

PERFORMANCE HORSE MEMBER MANUAL

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL, HUMAN, AND NATURAL RESOURCE SCIENCES
WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY • PULLMAN

WASHINGTON 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT POLICY FOR PROTECTIVE HEADGEAR USE IN THE 4-H EQUINE PROGRAM

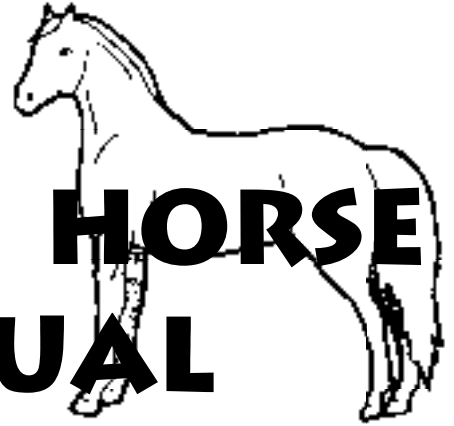
Washington State University Extension recommends that 4-H youth who participate in the 4-H Equine Program wear protective headgear when they work with, are around, drive, or are mounted on a horse, pony, or mule.

All Washington 4-H youth participating in Western Games, Hunt Seat Over Fences, Rodeo, Team Penning, and Team Roping Projects and activities will wear American Society of Testing Materials (ASTM) and Safety Engineering Institute (SEI) #1163 equestrian approved protective headgear, properly fitted and with a chin strap, when mounted and riding in 4-H horse riding activities.

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PERFORMANCE HORSE MEMBER MANUAL



PURPOSES

Develop leadership, initiative, sportsmanship, and responsibility.

Develop self-reliance and patience by working daily with your animal.

Learn cooperation as one member of a horse and rider team, and by sharing your experiences with others.

Learn to accept reality; in a performance situation, there can be only one winner, and you may not have done as well as you expected.

Learn to work with other 4-H'ers and leaders.

Learn to show and handle horses safely.

Learn to keep good records and use them to make management decisions.

Learn about performance equipment and its care.

Learn show ring rules and etiquette.

Learn to show courtesy to the public, judges, show and fair officials, and other competitors.

Learn to appreciate riding as a safe, healthy, wholesome form of recreation.

Learn to care for and manage a performance horse.

Develop speaking ability by expressing your ideas before groups in demonstrations, judging contests, and other activities.

Learn to be a versatile horse person.

Experience the pride of being able to take care of and show your 4-H animal.

Enjoy and benefit from the experience of being an active member of a 4-H club or 4-H program.

REQUIREMENTS

You should have completed, or be currently enrolled in, the Beginning Horsemanship Project.

You may own or lease a horse for this project, but you are ultimately responsible for the daily care and feeding of your project animal. If you board your horse, you may delegate this responsibility to another.

When leasing a horse, make a business-like agreement with the owner; include such things as length of time you are to keep the horse, training, use, feeding, special care, showing, and breeding. Always live up to your part of the bargain.

Two members of the same family may jointly care for and show one animal. If you do this, you may need to make adjustments; for example, two members of the same family may not compete in the same class or compete for the same championship.

You need a saddle, bridle, saddle blanket, halter, lead rope, and grooming tools. You are responsible for the care of this equipment.

Keep a record of your expenses and monies earned, training and riding time, vaccinations, veterinary care, goal setting, etc. Learn the specific rules for the classes you plan to enter.

You may enroll in the project without a horse. This option offers you the opportunity to learn about horse showing, show classes, rules, and procedures. You may wish to share the information you gain with other 4-H members as part of a leadership project.

PLANNING YOUR PROJECT

Plan your project according to the type of horse and style of riding you prefer. Other considerations may be needed if you are showing a green horse or just beginning to show. Basic horse types, styles of riding, preparation for a show, safety rules, and 4-H record keeping are discussed in this publication. Basics of horsemanship (horse behavior, leading, grooming, saddling, bridling, mounting and dismounting, riding position,

and controlling the horse) are covered in *Beginning Horsemanship*, EM4842.

Many people can help you plan and carry out your project: parents, 4-H leader, county extension agent, other 4-H leaders, teen leaders, club members, breed associations, local horse groups, trainers, breeders, horse show judges, farriers, and veterinarians. Attending 4-H or open shows in your area will also help you plan the goals you wish to work toward. Above all, plan to have fun!

KEEPING 4-H RECORDS

Your record book is important. Some fairs and shows require it. A completed record book may be required before you can receive your year pin. It also may be required when you apply for a 4-H trip, grant, or scholarship.

Keeping accurate records can help you see your progress, decide what shows to enter, and help you keep track of your expenses, income, and riding time. Keep your records up to date. It is easier to work on records consistently, keeping them current, than to try to catch up at the end of the year.

HORSE TYPES

A horse type is not a breed, although each breed tends to produce animals of a particular type. Type is determined by the conformation of an individual animal, making it suitable for a particular purpose. There are three basic

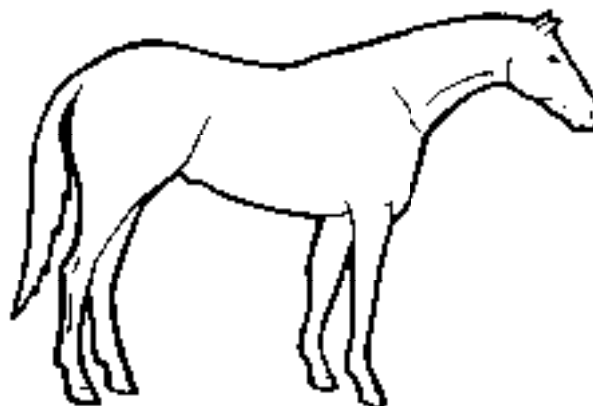


Figure 1. Hunter Type

types of riding horses or ponies—hunter, saddle, and stock. These three types encompass many breeds.

HUNTER TYPE

Tall, long legs, long neck; most have long, low, efficient strides; stamina and ability for lengthy gallops. They are used for hunting, jumping, and cross-country riding. Race horses and steeplechasers are also hunter types. A typical hunter breed is the Thoroughbred.

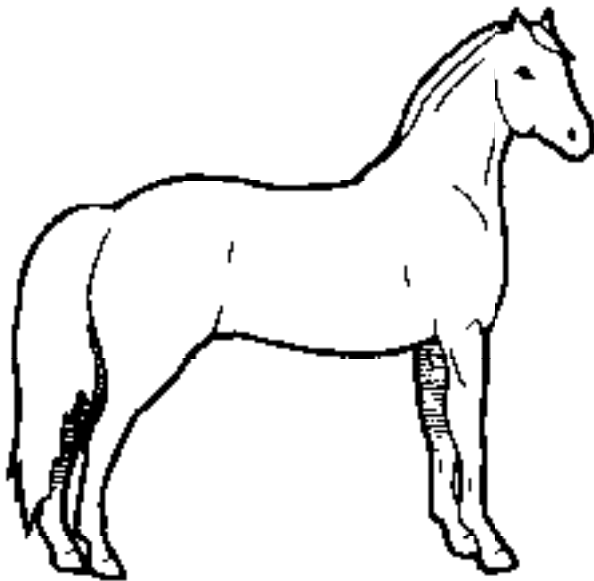


Figure 2. Saddle Type

SADDLE TYPE

Head carried proudly, refinement, grace, and quality; well-proportioned body, attractive carriage; showy gait action. Should be pleasant to ride. Used for show, park, and pleasure riding. Typical breeds are the American Saddlebred, Morgan, Arabian, and Tennessee Walking Horse.

STOCK TYPE

Well-balanced and muscular; close-coupled and built “close to the ground”; massive forearm and hindquarter muscle for sprinting ability, power, and agility. The best can “turn on a dime and give you back a nickel change.” Used for roping, working cattle, cutting trails, pleasure riding, and events requiring speed

and balance. Typical breeds are the American Quarter Horse, Paint, and Appaloosa.

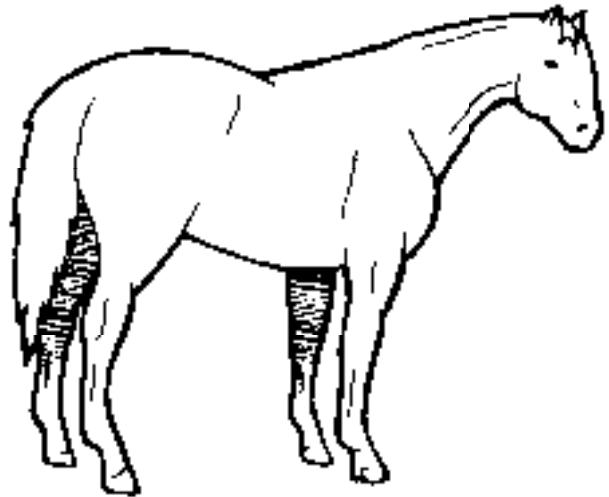


Figure 3. Stock Type

GAITS

Your horse should have good gaits. Conformation defects of the legs, shoulders, and hindquarters will produce a horse with hard or rough gaits. Most horses have three natural gaits—walk, trot, and gallop. The rack and slow gaits of the American Saddlebred, the running walk of the Tennessee Walking Horse, and the pace of the Standardbred may be natural or acquired gaits. A natural gait is one performed by natural impulse and without training. An acquired gait is the result of specific training and practice. The acquired gaits are the rack and slow gaits. The slow gaits may include the stepping pace, running walk, fox trot, and amble.

Some horses do not trot naturally; instead they perform an intermediate gait. For example, the Tennessee Walking Horse performs at a flat-footed walk, running walk, and canter—never a trot. Paso Fino horses do not trot. Morgan horses sometimes do a single-foot instead of a trot. In most 4-H classes, the horse or rider will not be penalized for not performing a trot if the horse does not trot naturally.

Each gait should be executed in a smooth, collected manner, with action that is not excessive or labored. Certain breeds naturally

have more action than others. For example, the American Saddlebred will have more action at the walk and trot than the Quarter Horse.

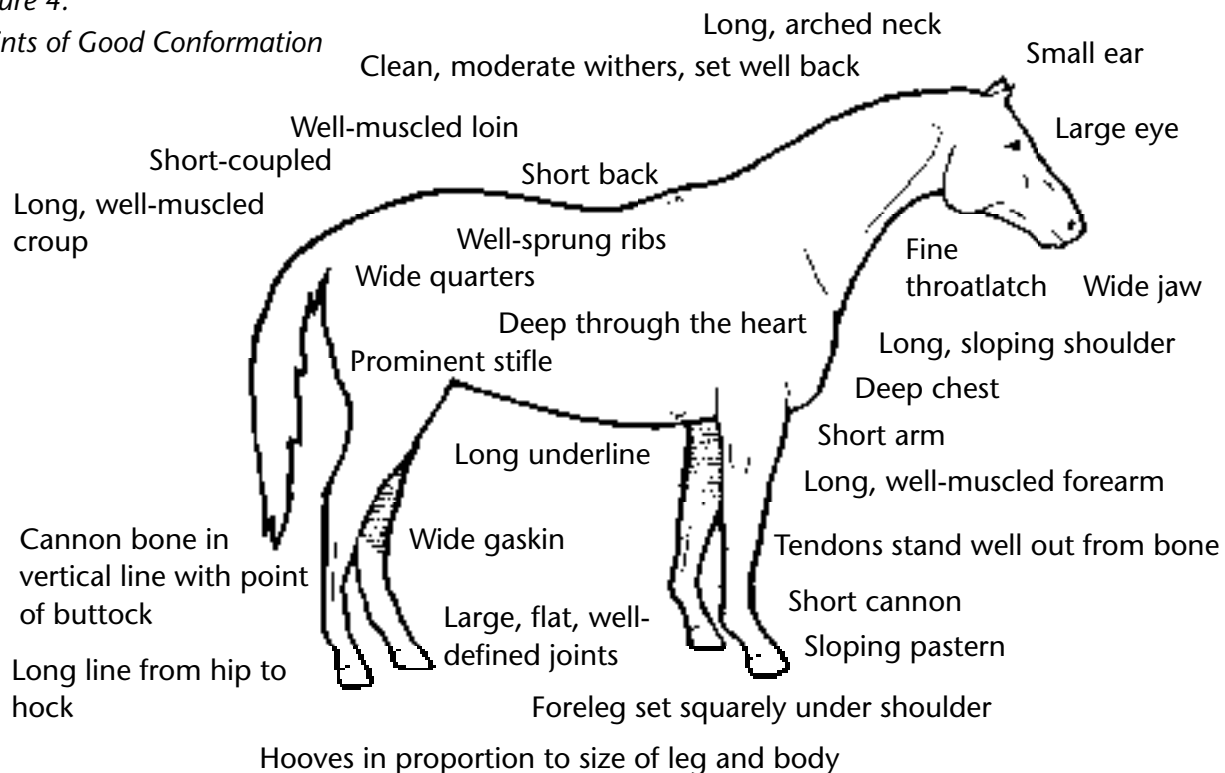
Take into consideration the gaits your horse has and the way they are executed in planning your show activity.

CONFORMATION

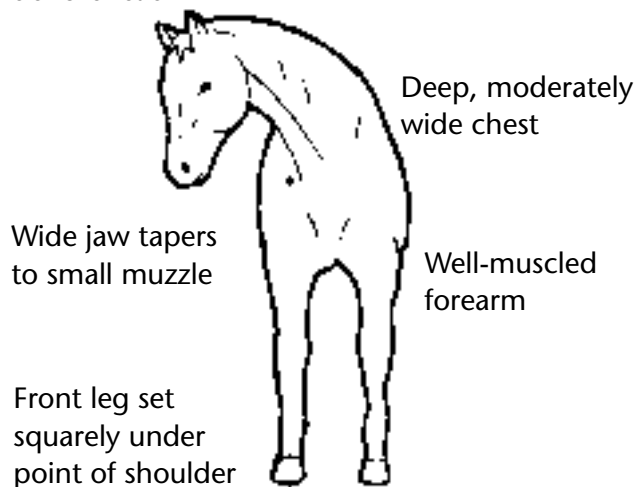
Regardless of the type of horse you choose, look for one with good basic conformation. The horse should have balance and symmetry, with all parts blending together in correct proportions. Your horse should have substance, quality, and refinement.

Figure 4.

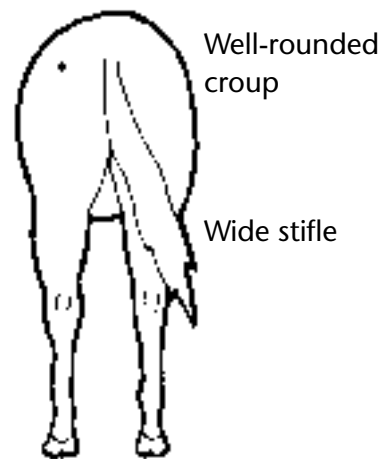
Points of Good Conformation



Wide forehead



Forelegs straight and parallel

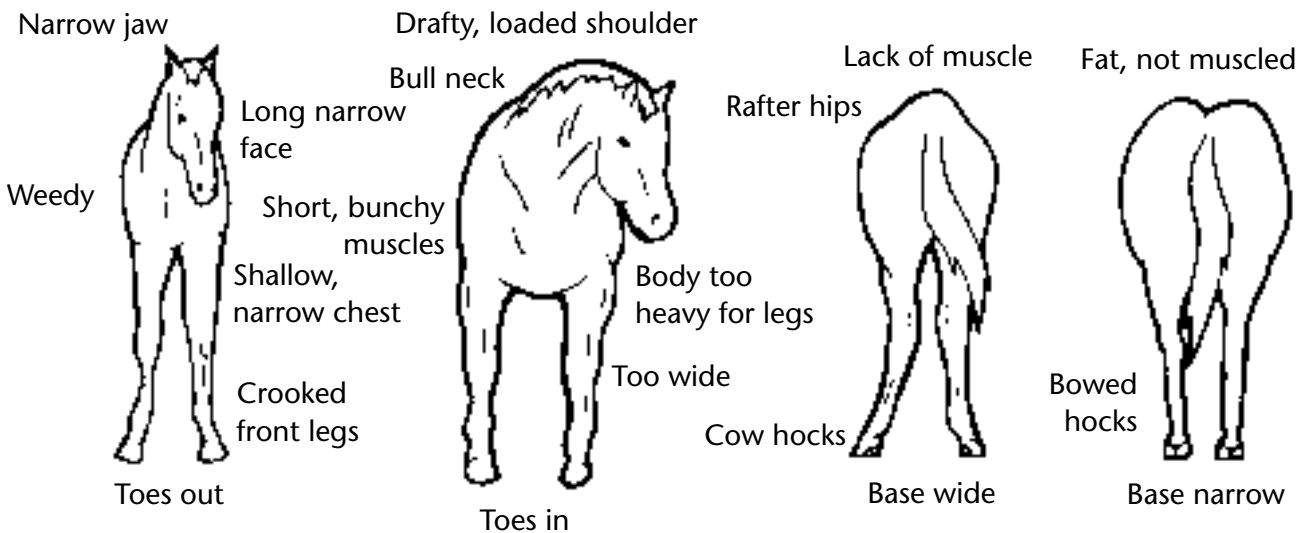
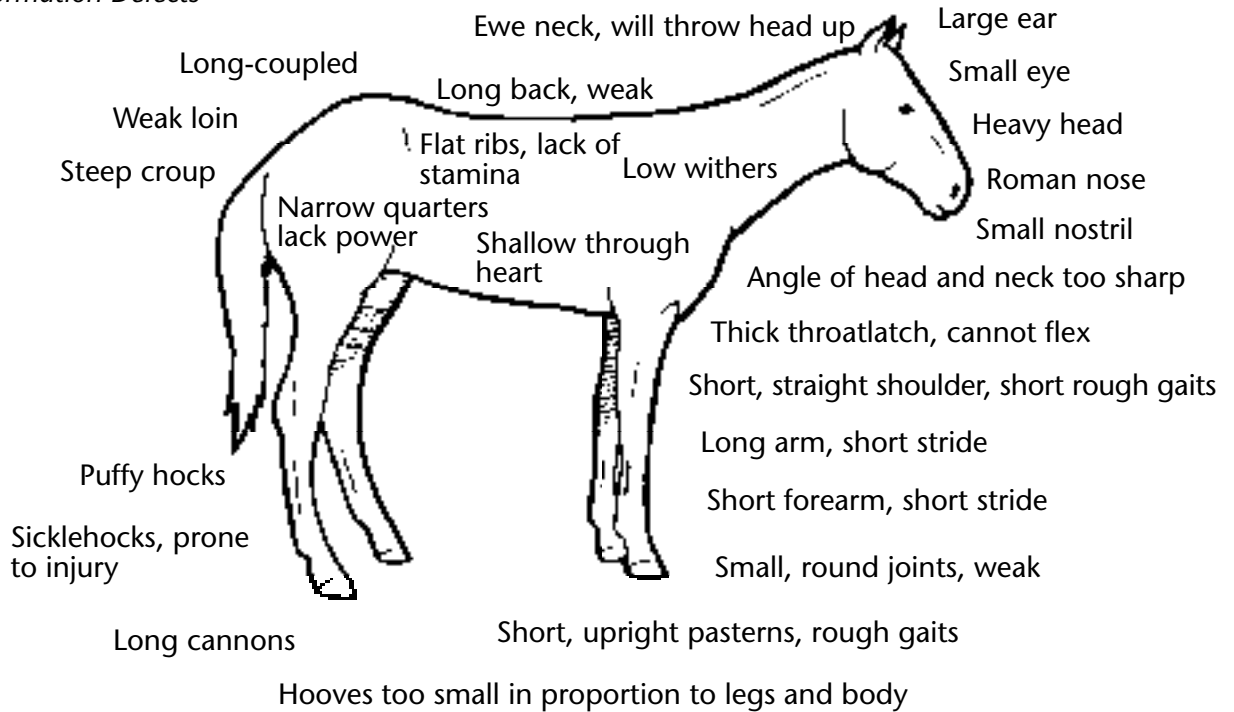


Hind legs set straight and parallel, not too wide

Poor conformation can cause problems; for example: (1) lack of proper proportions in the leg will often result in an animal that has short strides, rough gaits, weak legs, and is prone to

leg injuries; (2) a parrot mouth, with upper teeth that extend over lower teeth, may interfere with eating. Figure 5 illustrates conformation defects to avoid.

Figure 5.
Conformation Defects



SHOWMANSHIP

The purpose of showmanship classes is to teach you courtesy, good grooming, poise, confidence, and how to fit, train, and handle your horse. Your horse should be well-groomed, clean, well-trained to the required routine, and well-mannered so that it will stand quietly, but alertly, while in the class. Frequently practice leading, turning, stopping, and setting up your horse. Practice times should not be long. Five minutes a day is better than one hour, once a week. A properly trained horse will walk, trot, stop, set up, and turn with little or no "pull" on the lead.

The tack you use to show your horse should be clean and fit well. If you show in hunt attire, you may use either a halter or hunt bridle. If you show in saddle seat attire, you may show with a halter or English show bridle. If you show with the double bridle, you may use either the snaffle or curb reins for leading. The other set of reins are put over the neck near the withers.

When you show in Western attire, you may use a halter, either leather, web, or rope, with a matching lead.

No matter which halter you use, make sure that it fits properly and has a throatlatch (Fig. 6).

Crops and whips are prohibited.

Lead shanks with chains attached are permissible if they are used properly. The chain may be run through the ring on the side of the halter and under the chin or over the nose

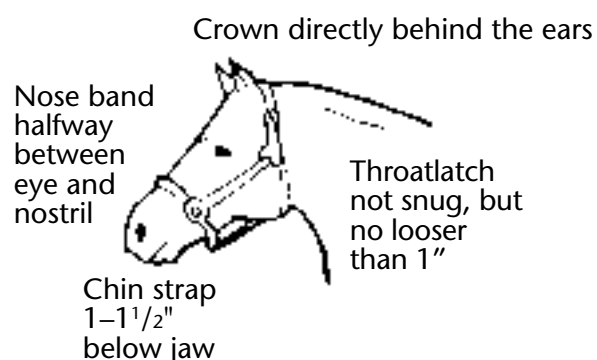


Figure 6. Proper Halter Adjustment

to the other side. With a very long chain, you may run the excess up the off cheek with snaffle facing out.

When leading your horse, do not put your hand on the chain. A chain approximately 15 to 24 inches is long enough. Don't yank or jerk on the lead shank if you have a chain under your horse's jaw or over your horse's nose. A chain is a poor substitute for good training.

CLASS PROCEDURE

When entering the ring, walk on the left side of your horse at about the throatlatch area. Hold the lead shank 8 to 18 inches from the halter with your right hand and carry the loose end folded in your left hand, not coiled around your hand (Fig. 7). Walk briskly in the direction the ringmaster or judge tells you. The horse should travel with its throatlatch even with your shoulder (Fig. 8). Keep at least one horse length behind the horse in front of you. When you line up as directed by the judge, ring secretary, or announcer, keep enough room for the judge to pass between the horses and have a good view of your horse.



Figure 7. Holding the Lead Shank

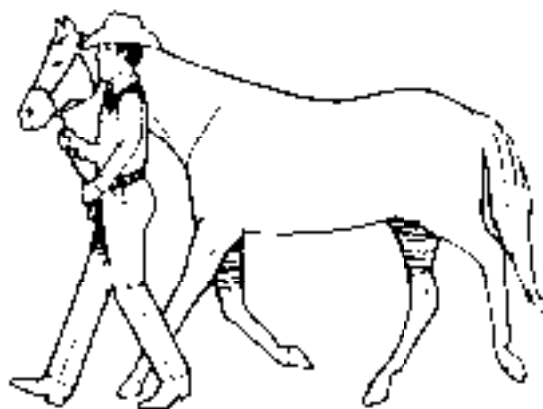


Figure 8. Leading Position

Set your horse up with all four feet square or according to breed type, with its head up and its weight on all four feet. Keep the horse alert and posed at all times. When the judge inspects your horse, respond to his or her movements with the “quartering system” (Fig. 9). Mentally divide the horse into four quarters. When the judge is in the right front quarter, you are on the left front quarter of the horse, keeping an eye on the judge. When the judge is in the back right quarter, you are in the front right quarter watching the judge. When the judge moves to the front, step around the horse’s head quickly and quietly, using three or four steps. The objective is for you to be in the quarter adjacent to the judge’s position.

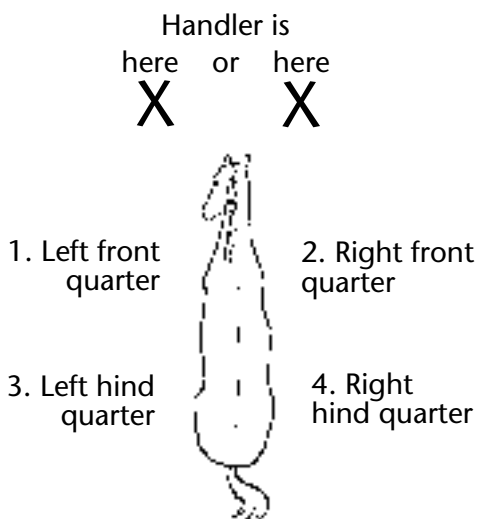


Figure 9. Quartering System

When turning your horse 90 degrees or less, the horse may be turned to the left. For turns more than 90 degrees, always walk around your horse to the right.

Move quietly and promptly with as little commotion as possible. Never stand directly in front of your horse in the danger zone (Fig. 10).

If your horse moves out of position in line, move it back quietly, so as not to disturb other horses in the line. Don’t wave your hat, throw shavings, or wave your arms to keep your horse’s attention. Such actions will result in a lower score from the judge.

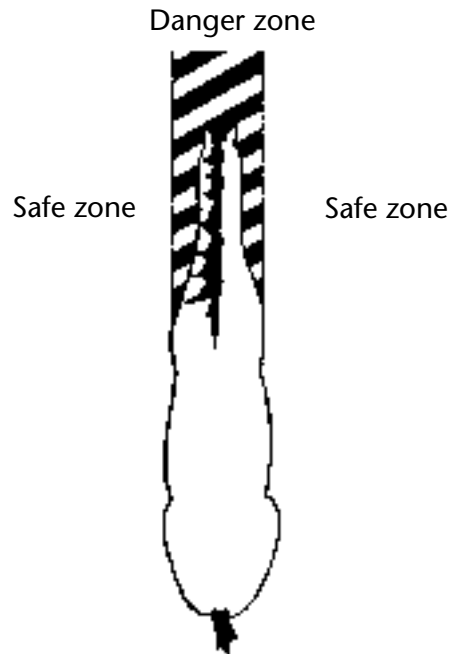


Figure 10. Danger Zone

When asked for your individual performance, walk briskly toward the judge, unless otherwise instructed. Stop your horse at least 5 to 7 feet directly in front of the judge. There are several ways to conduct individual workouts. (Listen carefully to the judge’s instructions and follow them exactly.) Here is an example: (1) walk out of line, to the judge; then set up the horse for inspection; (2) walk away from the judge in a straight line, at least 20 feet; (3) pause slightly, immediately turn horse to right and walk around horse in a tight turn, holding it back slightly so it pivots on its hindquarters; (4) with turn completed, pause slightly, immediately trot toward the judge in a straight line; (5) stop the horse at least 5 feet from the judge; (6) set up the horse for inspection; (7) face the judge and wait for dismissal.

ADDITIONAL TESTS

You may be asked to do these additional tests:

1. Back. Turn and face your horse on the near side (do not change hands). Without touching your horse, back at least four steps (or number requested by judge).
2. Side-pass. You should be able to side-pass your horse from the ground in either direction. You may use your hand on the horse’s barrel.

3. Turn on haunches (forward motion preferred). You may not touch the horse with your hand.
4. Turn on the forehand (forward motion preferred). You may use your hand to ask the horse to move the hindquarters. You will need to change hands on the lead when on the off side.
5. Lead at the walk or trot from either side.
6. Pick up feet.
7. Stop and setup, square and balanced or according to breed standard. Do not exchange hands to set-up.
8. Answer questions from project materials.
9. Explain the use of grooming tools.

Other possible tests are listed in the Fitting and Showing Rules section in this publication.

GROOMING

Grooming methods differ for different breeds of horses. Refer to *Beginning Horsemanship*, EM4842, for information on basic grooming. See Table 1 (p. 54) for a summary of grooming and set-up preferences.

GROOMING BY BREED OR BREED TYPE

Be aware of the correct style of grooming for your breed or breed type in fitting and showing or riding classes.

AMERICAN SADDLEBRED

Show pleasure horses with full mane and full natural tail; forelock and first lock of mane may be braided for English classes. Five-gaited horses are shown with full mane and set, full tail; forelock and first lock of mane braided (Fig. 11). Three-gaited horses are shown with forelock and mane roached; set, clipped tail (Fig. 12).

STOCK TYPE

These include the Quarter Horse, Paint, Pinto (stock type), and Appaloosa. Show these breeds with a shortened (pulled), roached mane or a natural length mane, and a natural length tail (Fig. 13).

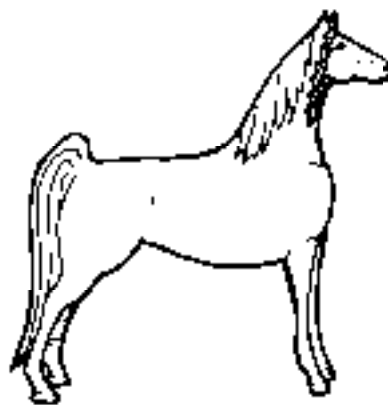


Figure 11. Five-Gaited American Saddlebred

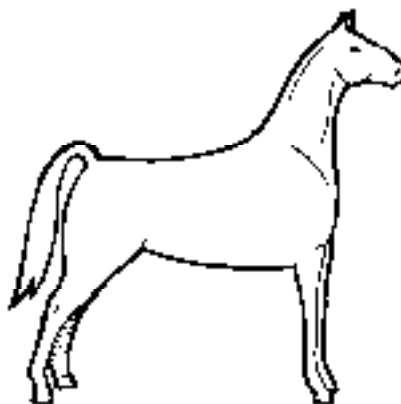


Figure 12. Three-Gaited American Saddlebred

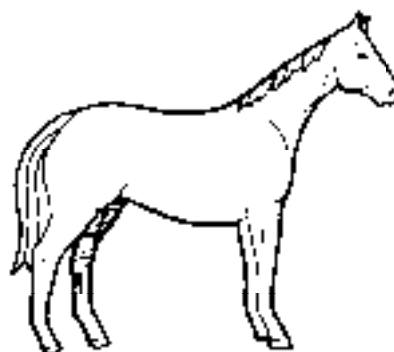


Figure 13. Stock Type

SADDLE TYPE

Saddle types are Arabian, Morgan, Half-Arabian, Palomino, Pinto (saddle type). These breeds are shown with full, natural manes and natural, unset tails (Fig. 14).



Figure 14. Arabian Horse

TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE

The forelock and first lock of the mane are braided. Pleasure classes do not allow a set tail (Fig. 15).



Figure 15. Tennessee Walking Horse

THOROUGHBRED OR HUNTER TYPE

The mane may be left full or pulled and shortened. The tail is left long and full. You may braid the mane and tail as a hunter when showing in Hunt Seat classes (Fig. 16).

WELSH PONY, SHETLAND PONY, CONNEMARA

Generally, pony breeds are shown with full natural manes and tails.

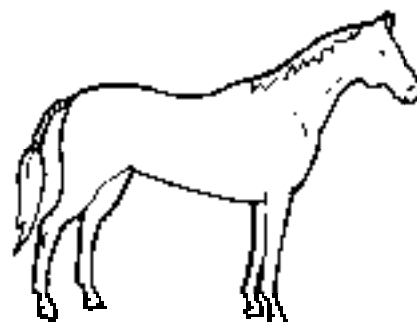


Figure 16. Thoroughbred

GRADE HORSES AND PONIES

Groom your grade horse or pony according to its type. If your horse resembles a stock type and you are showing in Western classes, you may wish to shorten the mane. If you have a horse resembling the Arabian, leave the mane and tail full and natural. Use your own discretion.

Many trimming and grooming variations exist based on breed type and practicality. For example, a horse that spends time in a pasture should not have inside ear hair trimmed out because it protects ears from summer insects.

Following is a review of the typical trimming done to prepare a horse or pony for fitting and showing.

LEGS

Clip fetlocks and legs closely (white legs are sometimes "booted-up").

Trim edges of hair above coronet band short.

Carefully cut off "chestnuts" (horny, insensitive growths found inside and above the knees and hocks) close to skin. They are softer after bathing.

Ergots (small, horny growths at the back of the fetlock) may have to be snipped off close to skin with scissors to allow close clipping of fetlock hair.

MANE

Train the mane to lie smoothly on one side.

Clip a bridle path just behind the poll. Length varies by breed and/or conformation. Some

breeds discourage a bridle path. It is not required.

Pull the mane or leave it long and natural.

Braiding is allowed, but not generally used, in Western or Saddle Seat.

Banding is acceptable.

HEAD

Trim the long hair between the jaws and under the throat closely.

If you choose to clip the whiskers, keep them cut short. The hair above the eyes may be cut to 1–2 inches. The long whiskers of the muzzle and above the eyes serve the horse as a warning system when something is close to its face or eyes, especially in the dark. If your horse is pastured most of the time, it is best to leave the whiskers about 1 inch long. Never clip the hairs inside the nostrils or the eyelashes. These are essential for the horse's safety and comfort.

Trim the outside ears, leaving the points on. Trimming the inside ears is optional; pastured horses should not have inside hair clipped out—only clipped even with the outside of the ear.

TAIL

Leave as long and full as it will grow. Bushy tails may be thinned and pulled somewhat.

The tail may be banded for hunters.

Disguising Conformation Faults

Careful clipping can help disguise conformation faults. For example:

- Thick legs can appear more refined by clipping closely along the contours of the tendons.
- A thick throat looks thinner when clipped closely underneath and when the horse has a slightly longer than average bridle path.
- A blemish, such as a thickened tendon or large ankle, can be minimized by clipping less closely over the blemish and blending the clipped hair at the knee.

- White markings look whiter when clipped closely (but not so close that "clipper stripes" are left or that the pink skin shows).
- A Roman nose or big ears can be minimized by a larger forelock.
- A thin neck may look heavier with a little extra mane.
- Thinning and slimming the top of the tail can make hindquarters appear wider.

HOW TO TRIM

You will need electric clippers, hand clippers, or a comb and a pair of sharp fetlock scissors with curved blades. Electric clippers are easiest to use and have the best results; however, a fairly good job can be done with scissors and comb and a lot of patience.

The following clipper blades are recommended: #10 for general clipping; #15 for finer clipping; and #40 (surgical blade) for "sharper" ears and bridle path.

If you use scissors, use a comb to lift the hair and snip it off to give a smoother surface and protect the horse from an accidental jab. Hand clippers are hard to operate, tiring to use, and do not blend well.

LEGS

If using electric clippers, use a #10 or #15 blade. You may trim the direction of the hair or "boot-up," which means clipping against the hair growth.

Trimming. (#15 blade recommended). Trim the excess hair from the lower legs by pointing the clippers down and running them lightly and evenly down the leg with the hair growth. Repeat several times, being careful to lift the blades gradually at the end of each stroke. This thins and removes the excess hair, but does not change the color of the clipped areas.

To trim the fetlock, pick up the hoof and run the clippers around and under the bulge of the fetlock joint.

Reverse the clippers and trim the hair at the coronet band by clipping upward, making an even edge all around the hoof.

Booting-up. (#10 blade recommended). Clip against the direction of the hair, blending carefully below the knee and hock.

EARS

Hold in one hand and clip outer edges. Clip downward on the upper part and upward along the lower curve of the ear. To leave a natural point, do not clip the tips.

The inner ear hair can be trimmed even with the edges to give a neater appearance without removing the inner ear hair. If you clip the inside of the ear, first place a large piece of cotton in the ear to keep hair from falling down inside. Brush the inside of the ear clean before removing the cotton.

MUZZLE

If you decide to remove the whiskers, first use the #10 blade. They can then be clipped even closer by using #40 or finishing carefully with a safety razor. It is not required that you completely remove the whiskers.

JAW

Use a #10 blade and clip against the direction of the hair growth. Do not clip the cheek or jowl because it will change the color of the hair.

BRIDLE PATH

Use a #15 or #40 blade (#40 gives the neatest, closest trim). Clip forward to prevent the bridle path from getting longer each time it is trimmed.

EQUITATION

The three basic seats are Hunter, Saddle, and Stock. You may also ride bareback in all of these types. Dressage has its own distinctive style of seat. The body position in all seats is basically the same. The equitation rider is judged on seat, hands, legs, and balance. The response of the horse to the rider, temperament of horse to rider, and attitude of horse may also be considered by a judge.

HUNT SEAT EQUITATION

Hunt Seat Equitation is designed for cross-country riding and jumping at free forward gaits. The stirrups are shorter than in other seats.

Sit with the head and eyes up, and the body slightly forward, a couple of degrees in front of vertical. Keep your back and make a straight line from elbow to the bit with your arms. The hands are held slightly above and slightly in front of the withers. The knees are bent, with the calves in contact with the horse. The heels are down and the ankles relaxed (Fig. 17).

Sit in the saddle at the walk, incline forward to post the trot with a slightly forward motion, and return to nearly vertical at the canter. When a sitting trot is asked for, (slow the horse slightly) sit upright as at the walk. At the hand gallop, the body has the same inclination as at the posting trot. When jumping or galloping, lean forward, seat out of the saddle, in a two-point or half-seat position so your center of gravity is over the horse's center of gravity.

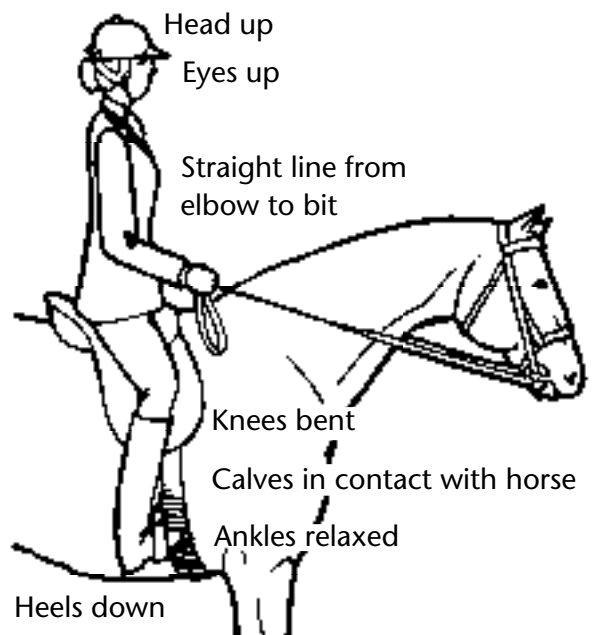


Figure 17. Hunt Seat Position

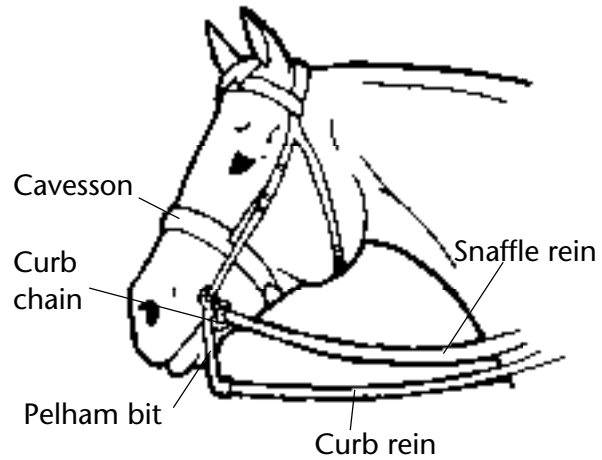
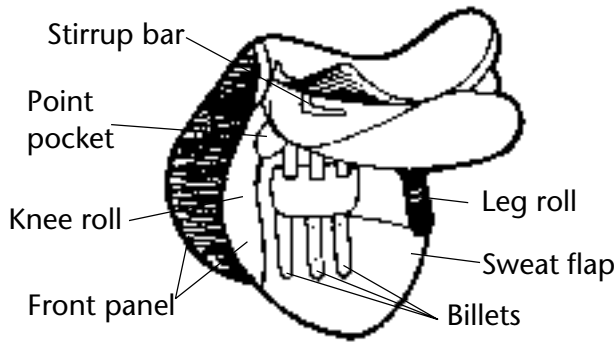
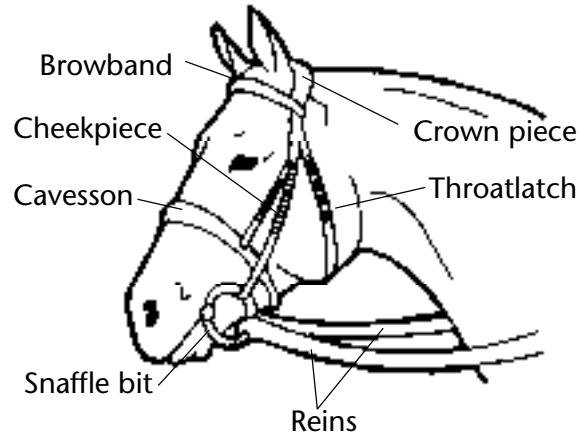
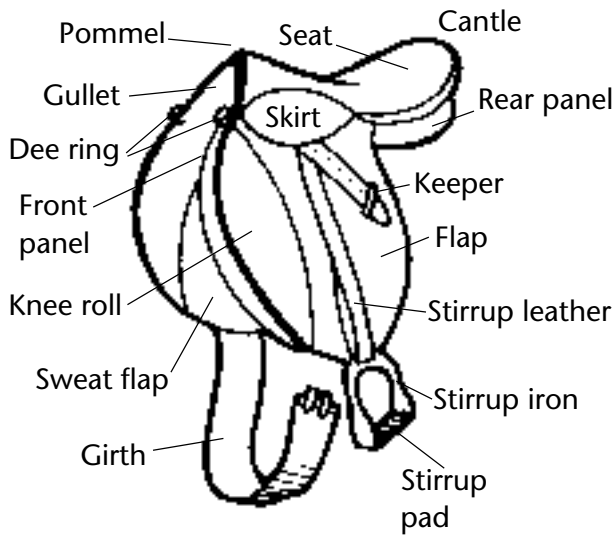


Figure 18. Hunt Seat Saddles

HUNT SEAT TACK

Jumping saddle or all-purpose saddle, which may have knee rolls (Fig. 18).

A snaffle, Kimberwick, Pelham, or full double bridle, with a cavesson or dropped noseband (Fig. 19).

Martingales and tie-downs are optional in Over-Fence classes, but are prohibited in Flat classes.

HUNT SEAT ATTIRE

- Turtleneck sweater, long-sleeved tailored shirt, or ratcatcher
- Pants, breeches or jodhpurs
- Tall boots with pants or breeches tucked in, or jodhpur boots with jodhpur pants, or half chaps
- ASTM-SEI equestrian-approved helmet

Dropped nose band

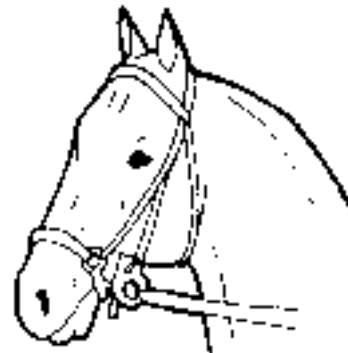


Figure 19. Hunt Seat Bridles

You may wear a stock tie and pin and a hunt coat in a dark or conservative color (Fig. 20). Be sure your stirrup irons aren't too narrow. There should be at least $\frac{1}{2}$ inch of extra width beside your boots in the stirrups. Crops or bats are optional, but may not be longer than 3 feet. Spurs are optional, but must be English style.



ASTM-SEI-approved headgear

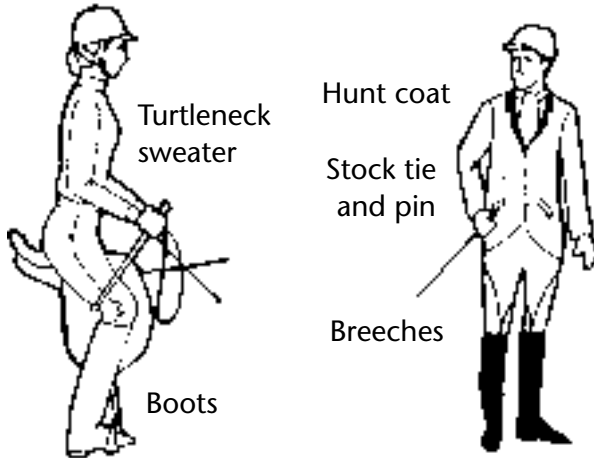


Figure 20. Hunt Seat Attire

HOLDING THE REINS

Use both hands on the reins. The method of holding the reins is optional and the ends of the reins may fall on either side.

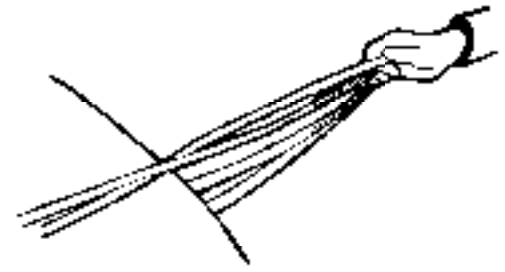
Single reins are used with a snaffle or Kimberwick. Laced or braided reins are often used for a better grip. The rein generally goes between the ring finger and the little finger.

Some bridles have "double reins." In this case, the wider reins go to the snaffle or upper bit ring. The narrow reins go to the curb rings.

How to Address (Pick Up) the Reins (Fig. 21).

- (1) Take up all four reins at the buckle in right hand.
- (2) While retaining reins in right hand, insert all four reins through fingers in left hand and slide hand down to the horse's neck.
- (3) Release reins with right hand and reach down to take up right reins. Separate the curb and snaffle with the little finger, snaffle on outside.
- (4) Release right reins from left hand. Keep your thumbs on the reins to prevent slipping.

(1)



(2)



(3)



(4)



Figure 21. Addressing the Reins

Position of Reins while Mounting. When mounting, begin as in Step 1 above. Then separate the reins as in Step 2, with the reins in the left hand, or simply gather the reins in the left hand, then "address" the reins after mounting.

OVER FENCES

Jumping your horse can be fun, but do not attempt it until you are an experienced Hunt Seat rider. A qualified leader or adult should

teach you how to jump. Start low and learn to jump at the trot before jumping at the canter.

Balance is very important in jumping. Using a cavaletti (a series of poles or low jumps an equal distance apart) will steady a horse's stride and strengthen your position and balance (Fig. 22).

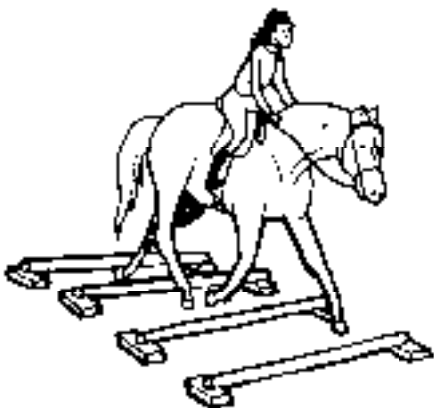


Figure 22. Cavaletti

If you are not balanced, you may be "left behind" and fall behind the motion of the horse (Fig. 23). The horse is "punished" in the mouth and back and its hind legs may be knocked into the fence, resulting in a stiff, painful landing. Hold the mane or a neck strap while learning, to avoid accidental abuse to the horse's mouth. Reins should be slightly slack.

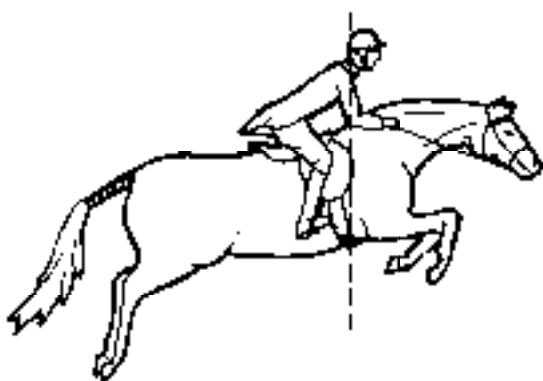


Figure 23. Center of Gravity

Over-Fences Classes. Refer to the following examples of jumps (Figs. 24, 25, 26). When approaching a fence, the horse judges the point at which it intends to take off by looking at the line at the base of the fence, called a

ground line. In order to jump with success, a horse must take off at the correct spot. A fence that rests on the ground has a distinct ground line. A single rail has no ground line and this makes it a difficult fence. A horse is inclined to take off from a point too close to the fence. Only take a jump from the "approach side" of the fence.

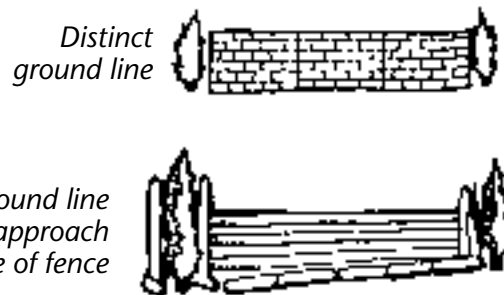


Figure 24. Ground Lines

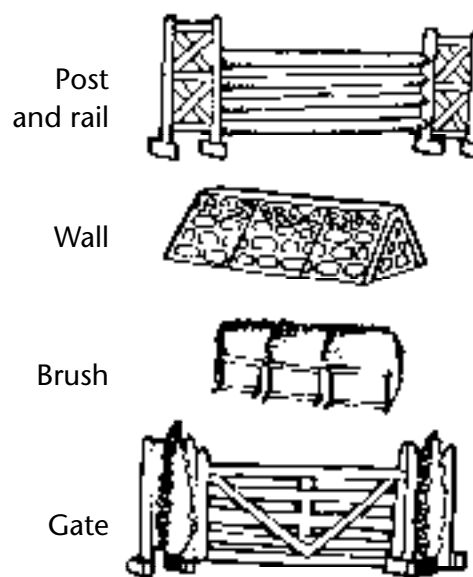


Figure 25. Typical Straight Fences

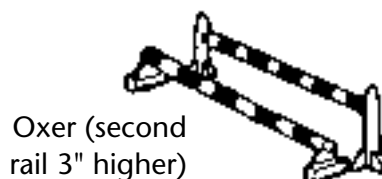


Figure 26. Typical Spread Fence

BRAIDING HUNTERS

Hunters are customarily braided for neatness and to enhance the line of the neck. Braiding can greatly improve appearance, especially with a coarse, bushy mane, but it must be done correctly. It is better to leave a mane clean and unbraided than to braid it sloppily. French braiding is permitted on horses with naturally full manes, for example, the Arabian.

Braiding Procedure (Fig. 27). Separate a 2- to 4-inch segment of mane; wet with a sponge and comb. Separate the segment into three equal strands, and braid two-thirds of the way to the end. Keep the braid very tight, especially at the beginning.

Lay a 10-inch piece of yarn behind the braid; add the ends to two of the strands of hair and keep braiding. Separate yarn ends from hair; wrap around braid and pull through tightly. Thread both yarn ends through a needle; sew up through top of braid, around left side, and up through again. Repeat on other side of braid. Separate yarn ends. Wrap yarn ends around and tie in center; cut ends short. Braids may also be fastened with two rubber bands; use a size #8. Other braiding techniques include scallops, sewn-in button braids, continental, and French braiding.

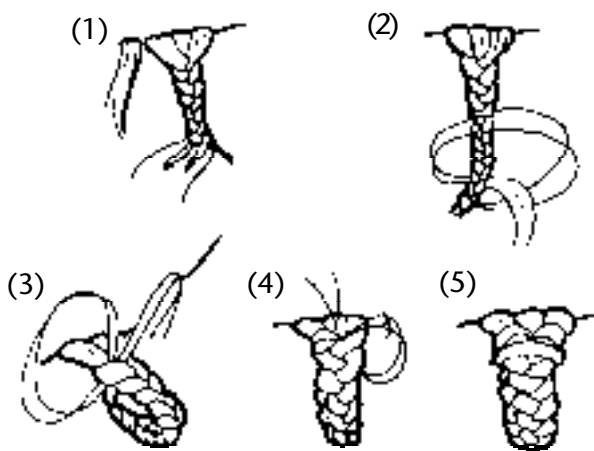


Figure 27. Braiding a Mane



Figure 28. French Braiding

French Braiding This type of braiding is done on horses that have long manes that you don't want to cut or pull short. (1) Braid is started as a 3-strand braid. (2) When braid has reached the desired level, begin adding a 1- to 2-inch section of mane each time the left side of the braid is crossed to the center. (3) Secure braid with a rubber band or yarn.

To achieve a raised look, use the same procedure, but go under each strand rather than over.

Braiding a Tail. Tails are braided for neatness and to show off the hindquarters and legs (Fig. 29). To get the effect of a raised braid, go under each strand, rather than over as in normal braiding.

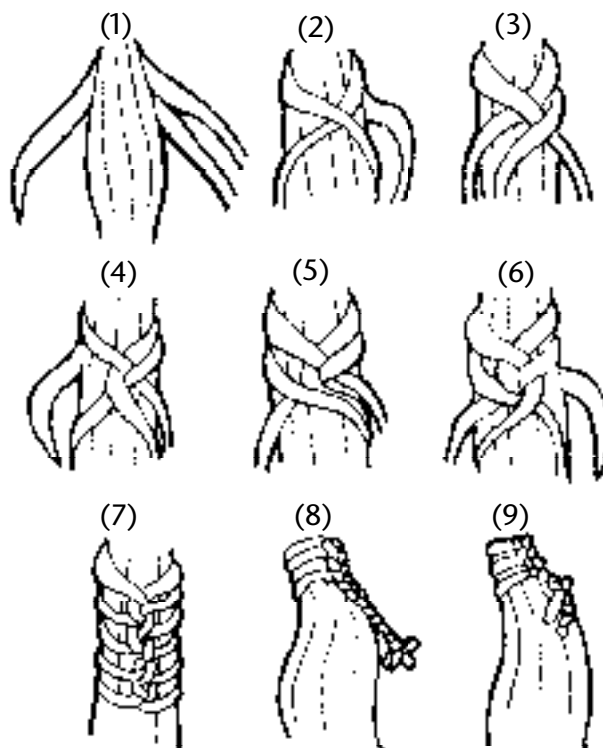


Figure 29. Braiding a Tail

SADDLE SEAT EQUITATION

Saddle Seat Equitation was developed primarily for showing three- and five-gaited American Saddlebreds. Now many breeds are shown under English tack in the Saddle Seat manner, two of the most common being the Arabian and the Morgan Horse. You use a basic balanced seat, but are placed further back on the horse for greater collection. The stirrups are longer and the hands are held higher. Posting motion is vertical, not forward (Fig. 30).

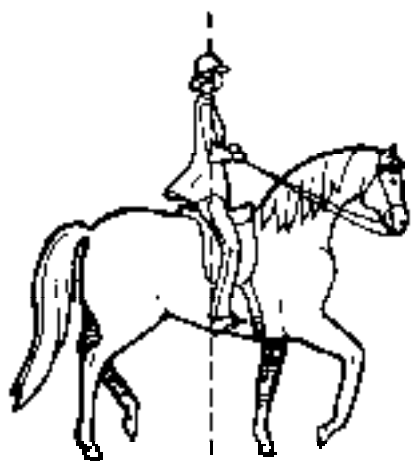


Figure 30. Posting Motion

Sit with head up, body vertical, upper body balanced over legs and shoulders and back straight. The hands are held about waist high, wrists slightly bent, fingers relaxed, and knuckles turned in at about a 30-degree angle. The thighs are rolled inward, knees are flat on the saddle, and the stirrups on the balls of the feet. The lower legs must rotate out away from the horse's sides to keep the knees flat on the saddle (Fig. 31).

SADDLE SEAT TACK

Cutback, park, or flat saddle without knee rolls (Fig. 32).

Leather or web girth.

Full double (Weymouth) bridle, Pelham bridle, or breed appropriate bit. (Fig. 33).

Martingales and tiedowns are prohibited.

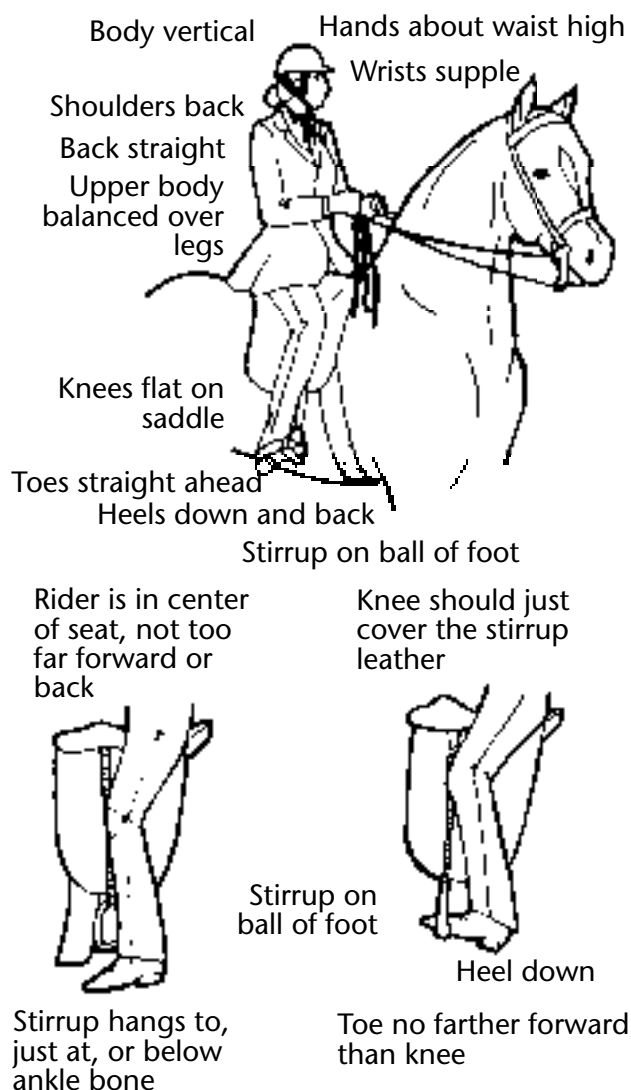


Figure 31. Saddle Seat Position

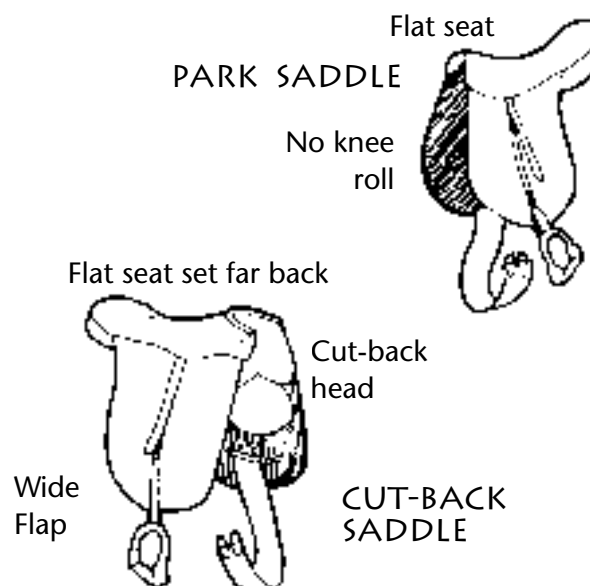


Figure 32. Saddle Seat Saddles

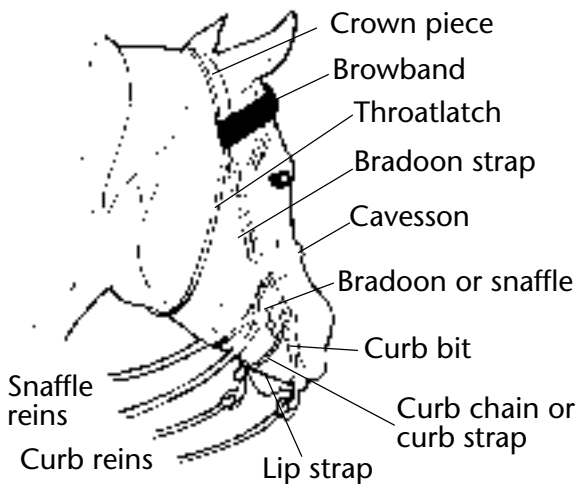
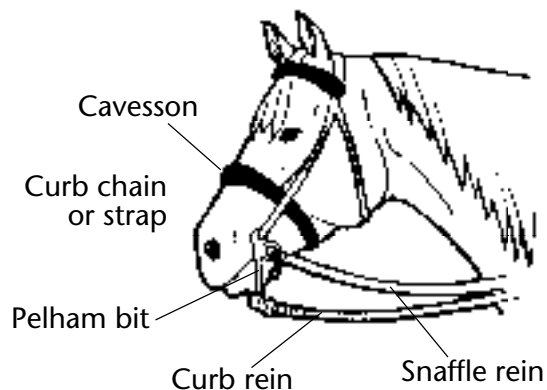


Figure 33. Saddle Seat Bridles

SADDLE SEAT ATTIRE

- Tailored long-sleeved shirt
- Tie
- Pants or Kentucky jodhpurs
- Jodhpur boots (Fig. 34)
- ASTM-SEI equestrian-approved English-style helmet

You may wear a matching coat and jodhpur pants of a dark or conservative color (Fig. 35).



Figure 34. Jodhpur Boots

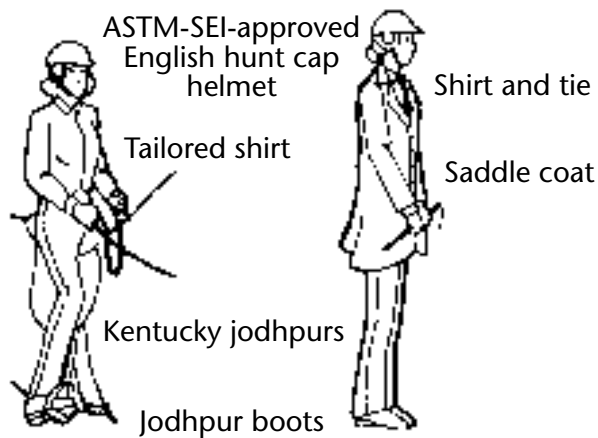


Figure 35. Saddle Seat Attire

Spurs are optional, but must be English style. Whips are optional, but must not be over 48 inches long, including lash.

CHOOSING AN ENGLISH SADDLE

The saddle should fit the rider. Typical seat sizes are:

	Hunter	Saddle Seat or Cut-Back
Youth	14 1/2 – 15"	19 – 19 1/2"
Adult	16 – 18"	20"
Large Adult	18 – 19"	21 – 22"

These sizes may vary because the saddle tree is measured before padding and outer coverings are added. Also, the shape of the seat and its depth can affect how it fits. Always try out a saddle before buying to make sure it fits both you and the horse. Measure an English saddle from the nailhead at the pommel to the center of the cantle (Fig. 36).

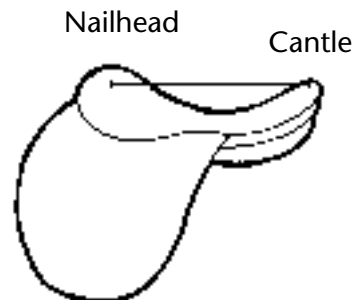


Figure 36. Nailhead/Cantle

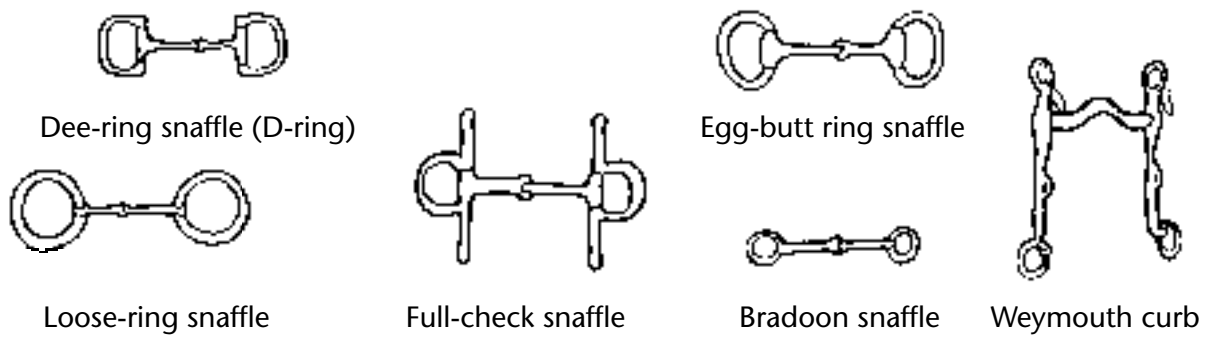


Figure 37. Basic Bits

BASIC ENGLISH BITS

A snaffle bit is any bit that does not have shanks. It is a direct action bit. A snaffle has rings and usually has a jointed mouthpiece (Figs. 37, 38).

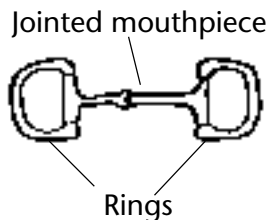


Figure 38. Snaffle Bit

When the reins are pulled the bit applies direct pressure on the corners of the mouth, the tongue, and the bars. Snaffle bits are used to train or school horses. They are not as severe as curb bits. The snaffle and curb bits are used together in a full double bridle. A small snaffle or bradoon is used with a curb, usually a Weymouth curb bit.

The curb bit works by leverage: (1) the mouthpiece presses on the tongue and bars; (2) the chain presses under the chin; and (3) the bridle presses against the poll. The curb pressure tends to lower the head and make the horse flex at the poll (Fig. 39).

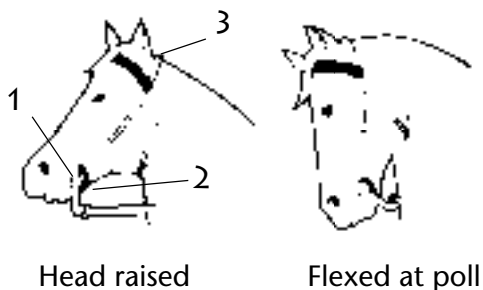


Figure 39. Curb Bit Action

The Pelham combines snaffle and curb into one bit (Fig. 40). The Pelham is a double-action bit. The snaffle rein pulls back on the lips; the curb rein pulls on the lower jaw and bars. The curb pressure lowers the head and makes the horse flex at the poll. The snaffle ring picks up the horse's head. Converters which attach between the snaffle and curb rings are not allowed.

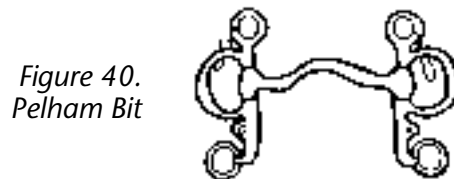


Figure 40. Pelham Bit

The Kimberwick bit (Fig. 41) is generally used on a horse that is too strong for a snaffle and where the rider is not yet capable of using the double reins on a Pelham bridle. It includes a curb chain, may have a solid or jointed mouthpiece and solid or slotted D-ring.



Figure 41. Kimberwick Bit

STOCK SEAT EQUITATION

Stock Seat is a working seat, used for all-day riding and handling cattle. It is similar to the English seats in position, but you do not post the trot. The reins are kept loose and held in one hand. This seat can be shown at a walk, jog/intermediate gait, and lope.

Sit with head and eyes up. A straight line falls through the ears, shoulders, hips, and ankles. Your body is straight, legs under the body, a

slight bend in the knees, and the heels down. Hold the hands in the center of, and slightly above, the saddle horn, and the reins lightly with a slight slack. Looking from the front, your shoulders are even, the hands held in the

center of the body at about the level of the saddle horn, and the reins held evenly. The legs are close to the horse's body from thigh to ankle, and the toes pointed straight ahead (Fig. 42, 43).

STOCK SEAT TACK (FIG. 44)

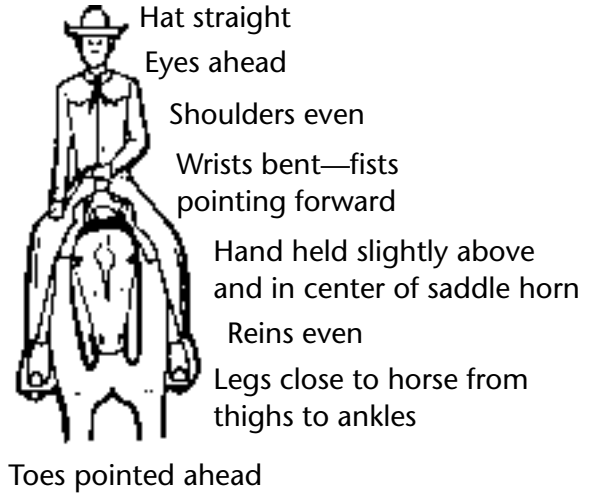
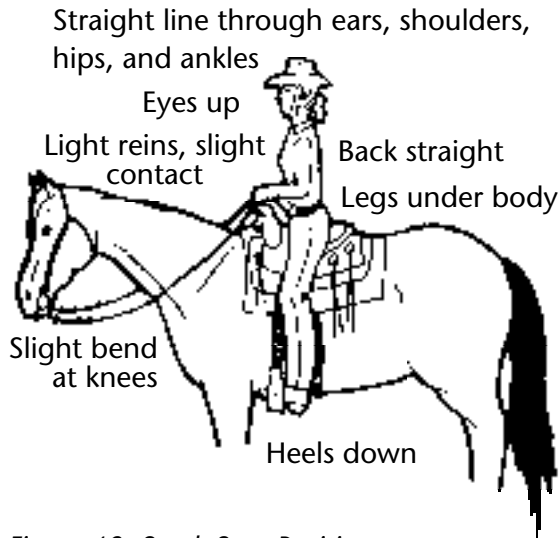


Figure 42. Stock Seat Position

EXAMPLES OF FAULTS

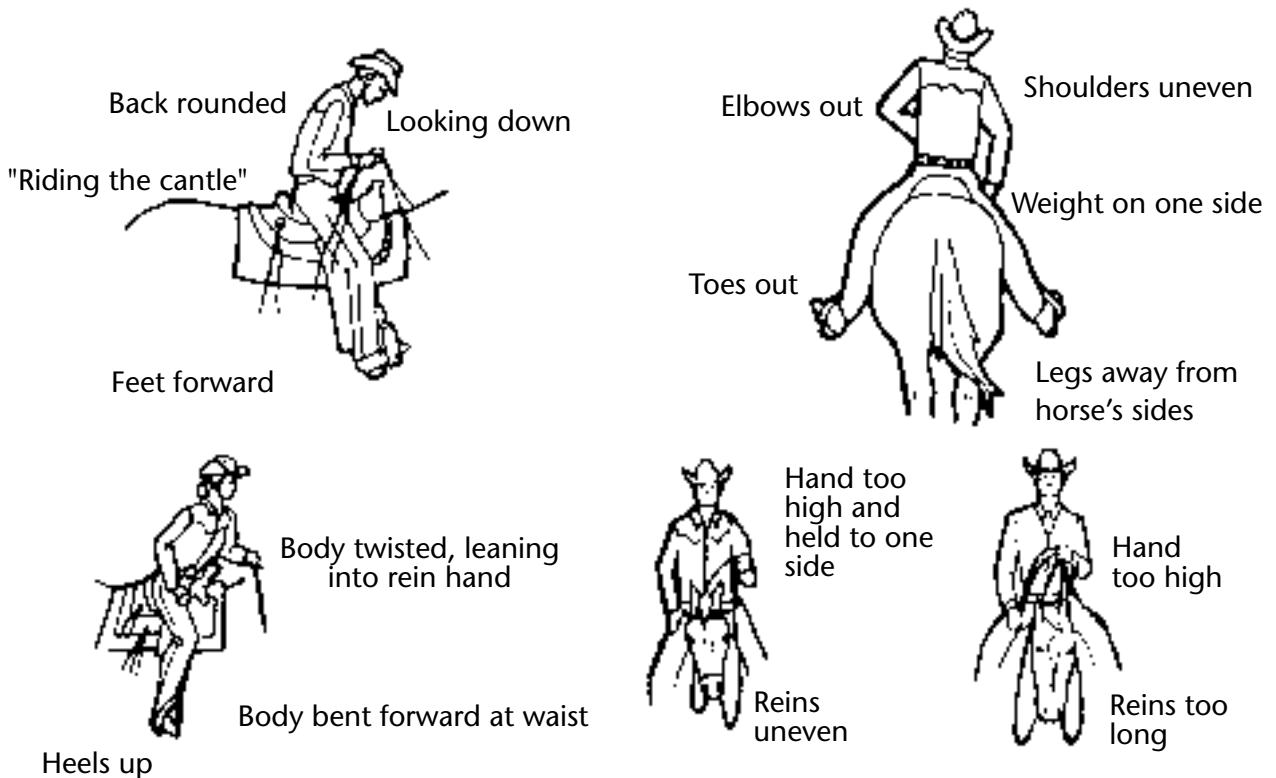


Figure 43. Common Faults

- Western or stock saddle
- Clean saddle blanket or pad
- Western-style bridle with a curb strap (Fig. 45) or curb chain, and a Western-style bit.

Hobbles, reatas or lariats, and breast collars are optional. You may use shin boots, splint boots, bell boots, and other protective devices in Medal classes, Reining, Western Riding, and Green Horse classes.

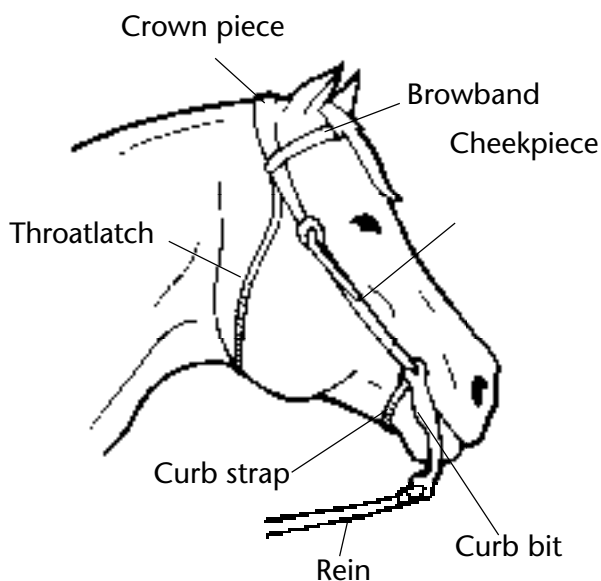
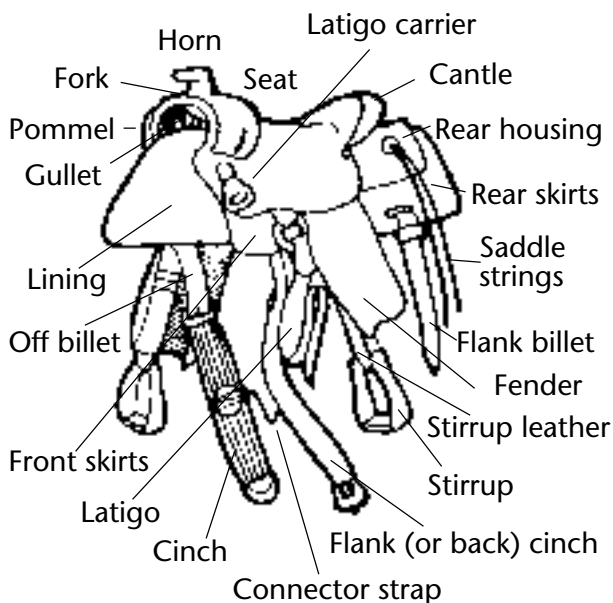


Figure 44. Stock Seat Tack

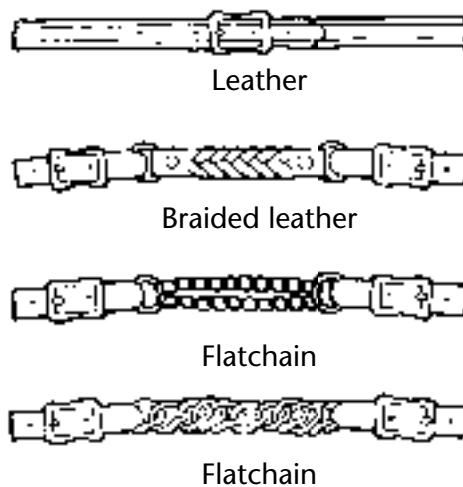


Figure 45. Curb Straps

Mechanical hackamores, tie-downs, Martingales, draw-reins, and nosebands are not allowed in Western classes.

STOCK SEAT ATTIRE

- Long-sleeved shirt with collar
- Tie or pin, decorated collar (i.e. embroidered or beaded)
- Jeans, trousers, or Western pants
- Belt
- Western boots
- ASTM-SEI equestrian-approved helmet (may be Western-style helmet)

Chaps, gloves, and spurs are optional. A vest, jacket, coat, and/or sweater may also be worn (Fig. 46).

Whips are not allowed.

ASTM-SEI-approved Western-style helmet

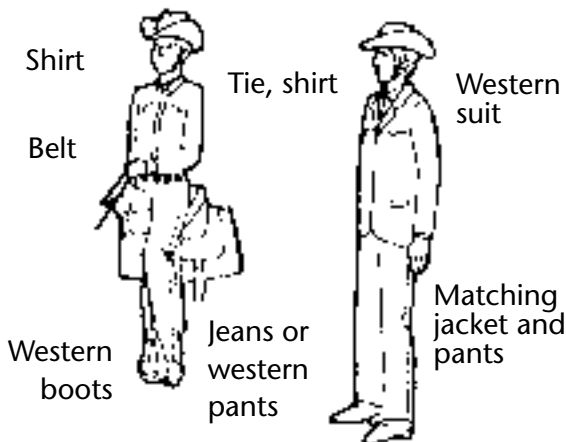


Figure 46. Stock Seat Attire

HOW TO HOLD THE REINS

Use one hand for reining in Stock Seat classes. You may not change hands during a class, but may use either hand. Reins are most commonly held in the left hand. Split or romal reins are equally acceptable.

When using romal reins, the hand is around the reins with the romal end coming out the top of the hand by the thumb. The romal is held in the other hand, with approximately 16 inches of rein separating the two hands. No fingers are permitted between the reins (Fig. 47).

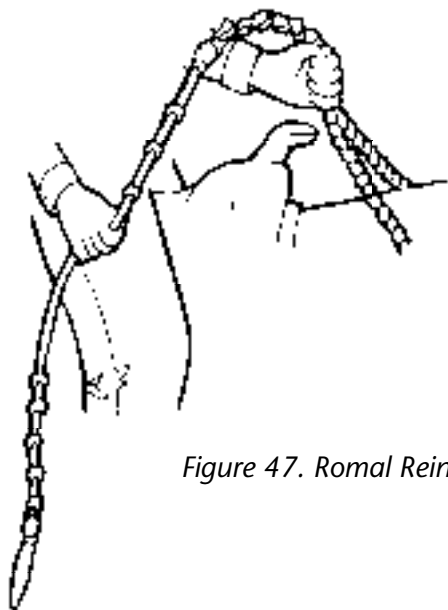


Figure 47. Romal Reins

When using split reins, you may hold them the same as romal reins, with the free end in the opposite hand, or you may hold them with the palm facing down with one finger between the reins, and the free end falling on the same side as the rein hand (Fig. 48).

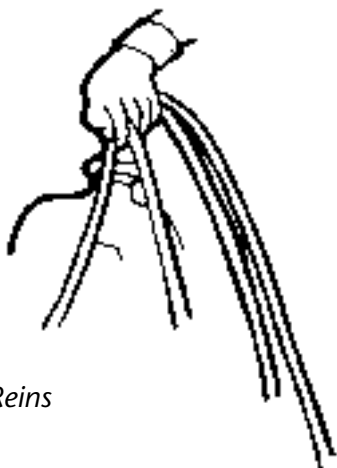


Figure 48. Split Reins

WESTERN BITS AND HOW THEY WORK

Many types of shanks exist, from the simple cutting horse style to the ornate spade and halfbreed shanks. The mouthpieces also differ in severity. Generally, the higher the port, the more severe the bit.

Curb Bit. The shanks on the curb bit give the rider leverage action on the horse's mouth. When the reins are pulled, the shanks act as levers to press the bit down on the horse's tongue and the bars of its mouth. At the same time, pulling the reins also applies pressure on the chin groove and the poll. Any bit with reins attached to the end of the shanks is considered a curb bit. This is true even if it has a jointed mouthpiece. A curb bit without a chinstrap is useless.

Curb bits can be more severe than snaffle bits because the leverage action increases the force applied. The action of the curb bit results in indirect pressure on the horse's mouth. The longer the shanks, the more leverage (more severe). Do not use a curb bit as a training bit. It takes time and training to change a horse from a snaffle bit to a curb bit (Fig. 49).

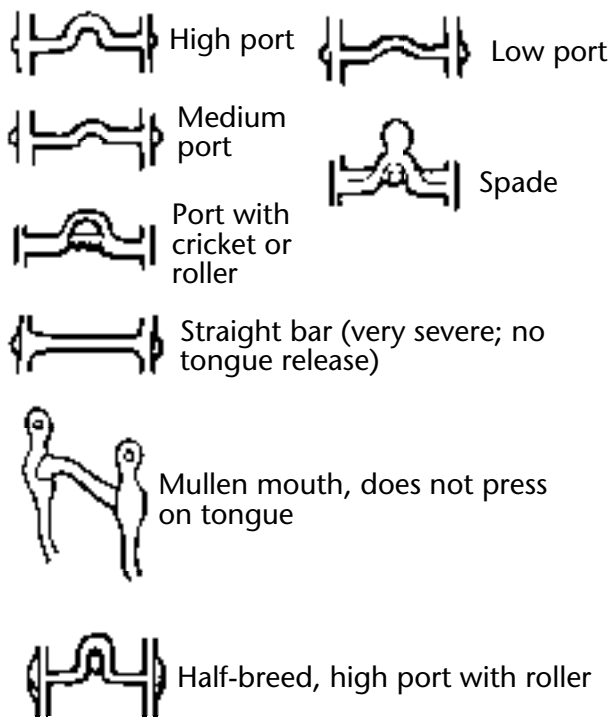


Figure 49. Types of Ports

CHOOSING A WESTERN SADDLE

The saddle should fit the rider. Typical seat sizes are:

Pony	12 – 13"
Youth	14 – 14 1/2"
Adult	15"
Large Adult	16"

These sizes may vary because the saddle tree is measured before padding and outer coverings are added. Also the shape of the seat and its depth can affect how it fits. Always try a saddle before buying to make sure it fits both you and the horse. Measure a Western saddle from the back of the pommel to the center of the cantle.

Many types of riggings exist; they vary from full double to center-fire. Your horse's conformation determines the riggings. A horse with a well-laid-back shoulder would be comfortable with a full or 7/8 rigged saddle, while a horse with shorter or steeper shoulders requires a 3/4 or 5/8 rigged saddle. When the saddle is correctly placed behind the shoulder blade, there should be some space between the horse's elbow and the cinch. This allows the horse freedom of its front legs and helps prevent binding, which can cause sores (Fig. 50).

WESTERN TACK ADJUSTMENT

Properly adjusted tack makes your horse more comfortable, which makes your ride more pleasant, and helps you have a safer ride.

Bridle. The bit should fit in the corner of the horse's mouth. The upper shank, where the headstall is attached, must not be tight against the horse's face. Often you will need to bend this upper shank to fit correctly. The browband lays comfortably on the head without pulling the headstall against the ears. A split-ear crown piece fits comfortably around one ear without binding. For the throatlatch, allow a hand between the strap and horse's throat. Adjust the curb strap or chain to allow enough space for two fingers (flat) between the strap and chin.



Full double rigging



3/4 double rigging



7/8 – 3/4 – 5/8 Center-fire rigging

Figure 50. Western Saddle Rigging

Saddle Blanket or Pad. This comfortable padding extends about 4 inches in front of the saddle. Put the blanket and then the saddle forward of the proper place and slide them back into place. Never pull the saddle forward. Pull the blanket up in the gullet of the saddle to prevent binding over the withers and to allow air circulation under the saddle.

Saddle. It settles into the pocket behind the horse's shoulder blade. When cinched tight, there should be two finger widths of space (about 1 1/2 inches) between the withers and the arc of the fork under the saddle horn if the rider weighs less than 150 pounds. If the rider weighs more than 150 pounds, there should be a three-finger clearance (Fig. 51).

You may use additional padding or a pad with a "cutout" portion for the withers if you need more space. If there is more than 1 1/2 inches, the saddle tree could be too narrow for the horse's back. Check the back for dry spots after

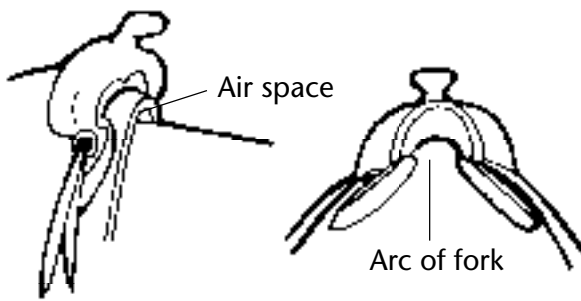


Figure 51. Saddle Clearance

a long ride, which indicate that the saddle is pinching the horse's back. This can lead to serious back sores; if additional padding does not solve the problem, the saddle should not be used.

The front cinch should hang straight down and about 2 inches behind the horse's elbow. When tight, the cinch should be centered on the horse. Be sure the cinch is long enough so the rings are not directly behind the elbow (Fig. 52).

A back cinch is optional. Always buckle this last when saddling and unbuckle first when unsaddling! The back cinch should be snug and there must be a connecting strap between it and the front cinch.

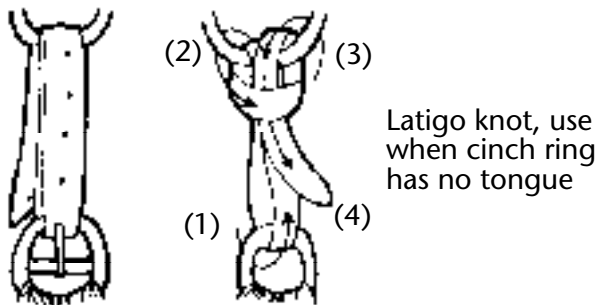


Figure 52. Cinching

BAREBACK EQUITATION

In Bareback classes, the tack and attire are the same as for each equitation class except that no saddle is used. Hand and seat position are the same as if a saddle were used. You must post the trot in Hunt Seat and Saddle Seat Bareback Equitation. Chaps may be prohibited in Stock Seat Equitation at each county's discretion.

TRAINING EQUIPMENT

The items shown in Figure 53 are often used when training horses, but with certain exceptions, are not allowed in classes. Martingales are allowed in Jumping or Over-Fence classes, but are prohibited in Flat classes (which includes Hunter Hack). Nosebands are prohibited in Western classes.

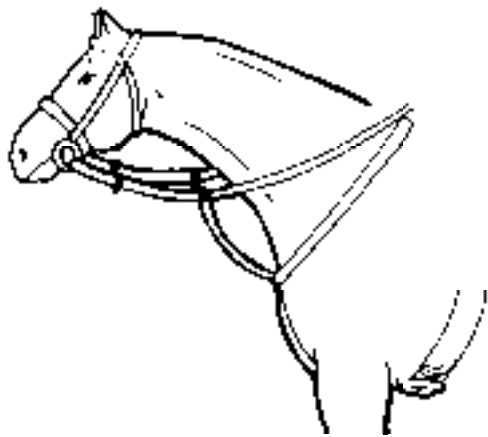
TRAIL HORSE

You may show in a Trail class in either English or Western tack and attire. However, your tack and attire must be correct for the style of riding you choose. If you ride in English tack or a snaffle you may use two hands on the reins.

A well-trained and intelligent horse is curious about strange objects or obstacles. The horse is not graded down for sniffing or looking over an obstacle as long as the rider is in control, and the horse proceeds through the obstacle without undue delay. A horse that barges ahead without any apparent sign of curiosity might well walk off a cliff, and is graded down. Head, eye, ear, and nostril movement show that a horse is curious.

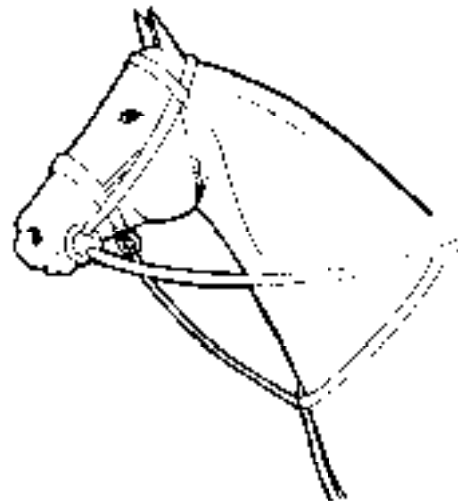
Riders will automatically be disqualified from the class for swearing.

Striking the horse ahead of the cinch will disqualify you at the obstacle at which it occurs.



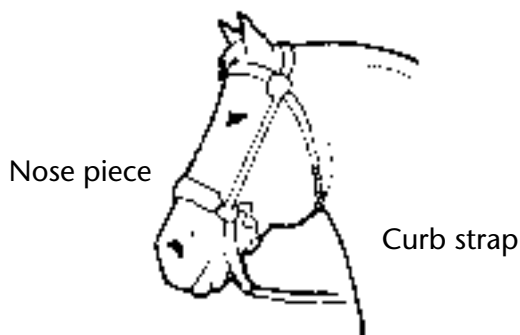
RUNNING MARTINGALE

Can be used in Hunt Seat Over Fences.
 Cannot be used in Flat Hunt Seat or Hunt Seat
 Pleasure classes.



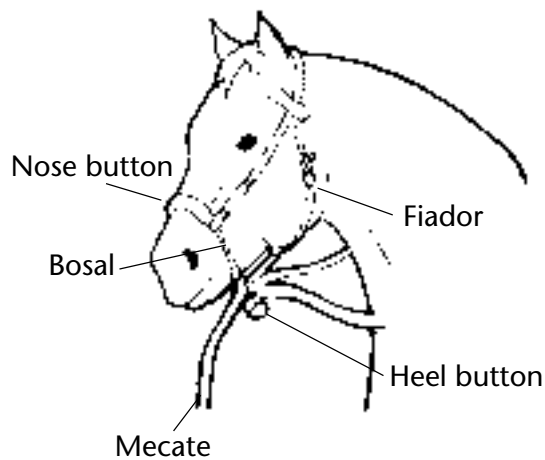
STANDING MARTINGALE

(allowed in same classes as running
 martingale)

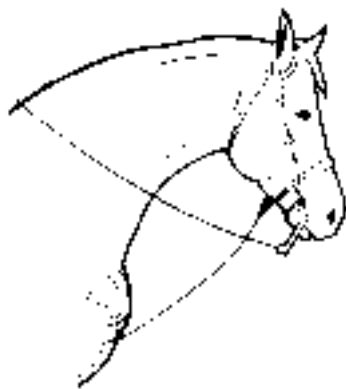


MECHANICAL HACKAMORE

(cannot be used in any type of Western or
 English classes)



BOSAL OR TRUE HACKAMORE



WESTERN BRIDLE WITH TIEDOWN

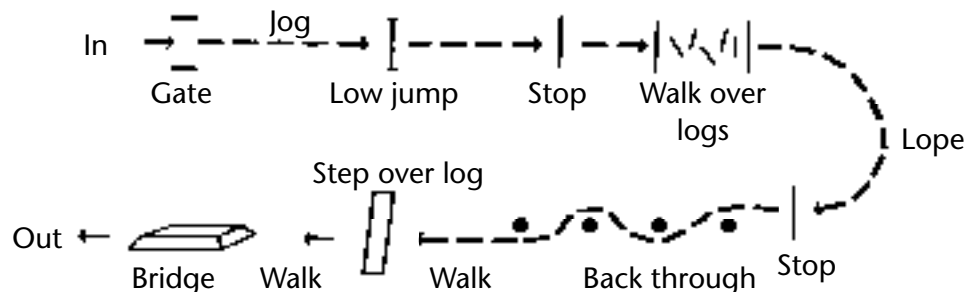
(cannot be used in any type of Western classes)

Figure 53. Training Equipment

RECOMMENDED OBSTACLES

1. Gate. Latch 54–60 inches high, 48 inches minimum width. The rider should not change hands on the gate.
2. Walk-over or Lead-over. Not over 16 inches high and in multiples a maximum of 10 inches high. Suggested obstacles include a log or low jump. Space between poles is generally 20 to 24 inches for walk-overs. No rolling poles are allowed.
3. Safe Bridge or Platform. This obstacle should have a side clearance of at least 36 inches.
4. Cavaletti. Jog-overs are 3 to 3.5 feet apart (space is measured between poles). Lope-overs are 6 to 7 feet apart.
5. Serpentine (Jog-Arounds). (a) Pylons are 6 feet apart minimum (base to base); guardrails are 3 feet to either side of pylons. Or, (b) Pylons are 3 feet apart minimum (base to base); guardrails are 6 to 8 feet to either side.
6. Back through Obstacle. Obstacles can be poles or logs in several combinations and arrangements. Any or all of the logs may be raised off the ground. Minimum side clearance: on ground, 28 inches; elevated, 30 inches; barrels, 32 inches.
7. Mounting and Dismounting from Either Side. Use the procedure for correct mounting and dismounting for the style of riding for which you are dressed. Juniors may not be asked to mount.
8. Side-Pass. This may consist of poles or logs in several combinations; any or all may be raised off the ground up to 24 inches. You may be asked to side-pass your horse in one or both directions. The side-pass may be used in combination with another obstacle, such as the mailbox. Slots are never closer than 24 inches wide between poles.
9. Walk through Bushes or Brush. The brush may be placed on the ground or held up by fences. Very large logs with the branches still attached are not recommended. The horse should not try to eat this obstacle.
10. Walk up to or Pass Plastic, Paper, Canvas.
11. Logs. At least four logs are used, which may be varied distances apart. Different sizes may be used. The ends of the logs may be raised off the ground.
12. Put On or Remove a Coat or Slicker. The slicker is provided by the show management.
13. Carry an Object. Carry a sack of material, perhaps from one barrel to another.
14. Turns. Turns in a small area. The area may be a circle or square of logs, heavy wood or plywood, or be drawn on the ground with flour or lime. Do not use ropes.
15. Knots. You may be asked to tie a manger or bowline knot.
16. Questions. You may be asked questions from horse project materials.

Figure 54. Sample Trail Course



Rail work is generally optional in obstacle classes. Many shows will ask the contestant to walk, trot, or lope from one obstacle to another, thus eliminating the need for rail work. If you are asked to jog or lope toward an obstacle, stop your horse far enough away from that obstacle to give the animal a good look at it before asking the horse to go through it. This does not apply to an obstacle which you are asked to trot or lope over.

Many of these obstacles may be used in combination. For example, you may be asked to side-pass over a pole, up to a mailbox, and side-pass back in the opposite direction away from the mailbox.

Competing in an obstacle course is fun, but lots of training time at home is required. Before entering a trail class, a horse and rider should be able to perform the basic maneuvers needed to complete each obstacle: back, side-pass, turn on forehand, turn on haunches. Try to accustom your horse to basic obstacles such as poles, or back through obstacles every time you ride. Riding through water or brush when you are pleasure riding will get your horse used to these obstacles. Don't lose your temper and try to force your horse to go through something that frightens it. Go slowly and carefully when training your horse for obstacles so that it will trust you and have confidence when you ask it to go through a strange obstacle at a show. Table 3 (p. 39) shows qualities used to judge obstacle course rides.

PLEASURE CLASSES

Pleasure classes differ from equitation, where the rider is judged. In a pleasure class, the horse is being judged, and you must show the judge that your horse is a pleasure to ride.

GAITS

All gaits are performed with willingness and obvious ease, cadence, balance, and smoothness. Remember to smile!

WALK

The walk is a four-beat gait. It should be brisk, true, and flat-footed with good reach.

TROT

The trot is a two-beat gait. It is performed at medium speed with moderate collections. The normal trot must be mannerly, cadenced, balanced, and free-moving. This is an English gait and posting is required.

INTERMEDIATE GAIT

This gait is for breeds that do not have a normal walk, trot, and canter, for example the Tennessee Walker, Paso Fino, Standardbred Pacer, Missouri Fox Trotter, etc. These gaits are judged in accordance with their breed association rules. Posting is not required.

EXTENDED TROT

This is a two-beat gait. The extended trot is faster and stronger than the normal trot. It is performed with a lengthened stride, powerful and reaching, at a rate of speed that varies among horses; each horse attains its own strong trot in harmony with its own maximum stride. The horse must not be strung out behind. A horse at the extended trot should show moderate collection without exaggerated high action in the front. It must present a willing attitude while maintaining form. The strong trot is mannerly, cadenced, balanced, and free-moving. This is an English gait; posting is required.

JOG-TROT

This is a two-beat gait. The jog should be free-moving, easy riding, mannerly, and cadenced. It is slower than the normal trot, but must maintain the appearance of a definite two-beat gait. This is a Western gait; posting is not allowed. If asked to extend, the Western horse will lengthen the stride and the rider will continue to sit and not post.

CANTER OR LOPE

This is a three-beat gait. This gait should be smooth, unhurried, with moderate collection,

correct and straight on both leads. This must be a definite three-beat gait, not a “hoppity” shuffle. Horses showing under hunter tack should show the ability to move on at the canter. The word “canter” is used in English classes and the term “lope” is used in the Western classes. The horse is penalized for being on the wrong lead.

HAND GALLOP OR EXTENDED CANTER

This may be asked for, but no more than eight horses are to gallop at one time. It is performed with long, free, ground-covering stride under control. The amount of ground covered may vary between horses due to the difference in natural length of stride. The hand gallop is not a fast collected canter, but a true lengthening of stride, correct and straight on both leads. Extreme speed will be penalized.

ENGLISH PLEASURE—HUNTER TYPE

Tack and attire are the same as in Hunt Seat Equitation. Horses enter the ring at the normal trot. Horses are shown at the walk, normal trot, strong trot, and canter both ways of the ring. Horses are penalized for being on the wrong lead at the canter. You may be asked to back your horse. Horses are judged on manners, performance, quality, and conformation.

ENGLISH PLEASURE—SADDLE TYPE

Tack and attire are the same as in Saddle Seat Equitation. Horses enter the ring at the normal trot or intermediate gait. They are shown at the walk, normal trot, or intermediate gait, strong trot, and canter both ways of the arena. Horses are penalized for being on the wrong lead at the canter. You may be asked to back your horse. Horses are judged on manners, performance, quality, and conformation.

WESTERN PLEASURE

Tack and attire are the same as Stock Seat Equitation. Horses enter the ring at the walk, or as directed by the ringmaster. Horses are shown at a flat-footed walk, a smooth, easy-riding jog or intermediate gait, and a lope on a reasonably loose rein with little restraint.

Special emphasis is placed on the walk. Horses are penalized for being on the wrong lead at the lope. You may be asked to back your horse. Horses are judged on manners, performance, substance, quality, and conformation.

OPTIONAL CLASSES

Several classes may be offered as Pleasure classes or Advanced Equitation classes. They may include Western or English Riding Horse, and Working Hunter. Classes for horses that do not exhibit a trot, such as the Tennessee Walking Horse, Paso Fino, and Standardbred (pacer), may be offered if there is enough demand. Classes for three- and five-gaited Saddlebreds may also be offered on demand. See Table 4 (p. 39) for a summary of qualities used to judge pleasure horse entries.

SHOWING A PONY

In some counties, classes for “ponies only” may be offered. If both pony and horse classes are offered, you may show your pony in only one equitation class in your age division. For example, if you are a junior rider showing a pony, you may show your pony in Pony Stock Seat Equitation, but not in Junior Stock Seat Equitation. In divisions where no pony classes are offered, you may show a pony in your age division with riders showing horses.

Pony classes are always restricted to ponies up to 56 inches high. Any animal 56 inches or taller must show in the horse classes. Pony classes may be divided into two height groups:

1. Small pony—under 48 inches
2. Large pony—48 inches to 56 inches

THE SHOW RING

Study the rules in the 4-H Horse Contest Guide, which lists tack, attire, class rules, and routine for all 4-H performance horse classes. It will tell you what to expect when you show your horse. Know the rules before you enter a show.

1. Long before your entry in a horse show, you must prepare by conditioning and

grooming your horse. A good diet, a good worming program, proper hoof care, and consistent exercise are all important in making your horse look its best. A healthy horse shows better than an unhealthy one.

2. Decide what classes to enter and prepare yourself and train your horse by practicing class routines and gaits long before the show. The actual time a horse is in the ring seldom exceeds 20 minutes, so you cannot use the show ring to train your horse. The ring time is only long enough to demonstrate an ability already learned.
3. Study the class list, rules, and entry information. Complete the entry form, making certain that you fill in all the blanks. You and your parent(s) sign the entry form. You will not be allowed to show without your parent's or legal guardian's signature.
4. Before the show, do all the necessary trimming of your horse and remove any bot eggs from its legs and body. During warm weather, bathe your horse prior to the show. Use mild soap and rinse your horse thoroughly. Do not blanket a horse during cold weather to keep a winter coat from growing, unless you plan to keep your horse blanketed the entire winter. Covering the horse with a light sheet may help keep its coat from bleaching in the hot sunlight during the summer. Keeping the horse in its stall during the day and out at night will also prevent bleaching.
5. Clean all the tack you will use at the show. Check cinches for wear and fraying. Be sure saddle blankets are clean. Gather together your grooming tools; include a bucket and sponge for last minute touch-ups. Bring hay and a water bucket to the show for your horse. Be sure your clothing is neat and clean, boots are polished, and hat, gloves, and accessories are all together.
6. You will usually transport your horse to the show by truck or trailer. If your horse is nervous in the trailer, bandage its legs.

Blanketing will help keep it clean during the ride. Accustom your horse to the trailer or truck before the actual ride to the show.

7. Upon arrival at the show grounds, check in with the show office to receive your number. Find out when your class is being held and allow yourself plenty of time to dress and saddle your horse. When you saddle and bridle your horse, check to be sure you have all the required equipment. Warm up your horse at least 10 minutes before entering the ring. Your horse may need to walk for a few minutes, or trot briskly for 5–10 minutes. The warm-up time will vary with the horse's temperament. Be ready when your class is called.
8. Showing in performance classes is, and should be, fun. The fun results from knowing that both you and your horse are fully prepared to accept the challenge of the show ring. Be familiar with class procedures. Your approach to a class should be serious and businesslike. Do not wave to friends or show off. Avoid bunching up together in the ring. Make a small circle, or cut across part of the ring to find a free space in the arena. Keep your horse under control at all times. If it becomes unruly, ride to the center of the ring and ask permission to leave the arena. Don't endanger other horses and riders. If your horse kicks, tie a red ribbon on its tail to warn others.
9. Obey class commands smoothly. When riding, position your horse so that the judge has a good view of it at all times. Never deliberately block the judge's view of another exhibitor. When lining up, allow room on either side of your horse for the judge to get a good view. Have your horse standing squarely on all four feet or according to breed type. Keep alert at all times.
10. When the winners are announced, win graciously—lose the same way. When riding to pick up a ribbon, take care to

avoid stepping on the judge, steward, or ribbon person. If you do not receive an award, exit in an orderly manner after all the awards have been given out. Be a good sport. Win without bragging and lose without complaining.

11. You and your parents must know and follow the ground rules of the show. These rules will generally be posted at the show office. Parents and other adults are not allowed to help clean stalls, clean or groom your horse, coach while you are in the show ring, or approach the judge until the show is over and all judging is completed.

SAFETY RULES AND PRECAUTIONS

1. At a show, tie your horse far enough away from strange horses so they cannot fight.
2. Avoid letting your horse kick. Space horses when possible. If your horse is a kicker, tie a red ribbon on its tail to warn other riders.
3. When leading your horse, always walk beside the horse, not ahead or behind. Always turn the horse to the right and walk around it.
4. Never wrap a lead strap, halter shank, or reins around your hand, wrist, or body. A bad accident could result if the horse spooked.
5. Keep longe lines and leads off the ground to prevent them from entangling your feet.
6. When using a double-rigged saddle, do the front cinch first, the rear cinch last; when unsaddling, unbuckle the rear cinch first. Failing to do so can spook your horse and cause a bad accident.
7. Soon after starting to ride, dismount and tighten the girth. Horses often swell up when first saddled, and failure to tighten girths later can result in serious accidents.
8. Keep your horse under control at all times and maintain a secure seat. Horses are easily frightened by strange objects and noises. Anticipate these things and steady your horse. If your horse is frightened by an obstacle, steady the animal; give your horse time to overcome its fear; then ride by the obstacle. Do not punish your horse.
9. When your horse is too full of steam, work it on a longe line a few minutes before riding.
10. Don't try to show an untrained horse. Teach the horse at home, not in the show ring.
11. Keep calm, confident, and collected. A nervous show person creates an unfavorable impression.
12. Follow the instructions of the judge and ringmaster carefully, courteously, and exactly.
13. Be courteous and respect the rights of other exhibitors.
14. Be a good sport. Win without boasting; lose without complaining.
15. Know your horse, its temperament, and reactions. Control your temper at all times, but let your horse know you are its firm and kind master.
16. Know your horse's peculiarities. If someone else is riding it, tell him or her what to expect.
17. Do not punish your horse, except at the instant of disobedience. If you wait even a minute, your horse will not know why you are punishing it. Punish without anger, lest your punishment be too severe. Never strike your horse about the head.
18. Never ride off and leave a mounting rider alone.
19. Make sure the excess latigo strap does not work loose and drag. The horse may step on the latigo or it may hang up on something, scaring the horse and causing it to injure the rider.
20. Manners and suitability to the owner are prime qualities in any horse. Know your horse and make sure that your manners are at least equal to your horse's.

21. Never race. Horse play is only for the unmounted horse, not for the horse and rider.
22. Treat other people on horses and afoot in the same way you would like to be treated.
23. Wear boots when riding and handling horses. Tennis shoes can slip through the stirrups. Soft-soled shoes will allow the toes to curl around the stirrup. Be certain your stirrups are not too narrow for your boots. You should have an extra $\frac{1}{2}$ inch of space between the side of the stirrup and your boot.
24. Wear ASTM-SEI equestrian-approved protective headgear when riding. This will help prevent head injuries if you fall from your horse.
25. If you use a lead shank with a chain, use it properly. Never jerk or yank on the lead strap when you have the chain under your horse's chin. Using a chain to control your horse is a poor substitute for good training.
26. Before jumping, learn to go over a cavaletti with and without stirrups.
27. If a rider falls from a horse, he or she should not be moved until checked by a nurse or physician.
28. Keep bridle reins, stirrup leathers, headstalls, curb straps, and cinch straps in the best possible condition. Check these items frequently for signs of wear, cracking or fraying. Replace or repair any that need care.

RESOURCES

For additional information to help you in the Performance Horse Project, refer to the following WSU publications, available from your leader or Extension Office:

EM4842 *Beginning Horsemanship*

CO/201 *Horse Science, Unit 2*

EB1612 *Feeding the Performance Horse*

EB1283 *Recommended Vaccinations for Washington Horses*

EM4849 *Equestrian Helmet Safety*

EB1974 *4-H Horse Contest Guide*

EM3709 *Longe Line Training*

EB1122 *Tetanus (Lockjaw)*

EB1613 *Horse Conformation Analysis*

Table 1. Trimming and Grooming Breed Preference Options

BREED	SET UP	TRIMMING AND GROOMING PREFERENCES
AMERICAN SADDLEBRED	Stretched	Pleasure horses: manes and tails long and natural Braiding optional (forelock and first lock of mane with ribbons)
ANDALUSIAN	Squared	Minimum clipping Bridle path no more than 1"
APPALOOSA/P.O.A.	Squared	Clear hoof polish only
ARABIAN/PART ARABIAN	Hind—one forward, one behind	Bridle path 6–8" No braiding except Hunt Seat
CONNEMARA	Squared, not stretched	Usually shown as typical Hunters, braiding optional Bridle path 1" Ears need not be trimmed inside
MINIATURE HORSE	Squared, not stretched	No braiding Body clipping common
MISSOURI FOX TROTTER	Squared	Bridle path according to conformation Forelock and first lock of mane braided with ribbon
MORGAN	Slightly stretched	Bridle path 6–8" No braiding except Hunt Seat
MUSTANG	Squared	Natural, muzzle ears, feathers not clipped Minimum bridle path (up to 2") No hoof black
PASO FINO	Squared	Bridle path not required, but may be up to 4" Face, ears, and legs trimmed, but natural look is desired No braiding
PERUVIAN PASO	Squared	Bridle path—none or up to 2" Natural appearance is desired Roached mane is acceptable No hoof black (clear only)
QUARTER HORSE/PAINT	Squared	Bridle path—length depending on personal preference Mane usually shortened, may be banded for western or English, or braided for English
SHETLAND PONY	Stretched	Bridle path 4–6" Forelock and first lock of mane braided with ribbon Body clipping common
TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE	Stretched	Bridle path 6–8" Forelock and first lock of mane braided with ribbon
WARM BLOODS	Open, so all four legs can be viewed from the side. Balanced on all four feet	Bridle path 1–2" Braided mane and forelock optional
WELSH PONY	Square, not stretched	Manes and tails natural Minimum bridle path Full feathers allowed in "A" Braiding optional for "B" Ears not trimmed inside

Table 2. Stock Seat Equitation

	GUIDELINE ONLY			MAJOR FAULTS	MANDATORY
	GOOD	MINOR FAULTS			DISQUALIFICATION
SEAT	Keeping center of balance Complete contact with saddle Straight back	Sitting off center Sway back Round back Losing center of balance		Excessive body motion Popping out of saddle	Falling off horse
HANDS	Quiet, light hands Maintaining consistent head position Proper position	Unsteadiness Incorrect position		Horse's mouth gaping Heavy hands Constant bumping Restrictions causing untrue gaits Touching saddle to prevent fall Touching horse Less than 16" of reins slack between hands	Two-handing reins Finger between romal reins More than one finger between split reins
LEGS	Secure leg position Proper weight in stirrups Controlling motion Weight evenly on ball of foot Heels lower than toes	Uneven stirrups Motion in legs Insufficient weight in stirrups Incorrect position		Interfering with another rider Excessive spurring Loss of contact between legs and saddle, foot and stirrups Loss of stirrup	Touching in front of cinch
CONTROL	Maintaining horse in good form at consistent gaits Ability to maintain horse under adverse conditions	Breaking from walk to jog Breaking from jog to lope Not standing in lineup		Breaking from jog to walk Breaking from lope to jog Allowing horse to back crooked Missing leads Failure to back	
OVERALL APPEARANCE	Suitable attire, fits well Well-groomed horse Clean equipment	Saddle not suitable to rider's size Attire fits poorly Dirty boots Ungroomed horse Uncleaned equipment		Improper appointments	Illegal equipment
GENERAL	Good attitude toward horse and judge Consistency of rider's form	Equipment not fitting horse Failure to use corners and rail Unsuitability of horse and rider		Excessive voice commands Excessive circling Major delays in transitions	Schooling horse Off pattern

Table 3. Trail Horse Chart of Desirable and Undesirable Qualities

TRAIL	GOOD	MINOR FAULTS	MAJOR FAULTS	ELIMINATION OR DISQUALIFICATION
WALK JOG/TROT LOPE/CANTER (on the course)	See Pleasure Classes			
CONTROL OBSTACLES				
Gates	Smooth	Slight touches	Knock-down of elevated elements	Off course*
Back-throughs	Good position	Slant side-passees	Stepping out of confining elements	
Side-passes	Responsive to aids	Wide positions	Losing gate	
Turns on forehead and/or quarters		Slow responses	Fussiness and extreme tension	
Serpentines		Poor head position	Refusals	
			Pulling rather than pushing gate	
AGILITY OBSTACLES				
Walk-overs	Attentive	Slight touches	Knock-downs	Off course*
Trot or lope cavalettis	Careful	Too hesitant	Refusals	
Bridge	Willing	Failure to stay on center lines	Failure to maintain gaits	
			Off side of bridge	
CALMNESS OBSTACLES				
Water	Steady going	Tense over or through obstacles	Jumping over or stampeding through obstacles	Off course*
Plastic	Alert	Nervous when carrying objects	Spooking when carrying objects	
Brush	Careful, but willing		Refusals	
Plants				
Carry objects				
GENERAL				Western: two hands on reins; more than one finger between split reins; fingers between closed reins Illegal equipment Bleeding mouth Cuing horse in front of cinch or girth Failure to attempt prescribed course Lameness

*Off course is defined as: 1) taking an obstacle in the wrong direction; 2) negotiating an obstacle from the wrong side; 3) skipping an obstacle unless directed by the judge; 4) negotiating obstacles in the wrong sequence; and 5) not following the correct line of travel.

Table 4. Western Pleasure Chart of Desirable and Undesirable Qualities

PLEASURE	GOOD	MINOR FAULTS	MAJOR FAULTS	DISQUALIFICATION
GENERAL	Ground-covering Flat-footed Good attitude	Slow Disinterested Not attentive	Nervous Jigging Not walking	
JOG	Easy riding Good motion Consistent Steady	Too slow Too fast	Not performing a two-beat jog Failing to jog both front and back Hard or rough riding	
LOPE	Easy riding Good motion Consistent Steady	Too slow Too fast	Wrong lead Pulling Hard or rough riding Not performing three-beat lope	
EXTENDED JOG	Easy riding Good motion Consistent	Inconsistent speed	Breaking gaits Pulling Hard or rough riding No increase in speed	
BACK	Proper flexion Readily responsive Back in straight line	Hesitant Not backing straight	Throwing head Gaping Pulling Not backing Rearing	
GENERAL	Smooth Steady Easy riding Proper flexion and balance Good attitude	Over- or under-flexion Sour ears Switching tail Inconsistent speed Out of balance Poll too high or too low, could throw horse out of balance Improper or incomplete appointments	Throwing head Bad mouth Constantly bumping the bit Gaping Obvious schooling Constant breaking of gaits	Two hands on reins Fingers between closed reins More than one finger between split reins Kicking Illegal equipment Lameness Cuing horse in front of cinch Bleeding mouth



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