



GOLD AWARD

May be taken by all DBS Members 16 years and over

The Gold Award requires candidates to demonstrate through their own practical experience of donkey management, research and listed reading, their knowledge in aspects of donkey care. Candidates must be at least 16 years of age.

Candidates may choose to work on the preparation for Sections B and D within a group setting.

It is expected that the Award will take at least a year to complete, from initial registration of interest in undertaking the Award. Candidates will be expected to have regular contact through video link, telephone conversations and/or visits from the designated assessor every 2-3 months.

Candidates are required to provide for each section a documented account which could be in the form of a written narrative of no more than 1000 words per topic, picture board with captions, mind map, video or photo diary or recorded narrative of no more than 5 minutes.

On completion of the Gold Award, candidates are required to share their knowledge with other Donkey Breed Society members through publication of their material in articles in Bray Talk and The Donkey magazine or a display board at the DBS AGM on **one** of the section A-D that they have completed.

Candidates are required to submit prior to commencing the Award the topics that they will be studying for each section of the Award.

- Section A – Donkey Overview
- Section B – Donkey Health Care
- Section C – Looking After A Donkey
- Section D – Donkey Activities

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Section A – Donkey Overview

Candidates should choose either Donkey History or Donkey Welfare

Donkey History

Candidates are required to provide a detailed researched account on **one** aspect of donkey history. The following list is for **guidance only** and other suitable topics of interest to the candidate may be researched.

- The history of the Donkey Breed Society
- Detailed history of one breed of donkey
- The origins of the donkey
- The Victorian donkey
- Donkeys in agriculture
- The Irish donkey
- The donkey during the war
- The working donkey abroad

Donkey Welfare and Regulations

Candidates are required to demonstrate their knowledge of donkey welfare past and present including the regulations concerning donkey welfare in the UK.

Candidates should take into account environmental issues and the impact of the environment in the UK, signs of neglect be it actual or unintentional, and potential abuse.

Section B – Donkey Health Care

Candidates should choose **four** of the following aspects of general donkey health care and provide a detailed account based on their own research of the selected topics. Candidates will be required to demonstrate practical aspects of the topic with actual donkeys and should illustrate their submission with photographs that demonstrate the candidate's own experience of the topic.

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- First Aid/Health (including colic, respiration, temperature, pulse)
- Emergency procedures
- Farrier/Foot Care
- Dental
- Feeding/Nutrition
- Environment/Enrichment
- Obesity including Condition Scoring
- Worming

Where candidates choose to undertake preparation for this section within a group setting, for the topics chosen, candidates should consider/discuss in depth:

- The current thinking/practice for that topic
- The evidence to support current practice?
- The signs that might indicate that the management of the donkey should be reviewed and possibly changed with regard to that topic?
- The experience that the candidate has of that topic with their donkeys?
- How the management of the donkey for the chosen topic might vary depending on the age of the donkey?

Section C – Looking After A Donkey

Candidates should choose **one** of the following categories of donkey and describe from their own practical experience, through the use of monthly diaries, how they have (for all aspects of donkey care) managed that category of donkey through the course of one year. Photographs should be used to illustrate the candidates' experience throughout the donkey year.

- Family donkey
- Geriatric donkey
- Mare in foal
- Youngstock (3 years and under)
- Stallion (candidates must be 18 years or over to work with this category of donkey)

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Section D – Donkey Activities

Candidates should provide through detailed case study, reflecting on what they might do differently and what went well, their experience of training and preparing a donkey for **two** of the following. Candidates should use photographic material to illustrate their experience during the training and preparing of the donkey for the selected activity.

- Going out and about (socialising your donkey)
- Trailer loading and travelling
- ADA activities
- Agility activities
- Long reining (candidates may undertake the DBS long reining test)
- Driving (candidates may undertake the DBS driving test)
- Riding
- Showing –
 - Condition and Turnout
 - Broodmares
 - Stallions
 - Youngstock
 - Child/Young Handler

Where candidates choose to prepare for Section D within a group setting, this should be in the form of a training session for each of the topics chosen and candidates should be able to demonstrate how they have used the knowledge gained with their own donkey.

On passing this Award, the GOLD CERTIFICATE, ROSETTE AND GOLD BAR will be awarded

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