

Showmanship at Halter

Class will be judged on each exhibitor's ability, to properly groom, fit, and show their Pony at Halter. pony can be fitted in either English or Western Tack.

Exhibitor should be neat in personal appearance, including attire, and confident, while demonstrating the abilities necessary to lead and handle a properly groomed, fitted and conditioned pony smoothly and precisely through the requested pattern with efficiency.

Class shall be judged as follows: 10% on Exhibitor, 30% on the proper fitting and grooming of Pony, and 60% on the performance of Showmanship.

If exhibitor is under age 8, Adult Helper can be present nearby for safety and support, but exhibitor must do showing, leading and handling performance.

The Class patterns to be used are provided along with this Class description.

The use of artificial aids is prohibited.

The exhibitor should continue showing the pony through the entire video with no stops or starts in the video. The camera person is the view of the Judge.

The exhibitor should have good posture and move in a straight, natural and upright manner, and avoid unnatural body positions or movement. The exhibitor must lead on the pony's left side holding the lead shank in the right hand near the halter with the tail of the lead loosely coiled in the left hand. The excess lead should never be tightly coiled, rolled or folded. When leading, the exhibitor should be positioned between the eye and the mid-point of the neck, referred to as the leading position. The position of the exhibitor when executing a turn to the right is the same as the leading position except that the exhibitor should turn and face toward the pony's head and have the pony move away from them to the right. When executing a back, the exhibitor should turn from the leading position to face toward the rear of the pony with the right hand extended across the exhibitor's chest and walk forward beside the pony with the pony moving backward. When setting up the pony for inspection, the exhibitor should stand angled toward the pony in a position between the pony's eye and muzzle, and should never leave the head of the pony. It is expected that exhibitors use the "Quarter Method", when presenting the pony.

The exhibitor should maintain a position that is safe for themselves and the judge. The position of the exhibitor should not block the judge's view (camera view) of the pony and should allow the exhibitor to maintain awareness of the judge's position (camera) at all times.

If exhibiting in a class with others, the exhibitor should not crowd others when setting up side-by-side or head-to-tail. When moving around the pony, the exhibitor should change sides in front of the pony with minimal steps and should assume the same position on the right side of the pony that he had on the left side.

The Quarter Method involves drawing imaginary lines dividing the pony into four equal sections (Note: sections are numbered 1, 2, 3, and 4 for ease of identification.) One line runs across the pony just behind the withers. The other imaginary line runs from the head to tail. When the pony is squarely set up for inspection, the exhibitor takes his proper position in section 4. As the judge moves to section 1, the exhibitor should stay in section 4. When the judge moves on to section 2, the exhibitor moves to the proper position in section 1. When

the judge moves to quadrant 3, the exhibitor moves back to section 4. As the judge moves to section 4, the exhibitor once more moves to section 1. The exhibitor should never stop in the unsafe location directly in front of the pony. When the judge (camera person) returns to his position in front of the pony, the exhibitor should return to section 4.

When exhibitor is leading, backing, turning, and beginning to set up the pony for examination should all be performed from the left side of the pony. At no time should the exhibitor stand directly in front of the pony. The exhibitor should not touch the pony with his hands or feet, or visibly cue the pony by pointing his feet at the pony during set up.

Appearance of Pony

The pony's body condition and overall fitness should be assessed. The hair coat should be clean, and well groomed. The mane, tail, forelock and wither hair may not contain ornaments (ribbons or bows), but may be banded. The length of mane and tail may vary, as long as they are neat, clean and free of tangles. The mane should be even in length or may be roached, but the forelock and tuft over the withers must be left. The bridle path, eyebrows and long hair on the head and legs may be clipped. A sparse mane and tail shall not be discriminated against. Hooves should be properly trimmed and if shod, the shoes should fit correctly and clinches should be neat. Hooves must be clean and may have clear polish or clear hoof dressings applied or be shown naturally. Tack should fit properly and be neat, clean and in good condition.

Performance

Exhibitor should perform the work quickly and smoothly. The pony should lead, stop back, turn and perform willingly. Pony should be led directly to and away from the judge (camera) in a straight line and as instructed in the pattern. The pony's head and neck should be in a straight line with his body. Pony should stop with his body in a straight position, and when backed should readily have his head and neck in a straight line with his body.

When turning the pony to the left 90 degrees or less, the pony should be turned to the left. On turns of greater than 90 degrees, the ideal turn consists of the pony pivoting on the right hind leg while stepping across and in front of the right front leg with the left front leg. An exhibitor should not be penalized if his pony performs a pivot on the left hind leg, but an exhibitor whose pony performs the pivot correctly should receive more credit. The pony should be set up quickly with the feet squarely underneath the body. The exhibitor does not have to reset a pony that stops square.

Faults

Poorly groomed, conditioned or trimmed pony.

Dirty, ragged, or poorly or ill-fitted halter or lead.

Poor or improper position of exhibitor.

Excessive stiff or unnatural movement around pony or when leading.

Continuous holding of the chain part of the lead, or lead shank tightly coiled around hand or dragging the ground.

Changing hands or placing both hands on the lead.

Severe Faults

Leading on the off or right side of the pony.

Complete failure to move around pony by exhibitor and obstructing judge's view (camera view).

Exhibitor touching the pony or kicking or pointing his feet at the pony's feet during set up.

Standing directly in front of the pony.

Changing or missing any of the maneuvers in pattern.

Knocking over a cone or prop.

Severe disobedience including rearing or pawing, striking, kicking, or pony continuously circling the exhibitor.

Disqualifications

Loss of control of pony that endangers exhibitor, other ponies or exhibitors, or judge, including the pony escaping from the exhibitor.

Willful abuse.

Excessive schooling or training or use of artificial aids.