

Showmanship Class

Showmanship classes are not conformation, model, or grooming classes, although grooming and fitting is certainly part of the judging criteria. This is a performance class with emphasis to be placed on the exhibitor's ability to show the animal. The horse is merely a prop to demonstrate the exhibitor's abilities. Classes have been designed to permit competitive evaluation of an exhibitor's ability to train, groom and present a horse for inspection by a judge. Emphasis in class procedures may vary, but all require a combination of safety, close adherence to a few basic rules and a quiet, effective manner.

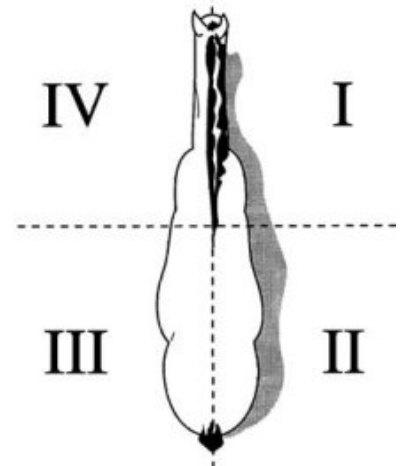
All leading in classes will be done from the near side of the exhibited equine with the leadsman stationed approximately halfway between the nose and the shoulder of the equine. The lead shank or reins will be grasped in the right hand approximately 12 inches from the halter ring or the end of the shanks of the bit. The end of the lead shank will be folded neatly and carried in the left hand. Coiled leads and very small, tight folds of the lead shank will be penalized. Rein ends may be carried in the left hand without folding. The exhibitor's feet may not be used in posing the equine. The exhibitor may use his/her free hand in posing and backing. The exhibitor should never stand between his/her horse and the judge (unless leading) and should always pose with a 3/4 or full side view.

Rules:

1. **Is Not Mandatory.**
2. 6 Class Placement.
3. Points earned in this class will be used to determine High Point and Championship Trophies.
4. Class Placement may be used to break ties for High Point and Championship Trophies.
5. It is the Contestant's responsibility to Participate in this class during the designated time.
6. Showmanship pattern will be posted prior to the class.
7. Personal appearance of the club member: neat, clean, well groomed, attentive, courteous, and in appropriate attire as described in each division.
8. Clean, adjusted, and acceptable english bridle or halter/western halter. Fancy equipment shall not be given preference over good working equipment. No crops or bats are permitted.
9. The horse should be clean, well groomed, and fitted for its division type.
10. The horse's feet should be cleaned and either trimmed or properly shod.
11. Conditioning and Grooming of Horse will be evaluated on the Modified Danish System.

The Quarter Method of Showing (Showmanship):

- Walk, trot, turn, stop, back, and pose your horse as directed by the judge or ring steward. Lead from the left side of your horse with your right hand on the lead shank or bridle reins.
- When showing your horse at a walk, walk by his side - never directly in front of him. His head should be about even with your shoulder. When moving, keep your horse's neck, head, and body in a straight line and maintain precise control. Move him directly toward or away from the judge, unless the judge indicates that he wishes to see him from the side.
- Show the horse with a shank short enough to assure maximum control and responsiveness from the horse. The basic position of the exhibitor should allow constant observation of the horse's feet and also permit observation of the judge and ring officials. Never obstruct the view of the judge and do not stand directly in front of the horse.
- The following suggested guidelines of movement are meant to serve as an illustration of proper movement around the horse while showing in Showmanship, and are for exhibitor information. Imaginary lines divide the horse into four equal parts as seen in the figure below. (Note: The horse has been sectioned into four parts numbered I, II, III and IV for ease of identification.) One line runs across the horse just behind the withers. The other imaginary line runs from head to tail. When the judge is in I, the exhibitor should be in IV. As the judge moves to II, the exhibitor should move to I. When the judge moves to III, the exhibitor moves to IV. As the judges move up to IV, the exhibitor returns once more to I. This method is based on safety, as the exhibitor can keep the horse's hindquarters from swinging toward the judge should the horse become fractious.



Conditioning and Grooming Score (Mandatory)

During the showmanship class the judge will look at the horse's appearance and overall condition of horse is considered, although conformation is not judged. The judge will score each animal based on a predetermined criteria and will make an overall comment concerning the condition and grooming of the class before placing the showmanship class.

Rules:

1. Scored on the Modified Danish System of Blue, Red and White Ribbons.
 2. Points earned in this class will be used to determine High Point and Championship Trophies.
 3. Total score may be used to break ties for High Point and Championship Trophies.
 4. It is the Contestant's responsibility to Participate in this class during the designated time.
- Brush your horses daily. Brushing cleans the horse and brings the natural oil to the hair. A horse brushed and fed properly will always have bloom to his hair coat. Be sure your horse is clean! (Wash with mild soap and brush until clean.) If soiled spots occur before showing, clean with a wet cloth and towel dry. Clean hooves with brush and water.
 - Get the horse in good health. Feed a balanced ration (one with enough protein, vitamins, and minerals). Put your horse on a regular deworming schedule. Trim feet when necessary. Don't let lack of trimming cause incorrect action or conformation.
 - Force exercise the horse regularly. This may be done under the saddle, loose in a pen, or on a lunge line. Exercise removes excess fat, adds muscle tone, and makes the horse look like an athlete.
 - Train the horse to lead correctly. Train the horse to lead so that his head is just slightly back and off to the right of your right shoulder. He should respond to you quickly at a walk or trot. A light tug on the lead shank should bring the horse to a stop. The horse should settle down, but be alert after the stop.
 - Train the horse to stand. A horse can be trained to stand when you face him, and to follow you when you turn your back to him. If you have taught the horse to recognize these movements during training, he will know what to expect in the ring.

Exhibitor #	Points	2	1	0
Conditioning and Grooming Score Card (Mandatory)		Extra Effort	Good Job	Needs Improvement
Coat Condition	A clean properly brushed and fed horse will always have <u>BLOOM</u> to his hair coat.			
Mane & Tail Condition	Properly maintained manes and tails should be neat, clean, tangle-free and in good condition.			
General Health	Overall appearance of the horse should indicate a healthy and both externally and internally parasite free horse.			
Body Condition	A horse that is fed a balanced ration (one with enough protein, vitamins, and minerals) to meet his activity level will not be too thin or fat.			
Muscle Structure	A horse that is regularly exercised will have adequate muscle tone, definition, and structure.			
Unsoundness & Blemishes	Is the horse sound and free of blemishes that will hinder his performance.			
Hoof Care	Is the horse properly trimmed or shod. Lack of proper hoof care can cause incorrect action or conformation.			
Blue (14-10) 3 Points; Red (9-5) 2 Points; White (4-0) 1 Point		Total		