

SHOWMANSHIP!



It's about you AND your horse!

My name is Sarah Cook. I have been a judge for 8 years and I currently teach Music for MPS. I have shown in 4-h for 10 years and am now a 4H leader in Racine county for the Tucker Horse Project. In 1995 I was all around #1 in the state with my horse Captan Kid with english, western trail and showmanship. I have a 9 year old paint mare named Cinderella who was born on my family's farm. I have judged for shows all over Wisconsin and Northern Illinois. I have had the opportunity to clinic with Ken McNabb, Mark Schaeffer and with Clinton Anderson.

MESSAGE: Judges Note

My advice is that you need to breathe and relax while showing. It is important to know that no matter the circumstances remember its live and ANYTHING will and can happen. Don't be too hard on yourself! It is only a snapshot of time of what happens in the ring. You will learn something everytime you go into the arena. Use the experiences to help you grow and improve your skills. Most of all love your horse no matter what because horses are creatures of habit and look to you for guidance.



LEARNING INTENTIONS: *Learning the basics and fundamentals of the showmanship discipline. This will include official rules and guidance in preparing for competition from a judges perspective. It is also important to know the proper equipment and standards for showing in showmanship. Part of showing showmanship is knowledge of patterns and scoring.*

SUCCESS CRITERIA: *You will be able to clearly understand components of showmanship and how to exhibit showmanship patterns, how they are scored, how to prepare and important tips.*

The “P”’s of Showmanship!!!

- ***Precision/position***
- ***Promptness/pace***
- ***Poise***
- ***Personality/pride***
- ***Perform***
- ***Partners***
- ***Pattern***
- ***Practice/prepare***

Showmanship is all about poise. In fact, according to the AQHA Official Handbook of Rules and Regulations, “showmanship is designed to evaluate the exhibitor’s ability to execute, in concert with a well-groomed and conditioned horse, a set of maneuvers prescribed by the judge with precision and smoothness while exhibiting poise and confidence, and maintaining a balanced, functional and fundamentally correct body position.”

SHOWMANSHIP Purpose The showmanship exhibitor is judged on his/her ability to fit, groom, and show an animal at halter. The animal is merely a prop to show the ability of the showman.

Disqualification

1. The exhibitor's failure to control the animal, endangering self or others, as determined by the judge.
2. Unsoundness, as determined by the judge.

RULES from RULEBOOK

Procedures:

1. Individual patterns may be requested.
2. Animals are to be led into the ring at a walk in a counterclockwise direction unless otherwise directed by the judge or ring steward.
3. The animal is to be led from the left side, near the animal's throat latch, with the right hand controlling the animal. The right hand must not hold the chain portion of the lead, nor the bit if showing with a bridle. The excess lead or rein is held in the left hand in a loose coil or completely uncoiled. At no time is the lead or rein to be wrapped around the hand or held in a tight coil.
4. When reversing direction more than 90 degrees, the animal must be turned to the right, with the exhibitor walking around the animal.
5. The exhibitor must show with the lead or curb rein, without kicking or handling the animal to position the feet.
6. The judge must have a clear, unobstructed view of the animal and the exhibitor at all times. The exhibitor must be in a position that enables him/her to watch both the judge and the animal at all times but must not stand directly in front of the animal.
7. For Safety and courtesy, always allow 1 horse length between you and the animal next to you or ahead of you while in the line-up or circling the ring.
8. Type, conformation and quality of the animal are not to be considered. The class is judged strictly on the contestant's ability to fit and show a halter animal: the appearance of the animal, 40%, appearance of exhibitor, 10%, and showing the animal in the ring, 50%.
9. Fitting, grooming, manners, and response to the exhibitor indicate the degree of training and preparation attained by the exhibitor and must be credited accordingly.

ELEMENTS of Showmanship

WALK

TROT

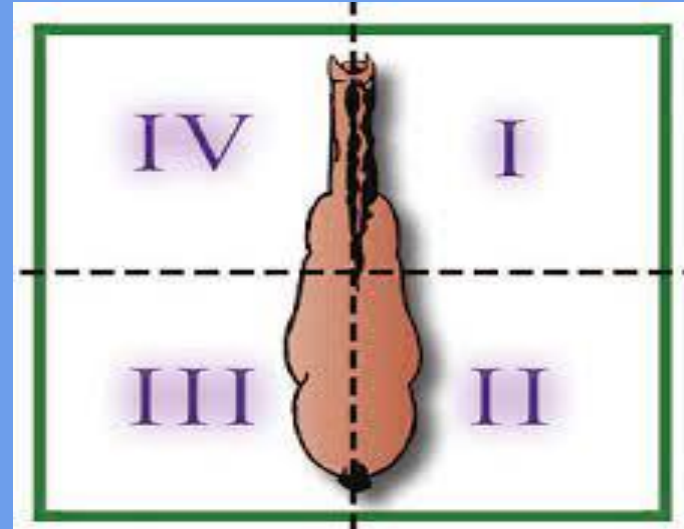
BACK

PIVOT 180, 270, 360

SET-UP/INSPECTION

CROSSOVER

Used during inspection
To give judge the best
view of you and your
Horse.



Equipment

Horse:

- Halter. Western silver, English No silver can be leather or nylon in 4h
- Leather Lead with chain
- Leather Bridle. English 4-H Snaffle bit preferred

Exhibitor Clothing:

- Jacket or Long sleeve. Button down shirt (with or without tie)
- Long boot cut Clean dark colored dress style pants or Jeans
- Boots
- Hat or Helmet
- Belt, buckle
- English: Breeches, boots, coat, blouse, helmet

Gloves are optional

Makeup for ladies - to enhance smile or features

Hair should be clean and pulled back or under hat

No excessive jewelry or big earrings

MORE INFO SEE OFFICIAL RULE BOOKS for guidance



IMPORTANT TIPS:

Horse

- Spray/ Peppi or Show Sheen
- groomed (bathed) mane and tail combed
- Clipped ears optional for 4h Breed appropriate
- Banded optional for 4h
- Braided english optional for 4h
- Fake tails optional
- Hooves cleaned off polished

PLEASE use fly spray

Oil nose and eyes Dark colors only - optional

White spray paint for white legs, socks, chalk, baby powder



PATTERNS

Patterns are posted for exhibitors usually by show office or near stalls
RULE IS THEY MUST BE POSTED NO LESS THAN 30 MINUTES PRIOR TO
CLASS

Cones are used to signal you to perform each element

Usually it is a show and go method. Competitors show the pattern one a a time for each class. Once completed you are excused to leave arena. Sometimes you show to a ring steward.

[Link to sample patterns:](#)

EXAMPLE VIDEOS

Video



AQHA Judge Holly Hover walks us through the showmanship pattern at the AQHYA World Championship Show and why the exhibitor is worthy of winning the championship.

CLOSING

REMEMBER 4h does a Danish judging system that where competitors are not competing against others in the class. You are judged individually for qualification to a state competition. Blues are given to the competitor that can demonstrate their knowledge and skill level of the discipline. It is a representation of your club and county.

- *THE TIME YOU PUT INTO PRACTICING IS IMPORTANT FOR PREPARING FOR THE SHOW RING. JUDGES CAN TELL WHAT KIND OF TIME YOU PUT INTO YOUR PRACTICE!!!*
- *PERFECT PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT NOT PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT*
- *FRUSTRATION BEGINS WHERE KNOWLEDGE ENDS!!! (don't be afraid to do things in smaller portions. Don't feel like you have to have perfect all at once!*

QUESTIONS?



I am available for advice:

captankid188@yahoo.com

Cell # 262-880-1352

(I do have a zoom link as well if needed)

You can send video of you doing a pattern or email text specific questions

I can give you some tips and tricks to Improve

Feel free to reach out for feedback

RESOURCES

[AQHA](#)

[APHA](#)

[APtHA Wisconsin](#)

[WISCONSIN STATE HORSE COUNCIL](#)

[UW extension 4h](#)

[Horse Show Patterns](#)