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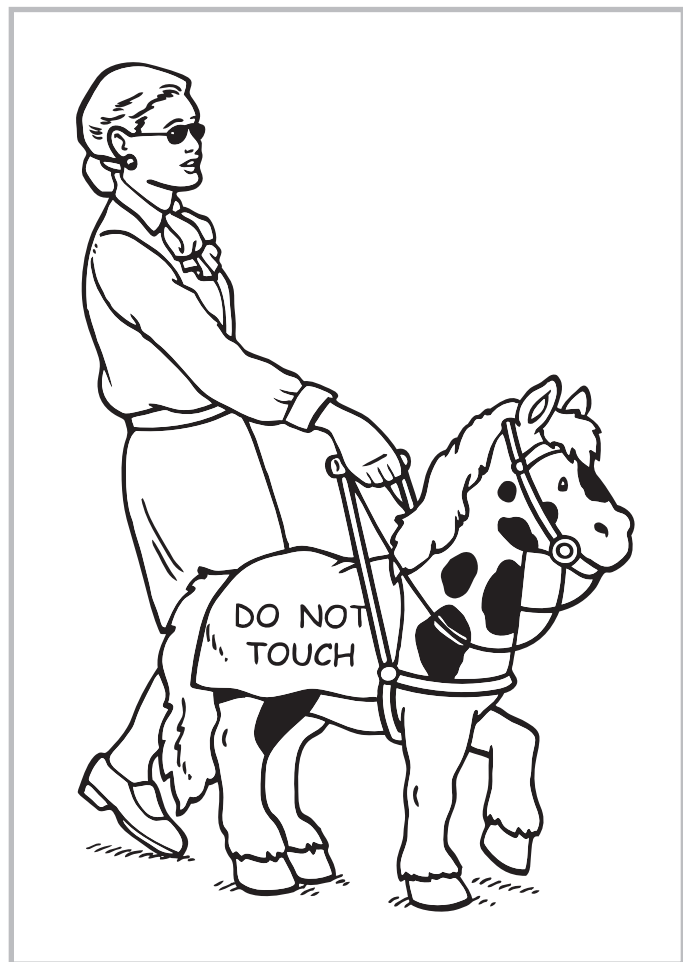
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Panda, the Guide Horse

Ann is blind. Ann has a guide that helps her work and get around. Ann's guide stops at curbs. The guide leads Ann across busy streets when it is safe. The guide touches door handles so Ann can find them. The guide gets in cars and rides on trains. The guide goes with Ann into grocery stores and on picnics. The guide picks up keys or other things Ann drops. Who is this guide? It is a horse! It is a real, live, miniature horse!

Ann's miniature horse guide is called Panda. Panda's coat is black and white. Like other horses, Panda has a long thick mane and tail. Unlike other horses, Panda is quite small. She only stands 29 inches (74 cm) at the shoulder. She only weighs about 120 pounds (54 kg).

Panda stays with Ann at her house. Ann is a teacher, and Panda goes with Ann to Ann's school when Ann is working. Panda knows where every room is in the school. Panda rings a special bell when she needs to go to the bathroom. The bell is tied to a door. When Panda rings the bell, Panda is taken to a special area where she can relieve herself.



A Horse Lesson in Good Manners

Boys and girls, you need to learn some good manners! You need to learn proper behavior! My name is Toby. I am a miniature horse. I work as a guide. I work hard helping someone who cannot see.

I had a special trainer. The trainer trained me by clicking a clicker. When I did something right, she clicked the clicker and gave me food as a reward. I was never punished. My trainer taught me how to use stairs. She taught me how to get into cars. Do you know what the hardest thing she taught me was? It was not using stairs or getting into a car. It was learning how to wait. It is very hard to wait. It is very hard to stand and do nothing.

I learned how to do something hard, so I know you can learn how to do something hard, too. You must learn not to touch me without asking. It is not good manners to touch me when I am working. I am working even when I am waiting. If I am petted, I do not know if I am still working. I might think it is time to play. Then I might have a hard time getting back to work.



Show What You Know

Answer the questions on “Panda, the Guide Horse” and “A Horse Lesson in Good Manners.” You may look back at what you have read if you need to.

1. Where does Ann work?

- (A) on a train
- (B) at a picnic
- (C) at a school
- (D) at a grocery store

2. What was the hardest thing for Toby to learn?

- (A) how to wait
- (B) how to use stairs
- (C) how to get into a car
- (D) how to listen to a clicker

3. Both stories are about

- (A) the manners of miniature horses.
- (B) Ann and her guides Toby and Panda.
- (C) miniature horse guides for the blind.
- (D) how miniature guide horses are trained.

4. From the stories one can tell that guide horses

- (A) must be able to fit in cars.
- (B) must be able to click a clicker.
- (C) must be able to open doors with keys.
- (D) must be able to teach proper behavior.

5. A fiction story is made up. It is not a true story. "A Horse Lesson in Good Manners" is fiction. You can tell the story is fiction because

- (A) horses cannot use stairs.
- (B) horses cannot tell stories.
- (C) horses cannot get into cars.
- (D) horses cannot be trained using a clicker.

Show What You Know (cont.)

6. List four things that Panda was trained to do.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

7. Fill in the blanks that you can. One blank cannot be filled in.

What was the hardest thing Toby learned to do? _____

Where was Toby trained? _____

When was Toby punished? _____

Why was Toby trained? _____

How was Toby trained? _____

Write two or more sentences that tell what each story is about.

8. "Panda, the Guide Horse" _____

9. "A Horse Lesson in Good Manners" _____

10. Guide dogs do the same job as guide horses. Write how you think you should act around a guide dog. Tell why.

