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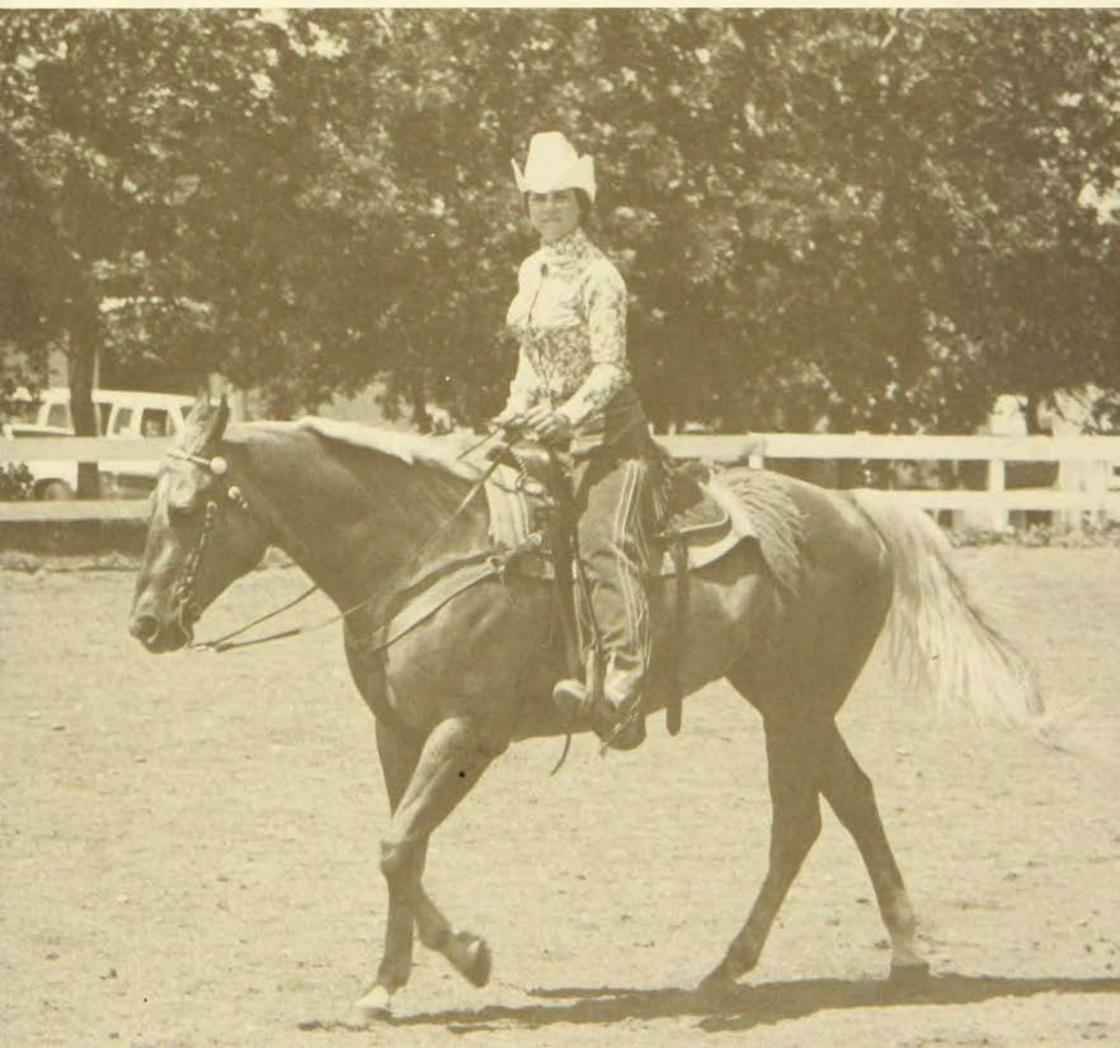
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Horse Show Guide



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This horse is collected on the bit, though obviously not restrained. The romal is properly held, and the rider's toes are turned out slightly, which encourages good leg contact.

STATE 4-H HORSE SHOW PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

Here are guidelines and rules for 4-H horse shows. Their use will encourage uniform requirements in county shows throughout Minnesota. They are similar to the guidelines and rules used in many open and/or adult shows.

To ride at the state 4-H horse show, you must:

- be at least 11 years old by January 1 of the year of the show.
- be currently enrolled in 4-H and in the horse project.
- choose only one of the following alternatives for the year, even though you may have qualified for two or all three of them:
 - (1) show a horse at the state 4-H horse show.
 - (2) show 4-H livestock at the Minnesota State Fair.
 - (3) show 4-H livestock at the state market livestock show.
- show mares and geldings only, one horse per exhibitor.
- have qualified with a blue or purple ribbon at your county show in each class you enter at the state show.
- show the horse upon which you qualified at the county qualifying show.

You must own the horse you show (county or state). Ownership must be in the immediate family (parents or sibling). You must begin managing the horse by April 1 of the year of the show. This includes all care, feeding, grooming, training, and exercising. Some counties require that your horse ownership be identified in a completed 4-H Horse Ownership Form (4-H-13) to be submitted to your county extension office by April 1 of the year of the show. This form is available from your county extension agent. If a substitution, for any

reason, occurs on or after April 1, the horse is ineligible for the state show.

Your county receives a quota of horses to be shown at the state 4-H horse show. This quota is based on your county's horse project enrollment for the year. Counties choose their own state horse show representatives.

A WORD TO THE JUDGE

4-H'ers look to you for expertise in showmanship and judging. They expect you to know the requirements for the various breeds. They greatly appreciate encouragement and constructive criticism. Emphasis in 4-H shows is on the project member, not the horse. Judge the rider on ability to present himself or herself and the horse most advantageously. Most important is the 4-H'ers knowledge of grooming, trimming, and showing according to accepted breed standards. The horse's conformation is *not* to be judged.

In those classes in which the horse *is* judged (western and English pleasure classes, driving classes, etc.), entries should be judged on manners, suitability, and performance, reflecting the 4-H'ers training and abilities in riding and showing. Suitability of tack and how it fits and whether the horse, tack, and clothing are clean should be considered, but minor consideration should be given to high expense items such as elegance of the tack and whether or not the horse is shod.

SHOWMANSHIP-AT-HALTER

The accompanying score card provides a guide to the emphasis most judges put on the various factors that are considered in judging showmanship-at-halter classes. However, few competent judges adhere to it precisely, nor do they attempt to keep a running score on each segment of the score card. The degree of a fault or a virtue may greatly affect the placing. For example, while the exhibitor counts but 10 points, if he or she makes a decidedly poor impression (surly attitude, failure to follow instructions, extremely poor taste in dress, etc.), that may be ample justification to place the exhibitor in the red or white ribbon class. Keep in mind that the overall or combined impression the exhibitor and the horse make is what influences the judge most.

In a well conducted class, the exhibitors will be provided instruction on what procedure will be followed for individual evaluation. Normally, it will include a test of the exhibitor's ability to move, set up, turn, and safely return the horse to the line up. The procedure may vary depending on space, available time, and an individual judge's preference.

Uniform 4-H Scorecard for Judging Showmanship-at-Halter Classes

Appearance of the Horse	40
Condition	15
Grooming (including trimming and braiding)	20
Tack	5
Showing the Horse	50
Ring deportment (safety, courtesy)	10
Action	10
Leading	15
Posing	15
The Exhibitor	10
Appearance (neat, clean, appropriately dressed)	5
Attitude	5

Explanation of Showmanship-at-Halter Scorecard

Appearance of the Horse **40**

Condition 15

The horse should exude good health and thriftiness, being neither too fat nor too thin but firm in his fleshing, suggesting a correct feeding and exercise regime.

Grooming 20

The hair coat should be clean, well brushed, and free of dust, dandruff, and manure stains.

Trimming should accentuate quality about the head and legs. All breeds should have the long hair below the knees and hocks around the fetlocks trimmed except where long hair (feathers) is customary for some draft breeds. The whiskers about the nose and chin should be trimmed, the back and edge of the ear should be trimmed, and, if shown with a mane, an appropriate bridle path should be clipped on all breeds. The length and fullness of the mane should compliment the horse and should be trained to properly fall on one side or the other of the neck. Normally, a mane falls to a horse's left on a western horse and to the right on an English horse. The foretop should be thinned and placed to one side under the browband.

Some breed standards for Quarter Horse, Appaloosa, and Pony of America: Manes may be either natural, roached, or thinned and shortened to a half mane. If mane is clipped, leave an appropriate foretop and a tuft of mane over the withers. The tail should be thinned and fall to about the top of the hock.

Some breed standards for Arabian, Morgan, and Palaminos: Manes should be long, natural, unbraided, and appropriately thinned and groomed to accentuate quality. The tail should be moderately long and hang naturally.

Some breed standards for American Saddle Horse, Tennessee Walking Horse, and Welsh and Shetland Ponies: Three-gaited Saddle Horses should have the mane and foretop clipped. Three-gaited Pleasure Horses, Pleasure Driving Horses, Five-gaited Saddle Horses, Shetlands, Welsh, and Walking Horses should show with full manes and tails and appropriately braided foretops and first locks behind their ears. The tail should be long, full, and natural.

On all breeds the hooves should be clean and properly trimmed and shaped. No preference should be shown for hoof dressing or coloring.

Tack 5

Tack should be neat, clean, appropriate, and properly adjusted.

Tack should compliment, not detract from, the horse. Avoid wide, heavy straps on small, clean-headed horses. Conversely, a wide cavesson (nose band) on a horse that is long from eye to muzzle would help mask that fault.

Showing the Horse 50

Ring deportment 10

You must be ready when the class is called and enter the ring in a brisk, alert manner. Lead in the direction according to instructions.

Be alert for instructions, prepared, and attentive.

Adhere to proven safety procedures. Don't lead too close, crowd other exhibitors, or cut in front of someone.

Action 10

Your manners and actions in handling your horse reflect the amount of time and effort you have spent in training. An unwilling or unruly horse indicates poor or little training.

Don't "blow your cool." Work calmly and quietly. If your horse becomes unruly, don't show exasperation. Assume control as quietly and quickly as possible. The show ring is not the proper place to reprimand a horse.

Stay alert and respond quickly to the judge or steward's instructions. Don't showboat or distract attention from the horse to yourself.

Leading 15

Lead from the left side with the lead shank held in the right hand about 6 to 12 inches from the halter. Hold the excess shank in your left hand. Don't roll it around your hand — that could be dangerous. You lead the horse, don't let the horse lead you. Walk in a brisk and businesslike manner.

The horse should be moved in an aggressive, ground-covering fashion. He should be trained to carry his head alertly and appear brilliant and proud.

The horse should move readily and freely with the exhibitor by the near side of the horse's neck and in front of the shoulder. The horse should neither be ahead of the exhibitor nor have to be dragged along.

In exhibiting the action and way of going of your horse, the specific pattern and direction will be provided; but, regardless of the pattern, the horse should be moved in a straight line away from the judge, stopped at the designated position in the arena, turned to the right, and led straight back to the judge. This affords the judge the best view possible of action. Failure to lead straight away from or toward the judge is a major fault of many exhibitors and the reason they are placed down. Judges dislike having to walk all over the arena to see a horse move. When changing positions in the line, if a rail or wall does not obstruct movement, lead the horse forward far enough so you don't disturb other horses, and then turn around and lead through the opening that you vacated and move directly and briskly to the position designated. If a rail or wall does obstruct forward movement, obviously you must back your horse and then move to the designated position.

Posing15

The horse should set up quickly, stand squarely, and move forward or backwards freely. Head and leg position should be in accord with standards for the breed you are showing. American Saddle Horses, Tennessee Walking Horses, Morgan, and Shetland Ponies are the only breeds "parked" with rear legs extended somewhat out behind. All other breeds (Arabian, Quarter Horse, Appaloosa, Thoroughbred, Hunter-type horses) are shown with their legs squarely under them, neither camped out nor camped under.

In addition to leg and head position, the horse should be trained and "psyched" to show the maximum amount of presence, animation, and eye appeal. A disinterested or lazy exhibitor fails on this point. The horse with one ear down, with little light and animation in his eye, legs misplaced, and appearing "dead-headed" does not create a good impression. This is true regardless of breed shown.

Face the animal upstage if possible; i.e., with front legs on higher ground than rear legs. Usually stand in front and to the left of your horse and avoid obstructing the judge's view of your entire horse. This means you don't have to confine your position to the front and left but may move to the front and right if it affords the judge a better view of your horse.

You must position the legs by moving the horse forward and backwards with the aid of the lead shank. If you're observed kicking the horse's legs into position or placing them with your hands, you should be marked down accordingly.

A top showman positions the horse quickly and advantageously, keeps the horse alert without making the horse spooky, follows safety practices, is quiet, and presents an appealing picture of himself or herself and the horse.

The Exhibitor10

Appearance (neat, clean, appropriately dressed)5

Wear appropriate clothing that compliments rather than detracts from the type of horse shown. For specific rules about the appropriate tack for the horse or appointments of the rider, see the section on tack and appointments, page 21.

Attitude5

Be businesslike but friendly, cooperative, and alert with a sense of concentration, confidence, and pride in the showing of your horse.



This horse and rider give a good overall impression. The rider's posture, seat, legs, and hands are correct, and the horse is giving a pleasure ride with good head carriage, while on a loose rein.

EQUITATION

General Equitation

Equitation is the art of riding horseback. Proper equitation includes those body positions, cues, and the deportment of the rider that control the horse and, thus, enhance the horse's performance as well as the coordination and general appearance of both rider and horse.

The American Horse Shows Association divides equitation into three sections: hunter, saddle, and stock seat. In general, the rules for Minnesota State 4-H Horse Shows are based on rules set forth by the American Horse Shows Association and the Western Saddle Clubs Association, although all of the associations' rules are not included.



Horse showing is more than riding. It must include grooming, hoof care, feeding, and teaching a horse manners. Note that these horses are wearing halters and are not tied to the fence with the bridle reins.

Judging Requirements

In equitation classes, only the rider is judged. Therefore, any horse is acceptable if it is suitable for a particular style of riding (i.e., stock seat, hunt seat, or saddle seat) and is capable of performing required class routines. Stallions are prohibited.

In hunter and saddle seat classes, the fall of horse or rider eliminates the contestant. In hunter seat equitation over fences, three refusals eliminate the rider. In a ride-off, a fall of the rider or three disobediences places the contestant last of those chosen for the ride-off. In stock seat classes, the fall of the horse or rider doesn't necessarily eliminate the contestant, but the rider may be penalized at the judge's discretion.

A rider not having his or her mount under control shall be dismissed from the ring at the discretion of the judge.

Unsoundness shall not penalize the rider unless it is sufficiently severe to impair the required performance.

In English equitation classes which permit both forward (hunt) seat and saddle (flat) seat performance, the judge selects the riders on the merit of riding as either hunt seat or flat seat. Mixing saddle seat and forward seat entries in the same class is, perhaps, unique to 4-H shows.

Stock Seat Equitation

Seat and hands — The rider will be judged on the basis of seat, hands, performance of the horse, appointments of horse and rider, and suitability of horse to rider. The results shown by performance of the horse are not to be considered more important than the method used in obtaining them.

If a romal is used, it should be moved to the offside of the horse after mounting. If split reins are used, the ends should remain on the same side as the hand holding the reins when the rider uses his or her fingers between the reins.

If the rider uses the right hand on the reins, then the rope should be carried on the near (left) side. A rider using the right hand with the romal would have the romal remain on the near side at all times. A rider using the right hand would keep the end of split reins on the offside (right). In dismounting or mounting with split reins, the rider may leave the right rein up or take it down.

Hands at rest — In repose, the arms are in a straight line with the body. The one arm holding the rein should be bent at the elbow. Only one hand is to be used for reining, and hands must not be changed. The hand is to be around the reins. When the ends of the split reins fall on the near side, one finger between the reins is permitted. When using a romal or when the ends of the split reins are held in the hand not used for reining, no finger between the reins is allowed. The position of the hand not being used for reining is optional, but it should be kept free of the horse and equipment. It may be held in a relaxed manner with the rider's body or may be rested on the thigh. The rider may hold the romal or end of the split reins with the hand not used for reining, provided the hand is held at least 16 inches from the reining hand. This is done to keep from swinging that arm and to adjust the position of the reins. This position allows a natural placement of hands. The reining hand is to be above the horn and as near to it as possible. Bracing against the horn or coiled reata will be penalized.

Basic position — The rider should sit in the saddle with legs hanging straight and slightly forward of the stirrups or with the knees slightly bent and weight directly over the balls of the feet. In either position, stirrups should be short enough to allow the heels to be lower than the toes. The rider's head should be up and shoulders back, appearing erect yet comfortable, relaxed, and flexible.

Body position in motion — Regardless of the gait, when riding western saddle, the rider should sit in the saddle. This includes the jog and the lope. All movements of the horse should be governed by the use of imperceptible aids. Shifting of the rider's weight from side to side is not desirable.

Appointments and tack — See specific requirements, page 21.

Class routine — Horses are to enter the ring at a walk and are judged at the walk, jog, and lope. Initially, they move counterclockwise but will be worked both ways in the ring. They shall always be on the correct lead. Reverse must be away from the rail. The horse should be in perfect balance at all times, working off the haunches. The neck and head should be in a direct line with the body, the mouth should be closed, and the head should be carried at the normal height. If the horse works off the hind quarters at all times and is in a straight line, all possibility of draw reining will be avoided. The stock horse is expected to respond instantly and smoothly to all aids.

Additional tests — The judge may expect additional tests to be performed individually or as a group. These could include: (1) mount and dismount; (2) back; (3) figure 8 at the jog; (4) figure 8 at the lope on a correct lead, demonstrating flying change of lead; and (5) riding without stirrups.

English Equitation — Saddle Seat

Showing your horse — The judge should note that the required equitation seat should in no way be exaggerated, but be thoroughly efficient and most comfortable for riding that type of horse at the gait called for and for any length of time. In saddle seat equitation, the rider should convey the impression of effective and easy control. To show a horse well, the rider should emphasize the positive features of both himself or herself and the horse. Ring generalship (positioning the horse so the judge can see and so the horse can perform with minimum interference from other horses) should be taken into consideration. A complete picture of the whole is of major importance.

Hands — Hands should be held in any easy position, neither perpendicular nor horizontal, and should show sympathy, adaptability, and control of the horse. How high the hands are held above the horse's withers depends on how and where the horse carries his head. The higher the head, the higher the reins. The method of holding the reins is optional, except both hands should be used and all reins must be picked up at one time. Bight of the reins should be on the off side.

Basic body position — The rider should sit erect and proud, finding the center of gravity by sitting with a slight bend at the knees but without use of irons. Irons should be placed under the balls of the feet, not on the toes or heels, with even pressure on the entire width of the soles and the centers of the irons. Foot position should be natural, neither extremely in nor out; however, leg contact should be maintained.

Body position in motion — Proper riding positions are: walk, slight motion in the saddle; trot, slight elevation in the saddle; posting, hips under body, not mechanical up and down or swinging forward and backward; canter, close seat, going with the horse.

Appointments and tack — See specific requirements, page 21.

Special appointments are mandatory in some open English shows. Two types of habits normally are worn. Informal dress includes clothing of a conservative solid color — black, blue, gray, green, brown, or beige jackets (white jacket in season) with matching jodhpurs and a derby or soft hat and jodhpur boots. Informal dress would be worn in pleasure equitation classes night or day. In more formal classes conducted during the evening, very conservative dress is appropriate. Solid colors are worn, including a dark gray, dark brown, dark blue, or black tuxedo-type jacket with collar and lapels of the same color. A top hat, jodhpurs to match the color of the jacket,

and gloves or dark-colored riding habit accessories and jodhpur boots usually are worn. Formal riding habit is not worn before 6 p.m.

Class routine — The class is to enter the ring, turn to the right, and proceed in a counterclockwise direction. The class should proceed at least once around the ring at each of the three gaits and, on command, reverse and repeat the three gaits. When a reverse is called for, a rider may either turn in or away from the rail. In American Horse Show Association shows, judges are encouraged to call for at least two tests for the top contestants. In a 4-H show, time may preclude individual tests.

Additional tests — The judge may call for additional individual tests. These are announced publicly and are called for at the discretion of the show management and judge. They include:

- (1) addressing the reins, picking them up, placing them in the hands properly;
- (2) backing up;
- (3) figure 8 at the trot, demonstrating a change of diagonals;
- (4) riding without stirrups.

Restrictions — The horses may be shown with either a full mane and tail with a natural carriage or with a roached mane and clipped tail. Horses having "nicked" tails may be shown, but their tails are not to be kept in a tail set.

English Equitation — Hunter Seat

Seat and hands — Riders should have a businesslike appearance, with seat and hands light and supple, conveying the impression of complete control should any emergency arise. The hands should be over and in front of the horse's withers, knuckles 30 percent inside the vertical, and hands slightly apart and making a straight line from the horse's mouth to the rider's elbow. The method of holding the reins is optional, and the bight of reins may fall on either side. However, all reins must be picked up at the same time.

Good posture, balance, and hand position not only enhance the picture of horse and rider, but contribute to the horse's ability to perform.





This is formal hunting attire with the correct appointments (whip, sandwich case, and flask). The horse has its tail and mane braided. The black silk hat, stock (necktie), cutaway coat (shad belly), and hunt colors on the lapel mark this equestrian as a member of a recognized fox hunting club.

Basic body position — The rider's eyes should be up and shoulders should be back. Toes should be at an angle best suited to the rider's conformation, with ankles flexed in, heels down, calves of legs in contact with the horse and slightly behind the girth. Stirrup iron may be either on the toe, ball of the foot, or "home"; however, most judges prefer the iron on the ball of the foot. Good posture is a great contributor to the overall appearance of horse and rider and is a major factor in placing a class.

Body position in motion — At the walk and slow trot, the rider's body should be vertical; at the posting trot, it should be inclined forward 8 to 10 degrees; at the canter, it should be positioned about halfway between the posting trot and the position at the walk. When jumping or galloping at speed, the same body position is used as for the posting trot, except the rider rises out of the saddle with the thrust of the horse over jumps.

Appointments and tack — See specific requirements, page 21.

Class routine — Contestants enter the ring and may proceed counterclockwise around the ring. They will be asked to move at each gait and, on command, to reverse and repeat. A horse may be reversed by turning either toward or away from the rail. Light contact with the horse's mouth is required. Any or all riders may be required to execute any appropriate tests included in class requirements.

Additional tests — The judge may expect additional tests performed individually or as a group: (1) back; (2) gallop and pull up; (3) figure 8 at a trot, demonstrating change of diagonals (at the left diagonal riders should be sitting in the saddle when the left front leg is on the ground, and at the right diagonal riders should be sitting in the saddle when the right front leg is on the ground [i.e., rise and fall with the leg on the wall]); thus, when circling clockwise at the trot the riders should be on the left diagonal, and when circling counterclockwise the riders should be on the right diagonal); (4) ride without stirrups; (5) mount and dismount; (6) canter on the counter lead; and (7) half turn on the fore hand or half turn on the haunches.

Class routine over fences — The performance begins when the horse enters the ring or is given the signal to proceed. Except for refusals, a horse's jumping faults are not to be considered unless they are considered the result of the rider's inability. Upon entering the ring, each contestant may circle once if desired before approaching the first jump. Horse and rider then proceed around the course, keeping an even pace throughout. Three cumulative refusals eliminate the rider. Any or all contestants may be called back to perform at a walk, trot, and canter or to execute any appropriate tests included in class requirements.

Course requirements — Equitation classes that include jumps shall be held over four reasonable jumps. The types of jumps are left to the discretion of the management. The heights must be 30 inches (ponies) and 36 inches (horses). A change of leads is required at least once during the course.

PLEASURE CLASSES

Western

A horse may be shown in only one western pleasure class per show:

- Horses are to be shown at a walk, jog, and lope.
- Horses are to be judged on manners, performance, and ability to give a good pleasure ride.
- Horses are to be shown with a reasonably loose rein.
- Judge may ask finalists for additional workouts.
- Judge may ask for the reverse at the walk and the trot. The reverse shall not be called for at the lope.
- It is the judge's option to extend any gait.

Most judges would severely penalize a horse that is difficult to control, mixes its gaits, misses a lead, is reluctant to change gaits, lacks an aggressive ground covering walk, and fights the bit.

English — Hunt or Saddle Seat

Normally, mixing of hunt and saddle seat is not permissible, but entries suggest such a combination in many 4-H shows. However, mixing of hunt and saddle seat tack and attire on the same entry is not permitted. Judging will be on the basis of what is most correct for the specific type of English pleasure entry being shown.

For either hunt or saddle seat, horses are shown at the walk, trot, and canter, are worked both ways of the ring at all gaits, and are to be backed readily. They may reverse at the walk or trot either away from (inside) or toward (outside) the rail. An extended trot may be called for, and horses are to be brought to a flat-footed walk before changing gaits.



So-called "formal riding" does not preclude the use of Arabians, Morgans, or Quarter Horses as mounts. The habit, brown derby, brown coat, jodhpurs, a flat cutaway saddle, a bridle with two sets of reins (pelham bit or combination of snaffle and curb), and a browband and cavesson (noseband) are the usual appointment requisites for English pleasure equitation classes.

In hunt seat, the entry will be judged on suitability to purpose, head carriage, gait, and control. Bit contact should be maintained.

In saddle seat, the horses are to be judged on performance and ability to give a good pleasure ride with emphasis on style, manners, and gait. Boots are not permitted. Bit contact should be maintained.

See the section on tack and appointments, page 21, for the specific requirements for western and English pleasure classes.

Open Pleasure Driving

The contestant may choose either a pony or a horse hitched to a two- or four-wheeled vehicle. Horses are to be shown with appropriate driving tack including blinkers, over check or side reins, and snaffle bit. The horses should be driven at a walk and a trot in both directions, back readily, and stand quietly. If there are ponies or horses hooked to a two-wheeled roadster bike, the other contestants should be moved to the center of the ring, and the roadster should then be driven at a road gait (fast trot).

The class should be judged on performance (way of going, appropriate speed, no mixing of gaits, and general form); manners (control, amount of reining, obedience); suitability of horse, vehicle, and driver; and apparent ability to give a good pleasure drive. Whips may be carried, but inappropriate use will be severely penalized.

REINING

Rules to be used in 4-H reining classes are patterned after the American Quarter Horse Association rules. Scoring is from 60 to 80 points, with 70 an average score. The score includes the performance of rider and horse. The horse is expected to rein and handle easily, calmly, and effortlessly and with reasonable speed throughout the pattern. Failure to follow the prescribed pattern is a disqualification.

See section on tack and appointments, page 21, for specific requirements.

Faults of the horse — but not disqualifications — include:

- excessive opening of mouth.
- excessive jawing, open mouth, or head raising on a stop.
- refusing to change leads, anticipating signals, and breaking gaits.
- lack of a smooth, straight stop on haunches (bouncing or sideways stop), backing sideways, and making an indistinct and indefinite rollback.
- stumbling or falling, wringing its tail, and knocking over markers.

Faults of the rider — but not disqualifications — include:

- changing rein hands or using two hands on the reins. (The reining hand must be around the reins. One finger between the reins is permitted.)
- losing a stirrup, holding onto the horse or saddle, or using spurs or romal forward of the cinch.
- any unnecessary aid to the horse by the rider (such as unnecessary talking, petting, spurring, quirting, jerking of reins, etc.)
- failure to run the figure 8 within the designated area or running rollbacks beyond the area.

You be the judge. In this photograph what is wrong with the tack and rider's performance? See top of next page for the answer.



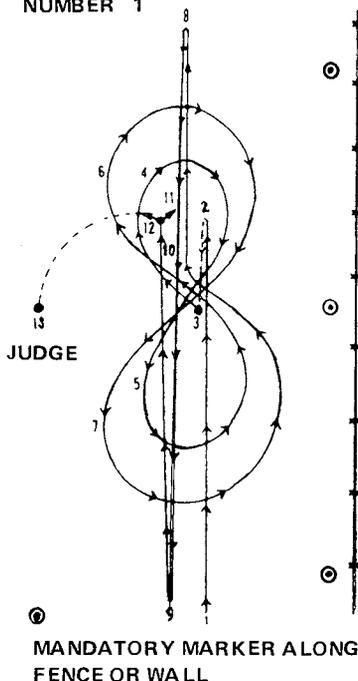
Answer to question on previous page: a) no curb chain; b) a cavesson is not accepted as part of western tack; c) bight of the reins is on the wrong side; d) reins are held much too high; e) rider has poor eye direction; f) legs are extended too far forward with toes turned out too much, thus forcing the rider to sit too far back on her tail bone with her right hand held stiffly and unnaturally; g) the chaps don't hide the fact she is not wearing western boots. Any one of these points could keep you from winning.

AQHA Reining Pattern Number 1

The arena or plot should be approximately 50 × 150 feet. On the arena fence or wall, the judge shall indicate with markers the length of the pattern. Markers will not be used within the area of the pattern. Ride the pattern as follows:

- (1) to (2) Run with speed, past the center marker.
- (2) Stop and back up to the center of the pattern.
- (3) Settle your horse for approximately 5 seconds. Start lope to the right. Figure 8 should be made inside the end markers.
- (4) and (5) Ride a small figure 8 at a slow lope.
- (6) and (7) Ride a larger figure 8 at a faster lope.
- (8) Left rollback over hocks (should be made past the far end marker).
- (9) Right rollback over hocks (should be made past the near end marker).
- (10) Stop (should be made past center marker), let horse settle, and in the approximate area of stop, do the pivots.
- (11) Pivot, right or left, no more than 90 degrees.
- (12) Pivot opposite direction, no more than 180 degrees..
- (13) Walk to judge and stop for inspection until dismissed.

A Q H A
REINING PATTERN
NUMBER 1



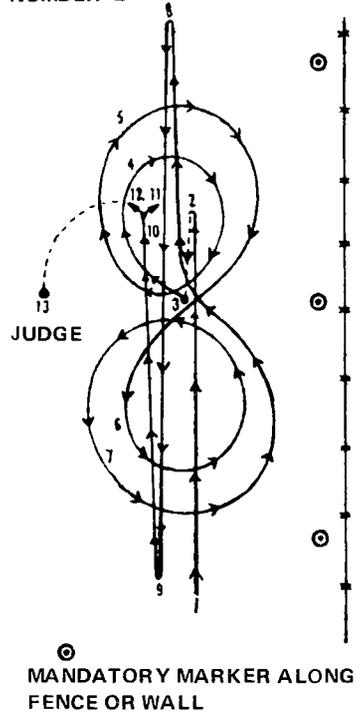
AQHA Reining Pattern Number 2

The arena or plot should be approximately 50 x 150 feet. On the arena fence or wall, the judge shall indicate with markers the length of the pattern. Markers will not be used within the area of the pattern. Ride the pattern as follows:

- (1) to (2) Run with speed, past the center marker.
- (2) Stop and back up to the center of the pattern.

- (3) Settle your horse for approximately 5 seconds. Start lope. Circles should be made inside the end markers.
- (4) and (5) Ride two circles to the right. The first circle should be small and slow. The second circle should be larger and faster.
- (6) and (7) Ride two circles to the left. The first circle should be small and slow; the second circle should be larger and faster.
- (8) Left rollback over hocks (should be made past the near end marker).
- (9) Right rollback over hocks (should be made past the near end marker).
- (10) Stop (should be made past center marker), let horse settle, and in the approximate area of stop, do the pivots.
- (11) Pivot right or left no more than 90 degrees.
- (12) Pivot opposite direction, no more than 180 degrees.
- (13) Walk to judge and stop for inspection until dismissed.

**A O H A
REINING PATTERN
NUMBER 2**



GAME CLASSES

Egg and Spoon

In this class, the horses are shown at a walk, trot, and canter while the riders balance eggs on teaspoons. The last rider with an egg in his or her spoon is the winner.

- The spoon is held with one hand; fingers or supports to balance the egg are not allowed.
- Spoons for all contestants must be uniform.
- Western saddle and western attire are required.
- Procedure for the class is at the discretion of the judge (i.e., feet out of stirrups, change of hands, etc.), but spoons in contestants' mouths and dismounting off rear of horses are prohibited.

General Rules for Timed Events (Barrels and Poles)

Clothes and Equipment

- Acceptable western clothes and equipment are required (see special section).

- Contestant must enter the ring wearing a hat. A penalty of 1 second shall be assessed if the rider loses his or her hat and it falls to the ground. (The penalty will be enforced from the time the contestant enters the ring till the time he or she leaves.)
- Wide flat leather bats are permitted if used behind the cinch. Whips and quirts are not allowed. Spurs with moveable rowells are permissible if used behind the cinch, not to be used in excess. Contestant may hit the horse with hand behind the cinch.
- Excessive use of bats or spurs or abuse of mount will be cause for disqualification.
- No rerides due to breakage of equipment or fall of horse or rider will be permitted once the contestant has entered the course.

Making the Ride

- A two-handed ride is optional. The rider may change hands. Touching the saddle or holding on to the saddle horn or pommel is permitted.
- Contestants are not allowed to go past the imaginary starting line or to circle through the pattern before starting the run. Any breaking of pattern means disqualification.
- The arena gate must be closed before a contestant makes his run. A running start from outside the gate is not permitted; room for a 21-foot-or-more running start inside the arena is provided.

Cloverleaf Barrel Race

In this timed event, the horse and rider who complete the cloverleaf pattern in the shortest time are the winners.

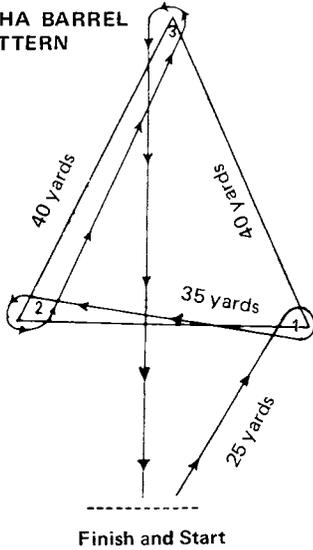
- The pattern may be either that of the WSCA or AQHA. The arena size will logically determine the pattern size.
- Rider may start the pattern from the right or left side.
- Barrels should be painted white; if possible, they should be rubber or have a tire or foam rubber cylinder on the top for safety.
- Knocking a barrel down or touching or steadying it with a hand is a disqualification.

Pole Weaving

In this timed event, the rider who weaves through the six-pole pattern in the fastest time is the winner.

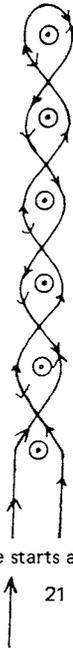
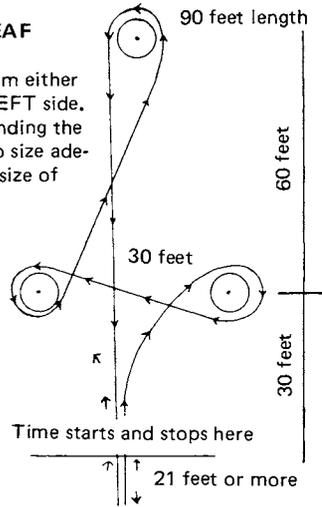
- The poles are spaced 21 feet apart.
- Poles should be painted white, 80 to 96 inches in height; plastic pipe with rubber bases is preferred.
- Rider may enter the pattern on the right or left side of the first pole.
- Knockdown of a pole or touching or steadying a pole with a hand is a disqualification.

AQHA BARREL PATTERN



CLOVER LEAF

May start from either RIGHT or LEFT side. Suggest extending the barrels out to size adequate to the size of the arena.



POLE WEAVING

The contestant will have a 21-foot or more running start. This is a timed event.

TACK AND APPOINTMENTS

The following are minimum requirements for showing; more elaborate clothes and/or equipment are permitted but are not necessary. Fancy outfits will not be considered in the judge's placings. Suitability of tack and clothes, fit, and cleanliness will be considered.

Showmanship-at-halter Classes

Clothes — either western or English clothes are permitted, but they should be appropriate to the breed of horse shown and the tack used on that horse.

Western: must wear western boots, western hat, dress or western long-sleeved shirt, western pants or jeans; vest or jacket optional;

short-sleeved or sleeveless shirts or T-shirts prohibited; chaps prohibited.

English: either hunt or saddle seat attire, but no mixing of the two.

Hunt seat: English style long-sleeved blouse or shirt, breeches or riding pants, high boots; hard hat and hunt coat optional.

Saddle seat: English style long-sleeved blouse or shirt, jodphurs or riding pants, jodphur boots; derby and coat optional.

Equipment — appropriate to the horse and exhibitor's clothes.

Western: halter of leather or nylon webbing; chain on lead strap permitted (may be used over or under horse's nose); no whips or crops.

English: English-type halter or bridle; no whips or crops (for safety reasons).

Performance Classes (Equitation, Pleasure, Reining)

Clothes —

Western: same as for showmanship, except chaps optional.

English: same as for showmanship, except hard hats required for hunt seat and jackets encouraged for both seats.

Equipment —

Western: western saddle and bridle with curb bit; a bosal is permissible providing the horse is 4 years or younger. (A bosal is defined as a nonmechanical twist rawhide bosal.) The ride must be made with one hand, however. Curb may be a flat leather strap, flat chain, or double flat chain, but no twist is allowed; it must be at least ½ inch wide. Hackamores, tie-downs, running martingales, draw reins, and cavesson-type nosebands prohibited. Spurs, lariat, slicker, and hobbles are optional. Skid and shin boots permitted in reining class only.

English:

Hunt seat: hunt seat or dressage saddle; hunt bridle with snaffle or pelham bit, or full bridle; bridle must have cavesson noseband. Martingales prohibited except in classes over jumps. Unrowelled spurs, crop, or whip optional.

Saddle seat: flat English saddle; full bridle (curb and snaffle), or pelham. Martingales or similar tie-downs prohibited. Unrowelled spurs, whip, or crop optional.

Game Classes

Clothes — basic western clothes required (see Showmanship-at-Halter section); chaps optional.

Equipment — western saddle and bridle required; bosal or hackamore, tie-down, martingale, skid and shin boots permitted. Two-inch wide leather bat and spurs optional. Whips, quirts, or crops not allowed.

COMMON FAULTS TO AVOID IN EQUITATION AND PLEASURE CLASSES

- Poor posture
- Obvious shifting of weight
- Changing hands on the reins
- Losing the stirrup
- Two hands on the reins at one time
- Obvious aids and cues to the horse
- Grabbing cantle rather than horn when mounting a western saddle
- Over-flexing at the poll
- Lack of knee or calf contact
- Riding on your tail bone
- Mechanical and overly stiff riding
- Uneven reins
- Overreining
- Lack of control
- Inappropriate speed
- Improper lead
- Improper leg position
- Uneven stirrups
- Failure to observe rules of safety or follow directions
- Poor foot contact with stirrup
- Hands too high or touching withers or pommel of saddle

DRUGS

Use of drugs as a horse stimulant or tranquilizer is prohibited. We reserve the right to collect and analyze blood or urine samples to assure compliance with this rule. Failure to cooperate will disqualify the entry.

Here are two riders showing their horses correctly with good balance, posture, and interest in what they are doing. The second rider is using a romal, which makes it easy to position the right hand. The lead horse could be flexed more at the poll.





Driving a pleasure horse like this Morgan stallion, Bonnie Lee's Tempest, can indeed be a pleasure. It takes real skill to train and drive a horse that will walk quietly, trot with an elastic, easy pleasure trot, then move out into a ground-covering extended trot. To stay in form at all three speeds with balance, a correct degree of collection, proper head set, style, and manners, and to back easily and stand quietly are the hallmarks of excellence.

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA



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