat not good enough.*
- *Student still needs to use Bareback Pad.*
- *Horse does not maintain canter, student has to obviously push him forward = impulsion problem.*
- *Horse does not stop in the center, stops on the perimeter, may have been asked to do so by student.*
- *Horse does not stop, takes a long time, obviously not responding to student.*

Tools: Snaffle Bridle, Saddle, Carrot Sticks (2) Leave your reins on your horse's neck or draped over the saddle horn.

FS6. Back your horse up in a straight line (facing Assessor) for at least 10 ft.

LEVEL 3

- *Low phases, Carrot Sticks can drive in small circles or slightly up and down. Must not contact horse nor be vigorous.*
- *Straight.*
- *Horse is confident and responsive, head reasonably level.*
- *Steps flow, do not stop.*
- *Student is focusing ahead.*

- *Does not use feet to drive horse backwards, only Carrot Sticks as an isolation.*

PRE-LEVEL 3

- *High phases, Carrot Sticks contact horse.*
- *Crooked back up.*
- *Horse puts head in the air, avoiding communication. Acts head shy.*
- *Faltering back up, horse stops now and then instead of maintaining continuous flow.*
- *Student looking at horse.*
- *Use of feet for driving horse backwards.*
- *Using feet instead of Carrot Stick.*

FS7. Transition from halt to canter.

LEVEL 3

- *Horse goes directly from halt to canter, no walk or trot steps in between.*
- *Horse is willing to go forward, takes low phases, 1 or 2.*

PRE-LEVEL 3

- *Horse walks or trots a two or more steps in transition.*
- *Student kicks horse to go.*
- *Student looking down.*
- *Horse puts ears back or swishes tail violently / angrily.*
- *Phases too high.*

FS8. Show 3 simple (drop to a trot) lead changes.

LEVEL 3

- *Transitions are smooth and flowing, horse comes out on correct leads.*
- *May be in a serpentine form or in a straight line.*
- *No more than 5 trot strides.*

PRE-LEVEL 3

- *Horse resists transition by running through Carrot Sticks.*
- *Horse resists canter again, trots for more than 4 strides after asking for canter.*
- *Wrong lead taken in canter transition.*
- *Tossing head.*

FS9. Ride over two jumps that are at least 2 ft high.

LEVEL 3

- *Student rides with confidence and balance.*
- *Carrot Sticks are relaxed in neutral during the jump (hanging forward and down or over shoulders).*

- *Whole “picture” is pleasing and harmonious.*

PRE-LEVEL 3

- *Student loses balance.*
- *Carrot Sticks flailing, lacking refinement.*
- *Horse refuses jump.*
- *Jump is too low, less than 2 feet high.*

FS10. Proceed toward Assessor in a straight line at the canter and come down to a back up.

LEVEL 3

- *Straight.*
- *Smooth transitions from canter through to back up. (Slide stop permissible).*
- *Student focusing ahead.*

PRE-LEVEL 3

- *Crooked.*
- *Horse resists transition, head up and evasive.*
- *Faltering back up instead of flowing steps.*
- *Student looking down.*

FS11. Gallop a Barrel Pattern with four barrels 90 ‘ apart. Show two turns to the right and two to the left. Stop your horse in the middle of the barrels and come down to a 9 step back up.

LEVEL 3

- *Student gallops, it’s a fast exercise. (Minimum acceptable is a very fast canter).*
- *Student “pushes” turns rather than leans into them.*
- *Horse is not impulsive, stops willingly using 9 steps. Slide stop is acceptable.*
- *Direct and supporting rein used.*

PRE-LEVEL 3

- *Student goes too slow, canters slow to medium speed only.*
- *Rein positions inaccurate.*
- *Leaning into turns rather than pushing turns.*
- *Reins too tight, no long FreeStyle.*
- *Horse won’t stop, pushes on bit.*
- *Turns required are not shown.*

FINESSE PHASE

Tools: Snaffle Bridle, Saddle, 45' Line, Kite String.

Using the Snaffle Bridle with contact and a soft feel.....

F1. Show a slow, medium and fast walk.

LEVEL 3

- *Must show a distinct difference in the three speeds of the gait.*
- *Vertical flexion is ideal, however a soft feel without a lot of flexion will pass at this level.*

PRE-LEVEL 3

- *No contact on the reins, therefore no soft feel.*
- *Resistance such as open mouth, tossing head, pulling on reins.*
- *Not showing enough difference between each speed. The slow must be really slow, the fast must be as fast as possible.*
- *Rider position incorrect, elbows are relaxed and straight rather than bent and lifting, and back is slouched rather than very straight.*

F2. Show a slow, medium and fast trot.

LEVEL 3

- *Must show a distinct difference in the three speeds of the gait.*
- *Vertical flexion is ideal, however a soft feel without a lot of flexion will pass at this level.*

PRE-LEVEL 3

- *No contact on the reins, therefore no soft feel.*
- *Resistance such as open mouth, tossing head, pulling on reins.*
- *Not showing enough difference between each of the speeds. The slow must be really slow, the fast must be as fast as possible.*
- *Horse breaks gait more than once (a minor one time break may still constitute a pass).*
- *Rider position incorrect, that is elbows are relaxed and straight rather than bent and lifting, and back is slouched rather than very straight.*

F3. Show a slow, medium and fast canter.

LEVEL 3

- *Must show a distinct difference in the three speeds of the gait.*
- *Vertical flexion is ideal, however a soft feel without a lot of flexion will pass at this level.*

PRE-LEVEL 3

- *No contact on the reins, therefore no soft feel.*
- *Resistance such as open mouth, tossing head, pulling on reins.*
- *Not showing enough difference between each speed. The slow must be really slow, the fast must be as fast as possible.*

- *Rider position incorrect, elbows are relaxed and straight rather than bent and lifting, and back is slouched instead of straight.*

F4. Come down to a graceful halt and backup.

LEVEL 3

- *Must be graceful, not abrupt.*
- *Horse maintains soft feel into and throughout the back up.*
- *Rider position maintained, seat deep in saddle, hands not dropped nor pulling on reins. Should be almost invisible.*
- *Straight.*

PRE-LEVEL 3

- *Transition is abrupt, horse's head flies up.*
- *Mouth opens in resistance.*
- *Soft feel not maintained due too much pressure required through reins to stop horse.*
- *Horse "dives" forward onto forehead pulling rider forward out of seat.*
- *Crooked halt and back up.*

F5. Drop reins and stand still.

LEVEL 3

- *Proves impulsion, horse can stand still.*
- *Reins are completely dropped.*

PRE-LEVEL 3

- *Horse cannot / does not stand still (impulsive).*
- *Reins are not completely dropped, still holding horse back a little.*

(Note: if reins are loose and horse is obviously standing still of his own responsibility, could be just a technical error on rider's part and therefore may still be passed).

F6. Obtain a soft feel.....

LEVEL 3

- *Student goes through 7 steps to obtain the soft feel.*
- *Student grows tall in saddle, sits straight and to attention.*
- *Horse feels for student through the steps and gives vertically.*
- *Mouth is quiet, little or no movement.*
- *Horse stands still.*
- *Soft feel evident, horse not pushing against bit.*

PRE-LEVEL 3

- *Reins taken up too quickly, 7 steps not evident.*
- *Horse does not feel for student, pushes nose out or is non-responsive.*
- *Horse chomps on the bit repeatedly, tosses head, takes more than three seconds to find comfortable position.*
- *Horse moves feet, does not stand still, backs up.*
- *No soft feel, horse leaning or pushing against bit.*

F7. Move your horse's right front leg and then left hind leg.

LEVEL 3

- *Each leg is isolated in turn, for one step.*
- *Rider's reins are very short.*
- *Direct rein used for front foot.*
- *Indirect rein used for hind foot.*
- *Student focuses ahead, does not look at horse.*

PRE-LEVEL 3

- *Horse moves more than one foot at a time, shuffles around.*
- *Rider's reins too long, loses contact with horse's mouth.*
- *Incorrect rein positions.*
- *Student looking down.*

F8. Rock him backwards and forwards and side to side.

LEVEL 3

- *Horse rocks body weight but does not take any steps.*
- *Short reins, concentrated position. Rider sitting upright.*

PRE-LEVEL 3

- *Horse takes steps while rocking.*
- *Reins too long, contact becomes intermittent.*

F9. Ride from a back up into a canter and back down to a back up three times: Canter Yo-Yo.

LEVEL 3

- *Horse goes from back up directly into a canter, no walk or trot steps.*
- *Reins are in concentrated position throughout exercise.*
- *Transition to back up is smooth, one or two trot or walk steps permissible.*
- *Straight lines.*
- *Vertical flexion an advantage but not essential for a pass.*
- *Student focuses straight ahead.*

PRE-LEVEL 3

- *Horse does not go straight into the canter, shows walk and trot steps first. Not responsive enough.*
- *Reins alternate between casual and concentrated.*
- *Resistance in downward transition; horse opens mouth more than once, pulls against bit, pulls student out of seat.*
- *Student leans forward when making transition to back up.*
- *Student looking down at horse instead of maintaining long focus.*
- *Crooked line, horse drifting to left or right.*

F10. Ride a serpentine at the canter showing 3 simple changes through the walk.

LEVEL 3

- *Smooth shaped serpentine, equal curves.*
- *Horse transitions directly from canter to walk and to canter again.*
- *Correct leads are taken.*
- *Concentrated rein position.*
- *Vertical flexion an advantage but not essential for a pass.*

PRE-LEVEL 3

- *Uneven serpentine, small and large curves rather than equal dimensions = accuracy problem.*
- *Horse trots into walk transition and/or into canter transition.*
- *Incorrect leads.*
- *Reins too long, too loose.*
- *Horse's head too high, tossing, resistant, open mouth.*

F11. Pick up a right lead. Demonstrate a counter canter to the left (maintain right lead) on a full circle.

LEVEL 3

- *Right lead can be taken from the halt, walk or trot.*
- *Counter canter maintained throughout a full circle. Circle may be fairly large (approx. 60' / 20m diameter).*
- *Student's dynamics are correct, they are "riding" on the right lead position (right shoulder forward, etc.), focus.*

PRE-LEVEL 3

- *Cannot pick up right lead on first try.*
- *Canter gait not maintained during counter canter, breaks to a trot.*
- *Student dynamics are incorrect: left shoulder forward.*
- *Full circle not demonstrated.*
- *Reins too long, horse strung out and not "collected" enough (complete vertical flexion not essential).*

F12. At the canter, cause your horse's hindquarters to come in off the track while the forehand travels straight.

LEVEL 3

- *Front end travels straight ahead and not at an angle.*
- *Hindquarters come in slightly, does not need to be exaggerated.*
- *Concentrated reins, slight to full vertical flexion.*
- *Student position is straight in the upper body and hand - rein position, legs controlling hindquarters.*
- *Straight ahead focus.*
- *Correct lead chosen for the bend: left lead for hindquarters coming in left, right for right.*

PRE-LEVEL 3

- *Front end travels on a diagonal angle instead of straight (therefore no bend in the horse's body).*
- *Hindquarters do not come in off the track.*
- *Reins too long, no vertical flexion at all.*
- *Student twists body, uses indirect rein to control shoulder instead of riding straight.*
- *Student is looking at horse.*

F13. Trot your horse in a figure of eight showing two changes of diagonals.

LEVEL 3

- *Figure of 8 is even in shape.*
- *Correct diagonals displayed: left hind for going left, right for right.*
- *Diagonal change is smoothly executed, two bounces only.*
- *Student does not look down to check diagonal*
- *Concentrated reins.*

PRE-LEVEL 3

- *Figure of 8 is untidy, large and small loops instead of being even.*
- *Incorrect diagonals selected.*
- *Diagonal change is rough, needs more than two bounces.*
- *Incorrect diagonal change, diagonal not changed.*
- *Student looks down to check or select diagonal.*
- *Casual rein or loose concentrated rein position.*

F14. Trot your horse diagonally sideways across a space of at least 25 ft.

LEVEL 3

- *Horse moves diagonally, not less than 30 degree angle.*
- *Head and neck are straight or bent in the direction of travel.*
- *Student is focusing on diagonal path.*
- *Slight or full vertical flexion; concentrated reins.*
- *Rhythm and soft feel maintained*

PRE-LEVEL 3

- *Not enough diagonal movement shown, too straight.*
- *Horse's head and neck are bent away from direction of travel, more like counter arc.*
- *Student looking down.*
- *No flexion, reins too long.*
- *Horse takes short, tight steps rather than maintaining flow and rhythm of stride as before.*
- *Soft feel lost, resistance, open mouth, etc*

F15. Canter your horse diagonally sideways, on the left lead, across a distance of at least 25ft.

LEVEL 3

- *Horse moves diagonally, not less than 30 degree angle.*
- *Head and neck are straight or bent in the direction of travel.*
- *Student is focusing on diagonal path.*
- *Slight or full vertical flexion; concentrated reins.*
- *Rhythm and soft feel maintained.*
- *Enough distance covered to show task proficiency.*

PRE-LEVEL 3

- *Not enough diagonal movement shown, too straight.*
- *Horse's head and neck are bent away from direction of travel, more like counter arc.*
- *Student looking down.*
- *No flexion, reins too long.*
- *Horse takes short, tight steps rather than maintaining flow and rhythm of stride as before.*
- *Soft feel lost, resistance, open mouth, etc.*
- *Not enough distance shown to judge task efficiency.*

F16. Show a flying change from left to right, canter diagonally sideways to the right then show another flying change from right to left.

LEVEL 3

- *Flying change cleanly executed.*
- *Head and neck are steady, no resistance (mild tail swish will pass, but not more).*
- *Student uses correct dynamics, pushes the change.*

- *Dynamics are refined, not exaggerated. Concentrated rein position.*
- *Both changes are equally good, to left and right.*

PRE-LEVEL 3

- *Flying changes not clean. Horse is late behind or disunites.*
- *Horse shows resistance through change; throws head, opens mouth, swishes tail.*
- *Incorrect riding dynamics, leans into change, direct rein lower than supporting rein.*
- *Changes are not equally good to left and to right.*

F17. Bring your horse gracefully down to a back up.

LEVEL 3

- *Graceful transition, soft feel maintained.*
- *Back up is willing, smooth flow to steps.*
- *No resistance.*
- *Student focusing ahead, using correct dynamics: sitting straight, elbows bent, slight lift to reins.*
- *Straightness maintained.*
- *One or two walk and trot steps will pass.*

PRE-LEVEL 3

- *Difficult transition, horse impulsive.*
- *Resistance; open mouth, pulling against bit.*
- *Student looking down, incorrect dynamics: leaning forward, seat comes out of saddle, straight elbows.*
- *Crooked transition and back up.*
- *Too many forward steps between canter and back up (three steps or more in walk and trot).*

Using the 45' Line

F18. Drag a log or tire, etc. while riding your horse. Drag it forwards for 30ft then turn and face it.

LEVEL 3

- *Horse is confident.*
 - *Student uses saddle horn correctly, min. two wraps around horn.*
- (If no horn, student uses "power position" with bent elbow to pull rope).*

- *Student focuses ahead while dragging.*

PRE-LEVEL 3

- *Horse spooks, is scared, not confident.*
- *Student looks behind as they drag.*
- *No power position used, elbow is straight putting shoulder at risk.*
- *Rope tied onto horn, rest of rope crossed or tangled into dallies.*

F19. Drag it while backing your horse for another 15ft.

LEVEL 3

- *Horse backs confidently and without resistance.*
- *Straight line.*

PRE-LEVEL 3

- *Horse scared of object while backing.*
- *Resistance: open mouth, trying to escape sideways.*
- *Crooked back up.*

F20 Dismount your horse and ask him to back up with your Partnership Reins, cause him to drag the object a little backwards and hold it while you go and pet the object.

LEVEL 3

- *Student backs horse up with lead rope part of Horseman's Reins.*
- *Horse "works" the rope, maintaining tension and pulling object as you ask.*
- *Confident.*
- *If no saddle horn, student asks horse to back up and walks slowly with horse dragging object by hand.*

PRE-LEVEL 3

- *Horse will not maintain tension in the line.*
- *Horse gets scared.*
- *Student uses reins instead of lead rope to back horse up.*

F21. Bring him forward while you are at the object and untie the 45' Line.

LEVEL 3

- *Horse comes forward willingly, without hesitation, when asked.*
- *Stands patiently while you untie the line.*

PRE-LEVEL 3

- *Horse reluctant to come forward, resists.*

F22. Mount your horse and gather up your rope.

LEVEL 3

- *Horse stands still.*
- *Correct mounting dynamics shown.*
- *Coils rope smoothly.*

PRE-LEVEL 3

- *Horse does not stand still, afraid or disturbed by rope, etc.*
- *Incorrect mounting dynamics, especially holding pommel / horn and cantle while mounting; roughness, etc.*
- *Coils rope incorrectly, does not flip rope as they coil to prevent twists and figure 8's.*

Using a 9' length of Kite String

F23. Take your bridle off while mounted and place the kite string in your horse's mouth. Walk, trot and canter a circle, then come down to a backup.

LEVEL 3

- *Horse releases bit and bridle calmly, student waits for horse to release bit when lowering bridle.*
- *Horse takes string without resistance.*
- *Student waits for horse to accept feel of string before proceeding.*
- *Smooth transitions up and down to back up.*
- *No resistance.*
- *Student uses correct dynamics, that is, direct and supporting reins as necessary.*

PRE-LEVEL 3

- *Student doesn't wait for horse to release bit, pulls it out of the mouth.*
- *Horse resists string going into mouth.*
- *Transitions difficult or impulsive.*
- *Student does not wait for acceptance of the string before walking out.*
- *Resistance: chomping at the string, open mouth, horse bites string and breaks it.*
- *Incorrect dynamics: direct rein is lower than outside (supporting) rein.*

F24. Dismount, rub your horse on the head, then turn and leave with your horse following you freely.

LEVEL 3

- *Correct dismounting dynamics.*
- *Horse follows closely.*

PRE-LEVEL 3

- *Incorrect dismounting dynamics: does not hold mane, stirrup dropped from foot, focus is not on horse's eye.*
- *Horse does not follow or is more than four feet away from student, reluctant, etc.*

LEVEL
Refinement **3**

LIBERTY

Version: 5/1/2000

RESULT FOR THIS SAVVY:

- LEVEL 3 PASS**, well done!
- PLEASE RESUBMIT**

the following tasks:

.....

.....

.....

.....

Student

----- NAME

----- HORSE

----- DATE

----- ASSESSOR



LEVEL 3

LIBERTY PHASE

Tools: Round Corral, Carrot Stick, Horseman's String / Flag

- | | | |
|---|----------------|--------------------|
| L1. Send horse around corral to right at trot. | LEVEL 3 | PRE-LEVEL 3 |
| L2. Transition to canter. Show 4 laps. | LEVEL 3 | PRE-LEVEL 3 |
| L3. Change of direction to left with flying change. | LEVEL 3 | PRE-LEVEL 3 |
| L4. Transitions to trot, walk, stop, back up. | LEVEL 3 | PRE-LEVEL 3 |
| L5. Bring horse to you. Play Friendly Game with Carrot Stick. | LEVEL 3 | PRE-LEVEL 3 |

Comments:

(Show all of the following over a distance of 10 ft)

- | | | |
|---|----------------|--------------------|
| L6. Lead horse by the lip. | LEVEL 3 | PRE-LEVEL 3 |
| L7. Lead horse backwards by hocks (22' line optional) | LEVEL 3 | PRE-LEVEL 3 |
| L8. Lead horse backwards by tail | LEVEL 3 | PRE-LEVEL 3 |

Comments:

LEVEL
Refinement 3

ON LINE

Version: 5/1/2000

RESULT FOR THIS SAVVY:

- LEVEL 3 PASS, well done!
- PLEASE RESUBMIT

the following tasks:

.....

.....

.....

.....

Student

----- NAME

----- HORSE

----- DATE

----- ASSESSOR



LEVEL 3

ON LINE PHASE

Tools: Halter, 12' Line, 22' Line, 45' Line, 6' String, Carrot Stick, Flag or String.

With 45' Line

- | | | |
|--|----------------|--------------------|
| OL1. Show the Yo Yo Game, sending your horse backwards and coming into you at the trot. | LEVEL 3 | PRE-LEVEL 3 |
| OL2. Send horse cantering in circles over an obstacle course jumps, around trees, up and down hills. | LEVEL 3 | PRE-LEVEL 3 |
| OL3. Include a jump that is at least 3 ft high. | LEVEL 3 | PRE-LEVEL 3 |
| OL4. Back him up a hill. | LEVEL 3 | PRE-LEVEL 3 |
| OL5. Send horse sideways without a fence for at least 20 ft. | LEVEL 3 | PRE-LEVEL 3 |
| OL6. Send horse into a horse trailer at the trot or canter & unload. | LEVEL 3 | PRE-LEVEL 3 |

Comments:

With 12' Line and 22' Line

Place the 12' Line on the halter and the 22' Line as a ring rope around horse's flanks.

- | | | |
|--|----------------|--------------------|
| OL7. Play the Circling Game (#5) with slack in the 12' Line so you are circling horse mainly by the flanks. Stop horse by pulling on the flank rope. | LEVEL 3 | PRE-LEVEL 3 |
|--|----------------|--------------------|

Comments:

With Snaffle and Partnership Reins extended into full length reins:

OL8. Drive your horse from Zone 5 forwards in a straight line, then backwards at least 10 feet.

LEVEL 3 PRE-LEVEL 3

OL9. Stand in Zone 3 or 4 and play the Circling Game, sending your horse around you to the right at the trot.

LEVEL 3 PRE-LEVEL 3

Comments:

ON LINE RESULTS

Overall Result

PASS

PLEASE RESUBMIT SOME TASKS

Comments

Signed

LEVEL
Refinement **3**

FREESTY

— —

RESULT FOR THIS SAVVY:

- LEVEL 3 PASS, well done!
- PLEASE RESUBMIT

the following tasks:

.....

.....

.....

.....

Student

----- NAME

----- HORSE

----- DATE

----- ASSESSOR



LEVEL 3

FREESTYLE PHASE

Bareback and bridle-less

FS1. Mount your horse from both sides.	LEVEL 3	PRE-LEVEL 3
FS2. Climb all over him, rub his rump with your legs and feet, stand on his back.	LEVEL 3	PRE-LEVEL 3
FS3. Back him up 10 steps.	LEVEL 3	PRE-LEVEL 3
FS4. Walk forward, turn left, turn right, turn a full circle (pivot) and back up.	LEVEL 3	PRE-LEVEL 3
FS5. Move up into a canter. Canter 3 circuits (in a corral) and stop in the center.	LEVEL 3	PRE-LEVEL 3

Comments:

Tools: Snaffle Bridle, Saddle, Carrot Sticks (2)

Leave your reins on your horse's neck or draped over the saddle horn.

Using 2 Carrot Sticks:

FS6. Back your horse up in a straight line (facing Assessor) for at least 10 ft.	LEVEL 3	PRE-LEVEL 3
FS7. Transition from halt to canter.	LEVEL 3	PRE-LEVEL 3
FS8. Show 3 simple (drop to a trot) lead changes.	LEVEL 3	PRE-LEVEL 3
FS9. Ride over two jumps that are at least 2 ft high.	LEVEL 3	PRE-LEVEL 3
FS10. Proceed toward Assessor in a straight line at the canter and come down to a back up.	LEVEL 3	PRE-LEVEL 3

:

On a Casual Rein

FS11. Gallop a Barrel Pattern with four barrels.
Show two turns to the right and two to the left.
Stop your horse in the middle of the barrels
and come down to a 9 step back up.

LEVEL 3 PRE-LEVEL 3

Comments:

LEVEL
Refinement **3**

FINESSE

Version: 5/1/2000

RESULT FOR THIS SAVVY:

- LEVEL 3 PASS, well done!
- PLEASE RESUBMIT

the following tasks:

.....

.....

.....

.....

Student

----- NAME

----- HORSE

----- DATE

----- ASSESSOR



LEVEL 3

FINESSE PHASE

Tools: Snaffle Bridle, Saddle, 45' Line, Kite String.

With contact and a soft feel.....

- | | | |
|--|---------|-------------|
| F1. Show a slow, medium and fast walk. | LEVEL 3 | PRE-LEVEL 3 |
| F2. Show a slow, medium and fast trot. | LEVEL 3 | PRE-LEVEL 3 |
| F3. Show a slow, medium and fast canter. | LEVEL 3 | PRE-LEVEL 3 |
| F4. Come down to a graceful halt and backup. | LEVEL 3 | PRE-LEVEL 3 |
| F5. Drop reins and stand still. | LEVEL 3 | PRE-LEVEL 3 |

Comments:

- | | | |
|---|---------|-------------|
| F6. Obtain a soft feel..... | LEVEL 3 | PRE-LEVEL 3 |
| F7. Move your horse's right front leg and then left hind leg. | LEVEL 3 | PRE-LEVEL 3 |
| F8. Rock him backwards and forwards and side to side. | LEVEL 3 | PRE-LEVEL 3 |

Comments:

F9. Ride from a backup into a canter and back down to a back up three times: Canter Yo-Yo.

LEVEL 3

PRE-LEVEL 3

Comments:

F10. Ride a serpentine at the canter showing 3 simple changes through the walk.

LEVEL 3

PRE-LEVEL 3

F11. Pick up a right lead. Demonstrate a counter canter to the left (maintain right lead) on a full circle.

LEVEL 3

PRE-LEVEL 3

F12. At the canter, cause your horse's hindquarters to come in off the track while the forehand travels straight.

LEVEL 3

PRE-LEVEL 3

Comments:

F13. Trot your horse in a figure of eight showing two changes of diagonals.

LEVEL 3

PRE-LEVEL 3

F14. Trot your horse diagonally sideways across a space of at least 25 ft.

LEVEL 3

PRE-LEVEL 3

Comments:

- | | | |
|---|----------------|--------------------|
| F15. Canter your horse diagonally sideways, on the left lead, across a distance of at least 25ft. | LEVEL 3 | PRE-LEVEL 3 |
| F16. Show a flying change from left to right, canter diagonally sideways to the right then show another flying change from right to left. | LEVEL 3 | PRE-LEVEL 3 |
| F17. Bring your horse gracefully down to a back up. | LEVEL 3 | PRE-LEVEL 3 |

Comments:

Using the 45' Line

- | | | |
|---|----------------|--------------------|
| F18. Drag a log or tire, etc. while riding your horse. Drag it forwards for 30ft then turn and face it. | LEVEL 3 | PRE-LEVEL 3 |
| F19. Drag it while backing your horse for another 15ft. | LEVEL 3 | PRE-LEVEL 3 |
| F20. Dismount your horse and ask him to back up with your Partnership Reins, cause him to drag the object a little backwards and hold it while you go and pet the object. | LEVEL 3 | PRE-LEVEL 3 |
| F21. Bring him forward while you are at the object and untie the 45' Line. | LEVEL 3 | PRE-LEVEL 3 |
| F22. Mount your horse and gather up your rope. | LEVEL 3 | PRE-LEVEL 3 |

Comments:

Using a 9' length of Kite String

F23. Take your bridle off while mounted and place the kite string in your horse's mouth. Walk, trot and canter a circle, then come down to a backup.

LEVEL 3 PRE-LEVEL 3

F24. Dismount, rub your horse on the head, then turn and leave with your horse following you freely.

LEVEL 3 PRE-LEVEL 3

Comments:

Style and balance of finesse

F25. Overall picture of rider's refinement

LEVEL 3 PRE-LEVEL 3

(includes: subtlety of communication, independent seat, gracefulness)

Comments:



Level 3 Assessment Instructions & 121806 Frequently Asked Questions

Phone 800-642-3335 • Fax 888-731-9722 or 970-731-9722 • PO Box 3729, Pagosa Springs, Colorado 81147 • www.parelli.com

We are very committed to supporting you in developing a high standard of Level 3, consistent around the world. Through in-house Level 3 Assessments, Parelli Natural Horsemanship at its source, can now get to know you and support you in your Level 3 goals and beyond. Following are some frequently asked questions regarding your Level 3 Assessment.

WHERE DO I SEND MY ASSESSMENT?

Depending on the time of year, here are the details of where to send your assessment:

- January 30th–April 30th & September 21st–November 30th:
Assessments, Parelli Center, 8695 NW 120th Street, REDDICK, FLORIDA 32686-4560, USA
- May 1st–September 20th:
Assessments, Parelli Center, PO Box 3729, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147, USA
- December 1st–January 30th: Assessments are not carried out.

WHAT DO I INCLUDE WITH MY TAPE?

Please include in your package:

1. Level 3 video submission form (you will find this on the following page)
2. A COPY of ALL your Level 3 Assessment sheets (keep the originals safe for yourself)
3. A COPY of your tape or DVD (keep the original safe for yourself)

WHAT IF I ALREADY HAVE PASSED SOME OF MY LEVEL 3?

The tasks that you have already passed generally will not have to be resubmitted. When you send your tape or DVD to the Parelli Center, please include copies of ALL your Level 3 Task Sheets that have been marked by a Parelli Instructor previously. Occasionally we may need to ask you to resubmit a task that you have previously passed, just so that we can see it in sequence with another task or tasks that you have not yet passed. This particularly may apply if you have passed most of your Level 3 and have just a few tasks, or just “F25, Overall Style and Balance,” remaining to complete.

CAN I SEND IN PARTS AT A TIME, OR DO I HAVE TO SEND THE WHOLE THING?

You do not have to send the whole of your Level 3. You can send it in sections if you'd like to. A great way is for you to send it in by Savvy—On Line, Liberty, Freestyle or Finesse—but this is not a hard and fast rule. WITHIN the Savvys there are sequences of tasks that are to be filmed and assessed together. These are listed for you below. Please show these sequences in order with no editing in or between the tasks.

Liberty:	Online:	Freestyle:	Finesse:			
L 1–5	OL 1–6	FS 1–5	F 1–5	F 10–12	F 15–17	F 23–24
L 6–8	OL 8–9	FS 6–10	F 6–8	F 13–14	F 18–22	

HOW LONG SHOULD MY VIDEO BE?

So long as you have filmed your tasks in sequence and in an efficient way with one task flowing on from another, the video or DVD will be okay in length. However, please DON'T send in anything other than what is stated in the task sheet. It helps us a great deal if your tasks are shown in the sequence stated on the Task Sheet, without any extra footage.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

There is no charge for this service. Please allow up to a 6-8 week time frame to receive your results.

If we need to get in touch with you during your assessment, we will do so by email. On completion of your Assessment we will email your results to you, so that you don't have to wait for the snail mail! We will then also snail mail your papers back to you. Copies will be kept on file at the Parelli Centers for safety, so that we can refer to your copies if you have a question about your results. Please note, we return ONLY your paperwork to you; your video/DVD is kept on file at the Center for a period of time.

You can check up on the progress of your tape/DVD by emailing assessments@parelli.com

Thank you,
Parelli Assessment Team



Level 3 Video Submission Form

Please complete the following form & include with your Level 3 video assessment

NAME:

ADDRESS:

CITY:

STATE:

ZIP/POSTCODE:

PHONE:

FAX:

EMAIL:

Tasks Submitted:

Online:

Liberty:

Freestyle:

Finesse:

Date Of Last Submission (If applicable):

Estimated Time Of Video Submitted:

Current Instructor: (If Applicable):

Previous Instructors I Have Studied With:

1.

2.

3.

4.

To help us with a speedy turn-around time of your assessment, please ensure all questions are completed

Student name:

Signature:

Date:

Thank you!

OFFICE USE ONLY

Video Received by:

Received Date:



Level 3 Assessments Gaited Horses

Phone 800-642-3335 • Fax 888-731-9722 or 970-731-9722 • PO Box 3729, Pagosa Springs, Colorado 81147 • www.parelli.com

Here is an update on the topic of gaited horses in the Parelli Program and especially in Level 3. Included in this update we have also quoted Carol Coppinger and David Lichman, two Parelli Instructors who have lots of experience with this topic. Carol and David are great resources for Parelli Students with gaited horses.

I AM AT THE BEGINNING OF MY PARELLI JOURNEY. SHOULD I USE A GAITED HORSE FOR THE STUDY OF LEVELS 1, 2 AND 3?

It depends on your goals.

If you want to build a lasting partnership with your gaited horse and help him to be the best horse he can be, then taking him or her through Levels 1 and 2 is a great idea. You can even go through Level 3 and 4 skills, just omitting the trotting tasks (some of which you can do at gait) and the flying lead changes.

On the other hand if your goal is to pass ALL of Level 3 and/or to become a Parelli Professional, then you might want to give serious consideration to using a trotting horse for your study of the Levels and allowing your gaited horse to be a longer term project.

Bringing a gaited horse through Level 3 is a specialization best tackled after YOU have passed Level 3 on an easier horse. It's possible to get to level 3 with a gaited horse, but much more challenging—it makes a great Level 4 project. The foundation—Levels 1, 2 and 3 with a non-gaited horse—would ideally come first.

WHAT IF I ALREADY HAVE A GAITED HORSE AND I HAVE COME ALL THE WAY TO LEVEL 3 ALREADY? CAN I SUBMIT MOST OF THE LEVEL 3 ASSESSMENT WITH MY GAITED HORSE, AND SUBSTITUTE A DIFFERENT (NON-GAITED) HORSE FOR THE TROTGING AND CANTERING PARTS?

Our preference is for students to submit all of Level 3 (or any Level) with the same horse throughout, so that we can see that the student has developed the savvy to be able to develop their horse in every area rather than switching horses when a particular task or savvy presents a challenge.

Exceptions to this are possible on a case by case basis. If you have a gaited horse who does not easily trot or canter, we don't want you to force the issue.

For a student who has a gaited horse for a Level 3 assessment the approximate guidelines would be: We need to see the tasks that ask for trot or canter, done at a trot or canter. Within reason, it is possible to submit most of the test with your gaited horse, and substitute a trotting/cantering horse for the tasks that call for a trot canter.

For students who are assessing Level 3, write to assessments@parelli.com, and check with us on your individual situation. For those assessing Levels 1 and 2, it would be up to the Instructor doing the Assessment.



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Gaited Horses Continued

Carol Coppinger, 4-Star Parelli Instructor:

I also have gaited horses and during my journey through Levels 1, 2 and 3, I was bound and determined to do EVERYTHING with my gaited horses! However, when I started playing in Level 3 I soon realized I was asking my horses to do things that were not exactly what they were designed for. I realized that the more I tried to do the Level 3 trotting and cantering tasks, the more I started to make them feel wrong for just being what they were—"gaited."

During this time I realized that in order to teach my horses to do things that were above and beyond their skills, I needed to be good at those skills, myself, first.

So, I leased/borrowed and did everything I could to learn the skills I needed to teach my horses to trot and canter, WITHOUT forcing them. I soon had more understanding why the levels program was not about needing a "special" program for gaited horses, it was about understanding all horses. And for me with my goals to be an Instructor it was even more important that I be well rounded with any breed of horse.

So can a gaited horse do Level 3? If your gaited horse can walk, trot, canter in addition to his special skills of gaiting you should be able to do Level 3. It may take you a bit longer and how much longer I cannot say since you have more gaits to understand and be in control of but I sure won't say it is impossible.

David Lichman, 5 Star Parelli Instructor:

Here is the problem in a nutshell: If your horse is strongly gaited, when she trots it may not be a pure trot. Canter is even more problematic. Dedicated students can usually teach their gaited horses to canter, even if it doesn't come that naturally to them, but the flying changes are an extreme request. The horse has so many ways to organize her feet, that switching from one exact 3-beat canter lead to the other without wandering through a "series of unfortunate gaits" is nearly impossible.

I have as much experience with gaited horses as anyone in this program, and although I am sure it can be done, I have yet to complete the soft, relaxed, collected flying lead changes we'd like to see at Level 3 with a gaited horse—it's just not that important to me. I've had several students bound and determined to get it, only to give up—sometimes years later—and complete the task on a trotting horse.

There is so much more to building a great relationship with your gaited horse than these few tasks in Level 3. Take all that Pat has to offer; teach your gaited horse to ride bridleless. You can do simple lead changes, and eventually do them without bridle or saddle. You can do amazing things at Liberty (check out Carol's scores with Ranger in the Parelli Games!) Enjoy her for what she is, and if you want to learn about trotting half-passes and finesse flying lead changes—there's another horse out there ready to be your teacher.

If you are reading this you are probably already familiar with my educational material, but if not, there is a ton of information on how Pat's program applies to gaited horses there. Check out *Gaited Horses, Naturally!* on my web site: www.DavidLichman.com.