

## **Hardship Definitions for Level Testing on a non-Id'ed horse**

The 4-H program is about youth development. With this in mind, the intent of permitting a youth to use a substitute horse is to allow youth an opportunity to still pursue excellence, knowledge and higher horsemanship skills even when beset with a hardship to their horse.

Criteria that must be met for a 4-H Member to be eligible for substituting a horse during an advancement level test.

- 4-H member must be 16 years or older.
- Substitution is only an option for an individual wishing to pass level 4 in any discipline.
- A member's horse must have had training close to being able to pass level 4 prior to the death or injury of the horse. A 4-H leader or parent must be willing to validate this.
- The 4-H member must provide a veterinarian's statement on the physical inability of the horse to perform the required maneuvers, injury acquired or death certificate for the horse.
- The borrowed horse must be sound and healthy.
- All aspects of the level test must be passed with the same standards as if it were the member's own horse being used. The owner of the horse may not assist the member in any manner during the level test. It is recommended that the member practice with the substitute horse on several occasions prior to taking the level test.