

Dear Readers.

so look out every-

one! Ernie has be-

come so keen about

you enjoy it!

has taken to the saddle

Well. Ernie

walk! You are probably wondering

that is a fairy tale. I will be

sharing some of my knowledge

Happy Riding Everyone

Dianne Darley.

Editor.

with you all, and I hope

if I have bandy legs. No, Ithinky

A Brief History of the Horse:

horse- riding that we have devoted this issue to my favourite animals-HORSES. I have grown up with these lovely creatures, and was able to ride a horse before I could even

EQUUS- this was the first horse to really look like those of today. It had a flying mane and tail and a hard hoof. It HYPOHIPPUSlived first This prehistoric in North America. more like the horses of today. It was still very small, but the centre toe was now developing a thick, horny, nail.

OUUS"

Over 50 million years ago, lived one of the loveliest animals on the face of the earth- EOHIPPUS. He only as large as a medium sized dog. He was a gentle animal, his only protection being his speed. He has survived through those 50 million years and come down to us today as a larger and swifter animal. He was different having 4 toes.

MESOHIPPUS was the next horse began to look stage, and he had only 3 toes. He was also taller than Eohippus



mouth!

Always wear a safety helmet-"a riding hat" as they are known.

My Feet

now ?

Ride in a small yard until you have complete control over your pony, Where are the brakes on this machine? Do we call out "whoo-oo?" No, this will not mean anything to your pony. The bridle which has a "bit" in the pony's mouth is like the brake in a car. You have hold of the reins which join onto the bit. The reins are your controls. To tell your pony to "STOP" you need to pull the reins back slowly towards you. At the same time you grip hard with your knees onto the saddle. These messages tell your pony to stop.

Safe-Not Sorry When Riding

To TURN your pony, once again you use your controlsthe reins. To move to the right you move your right rein down towards your right knee and pull gently. To turn left you just do the opposite.

Always wear

riding boots so

that your feet will

not slip through the stirrups,

Riding Boots:

What size do you take

Sir

FEED AND WATER: A pony needs to have feed every day. If there is good grass in the paddock that may be all he needs. However, during summer, when the grass dries up, you need to hand feed hay, chaff and oats. You need to watch the pony's conditionif he is losing weight you must increase his feed. A pony needs a supply of fresh water daily.

SHADE AND SHELTER: A pony needs to have shade and shelter in his paddock, so he can get out of the hot sun in summer, and the cold winds and rain in winter. You may like to rug him in winter to keep him warm.

SHOEING:

A pony's feet are very important to him. If they are not cared for he will be lame. A farrier takes care of horses' feet. If you ride on the roads, the pony needs shoes. The farrier trims the pony's feet and puts steel shoes on him.

EXERCISE: Your pony needs to be loved and cared for and should be ridden every day. This will help him to keep fit and healthy.

There are many different breeds of horses and ponies in

Australia. to tell you about a Mountain Ponies". this? Well, they and roamed around They have survived and are still there great demand today riding- ponies beauty, lovely able strength and known as "Welshies",

Amste

am going breed called "Welsh Why are they called came from Britain the Welsh mountains the great hardships now. They are in for children's because of their natures and remarkendurance. They are and are loved by all

who know them. They are grouped as below, according to their size and build ---



