

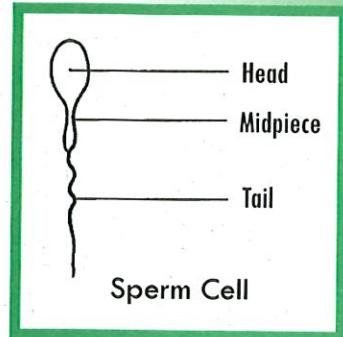
plus the locomotion of the sperm in a fluid medium transport the sperm through the cervix and uterus into the oviducts. The sperm and the egg unite in the oviduct.

Only one sperm fertilizes a single egg although several million sperm may be present in the reproductive tract of the female. Only one egg is usually present per conception in horses. Sometimes a mare will produce two eggs and if both are fertilized, twin embryos will start to develop. Identical twins result from a different situation. In this case a single egg divides into two independent cells or cell masses at a very early stage of development. Twin embryos are undesirable in horses because they are generally aborted prematurely.

The egg produced by the mare is small in size although it is much larger than a sperm. The egg has a nucleus which contains the genetic material. The sperm has a much different shape than the egg which is basically round. The sperm has a head, a middle section and a tail. The physical movement of the tail structure gives the sperm cell its property of locomotion in a fluid medium. The genetic material of the sperm cell is contained in the head section.

Upon fertilization, a sperm penetrates the outside membrane of the egg and the head section is drawn into contact and union with the nucleus of the egg; thus the genetic composition of the new individual is established. Fertilization is also the stimulus for the egg to divide and grow to form the new individual.

The fertilized egg usually undergoes its initial cleavages or divisions in the oviduct. Meanwhile, it is transported to the uterus where development progresses.

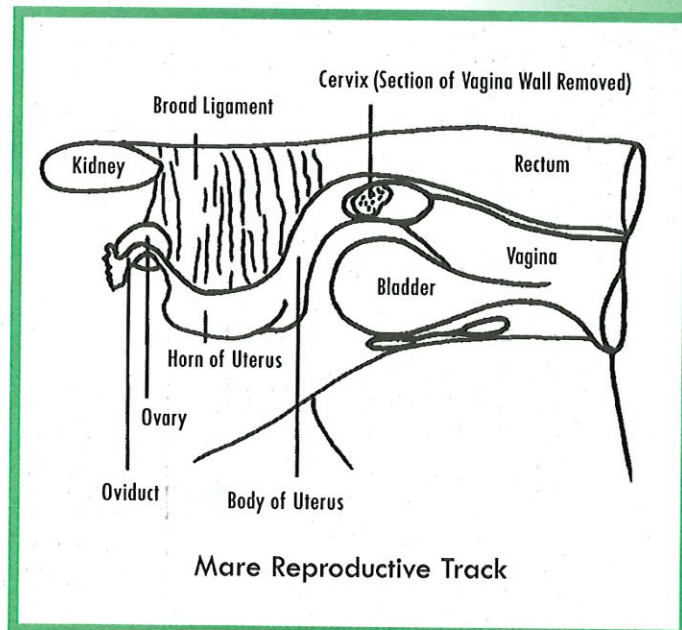


## PREGNANCY AND BIRTH

Pregnancy is the time during which the fertilized egg develops in the uterus. This process is also known as gestation. For a period of about six weeks, the cell mass resulting from the fertilized egg grows as a "free floating" object in the uterus. During this time, the fetal membranes commence to form. Nourishment of the new individual during this early stage is provided for by uterine secretions. The hormone progesterone secreted by the corpus luteum assist in regulating the reproductive tract during pregnancy.

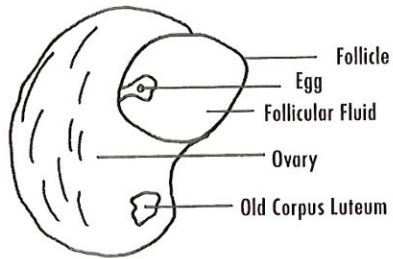
At approximately 6 weeks of pregnancy, the placenta attaches to the wall of the uterus and then provides for the nourishment of the fetus. Nutrients and oxygen are carried from the mare to the fetus and waste products from the fetus are eliminated through the placenta. The navel cord (umbilical cord) connects the fetus to the placenta.

The process of gestation in the mare is variable but averages 335-342 days; however, it may vary from approximately 305 to more than 400 days following breeding. The fetus develops gradually although the most rapid period of growth takes place during the last 3 or 4 months of pregnancy.





Successful pregnancy ends in birth or parturition. At the proper time due to hormone action, the strong muscles of the uterus contract forcing the new animal through the birth canal and into the world. Until, now, the young animal received nutrients and oxygen from its mother's blood stream. But at birth the navel cord is broken. The animal must live on its own. Apparently the breaking of the navel cord stimulates the animal to breathe. This solves the problem of oxygen. As for nutrients, the mother's body has been preparing them for many weeks. The hormones produced during pregnancy have stimulated the milk glands. By the time of birth, they are ready to provide milk. Later, the mare will expel the remainder of the fluids and placenta to the completion of parturition. The entire process may require several hours.



Ovary of the Mare

Milk production and "letdown" is initiated by hormones secreted by the pituitary gland. The first milk or colostrum is seen just prior to or after parturition. Colostrum is very high in proteins and immune factors which provide the foal with resistance to infections. It is very important to the new born foal that it receives the colostrum. The colostrum is exhausted and replaced gradually with normal milk by about two days after the initial nursing.

There will always be reproductive problems among horses but interferences may be minimized by good management practices. An understanding of some of the basic principles of the processes of reproduction can aid horse breeders materially in dealing with difficulties likely to be encountered.

### Additional Horse Terms

Learn these terms and use them correctly.

<u>AGE</u>	<u>MALE</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>	<u>MIXED GROUP</u>
Suckling	Colt	Filly	Foals
Weanling	Colt	Filly	Foals
Yearling	Yearling Colt	Yearling Filly	Yearling Foals or Foals of Last Year
2 Year Old	2 Year Old Colt	2 Year Old Filly	Foals of such and such a year
Mature Breeding Animals	Horse or Stallion	Mare	Horses
Mature Non-Breeding Animals	Gelding	Spayed Mare	Horses

A mare is carrying a foal, or in foal, or with foal.  
Mare with foal at side or nursing a foal (to be more specific, use colt or filly).

A mare will foal, or is in foal, to (name of stallion).

The sons and daughters of a mare are her produce.

A foal is by its sire.

A foal is out of its dam.

When a stallion stands for service, he is offered to the public for breeding purposes. Stallion owners usually present one of the following terms to the mare owner when offering a stallion for stud:

Stud Fee: That charge for breeding services rendering by a stallion.

Stud Fee Each Service: A stud fee is charged for each service.

Guarantee Foal to stand and suck: Guarantees a live foal.

Return privilege in season: You may bring your mare back until she is in foal for that breeding season only. A second fee will be charged after that current season if the mare is returned.



*Colic is an abdominal pain. The pain will usually originate in the gastrointestinal tract. Colic in the horse is more serious than in other animals because the structure and manner of functioning of the digestive tract is different than other grass and hay-consuming animals. The major parts of the large intestine, the cecum and colon are comparatively large and crowded into the abdominal cavity of the horse. Their size and often-folded placement have a greater tendency for obstruction and displacement.*

## TYPES OF COLIC

Spasmodic colic is caused by muscular spasms of the intestinal tract. This milder and more common type of colic is often associated with overexcitement, sudden diet changes and causes difficult to determine.

Impaction colic is caused by blockage of the intestinal tract with feedstuffs or foreign materials. Feedstuffs could be extremely fine and settle out in the tract, or other abnormal ingesta causing a blockage that would obstruct passing of gas. Possible foreign materials blocking the intestine might include sand, intestinal stones, rubber and nylon cords from tire feeders or rubber fencing. With some foreign materials as cause of colic, surgery may be needed.

Incarceration colic occurs when a loop of the intestine becomes placed or trapped in an abnormal position, possibly a loop, that shuts off the blood supply and this section becomes strangulated. Surgery would be necessary.

Displacement colic is when a section of the intestine becomes twisted or caught in an abnormal position from an unknown cause.

Excessive fermentation, or gas colic, is caused by large quantities of gas and fluid produced by the bacteria in the digestive tract. Pain will be caused by distention of the stomach or intestine when gas is produced faster than released. This may be caused by consumption of excessive amounts of grain. When it is known that a horse has eaten an excessive amount of grain, the veterinarian should be called before signs of colic are evident.

## DIAGNOSIS

A horse with colic may show restlessness, paw at the ground, sweat, kick at its abdomen, lie down and roll, and show other signs of discomfort and pain. The veterinarian should be called, informed of the immediate past health history, latest feeding and eating observations, and behavior of the horse. Determining the type of colic will be important for appropriate treatment.

## TREATMENT

The attending veterinarian should determine the treatment. No medication should be given to the horse without the veterinarian's approval. Lying quietly may be good for a colicky horse. If the horse wants to roll, it should be walked slowly and kept on its feet.



Treatment by the veterinarian may include use of a stomach tube to relieve pressure, administering mineral oil to soften the stool and passage of blockage, intravenous fluids, anti-inflammatory drugs, pain relievers and antibiotics.

## PREVENTION

Specific recommendations for prevention of colic are difficult because the causes are often unknown.

General prevention would include the following:

1. Frequent feeding is better than feeding once a day.
2. Avoid sudden changes in the feeding program.
3. Have ample drinking water available at all times, if possible.
4. Proper dental care is important.
5. Practice a good internal parasite control program.
6. Feed from feeders to prevent picking up of foreign materials on the ground.
7. Remember the inquisitive nature of some horses and prevent them from chewing or playing with materials they might eat that are foreign to their digestive system.
8. Keep grain and supplements in an area that horses cannot get into.
9. Seek veterinarian assistance when there is a reason for colic to occur.

### A "Normal" Horse

Well-accepted ratings are necessary to accurately assess and observe a horse's health. It is important to know the normal parameters for the horse's vital signs, such as pulse, respiration and temperature, as well as personality and reactions to its common surroundings.

The normal body temperature for a horse is considered to be 100 to 101.5 degrees Fahrenheit. There may be individual differences and still be healthy. Foals usually have a higher temperature than mature horses. Temperature variations in normal horses may be affected by age, sex, time of day, environmental temperature, wind, precipitation and activity.

The previous factors can also influence pulse and respiration rates. Under the same conditions, foals will have higher pulse and respiration rates. Normal pulse rate for an idle mature horse is in the range of 45 to 60 beats per minute and a respiration rate of 8 to 15 breaths per minute. Fitness or condition of the horse has an effect on the rates and on how fast the horse will return to normal rates after physical exercise. Respiration rate should always be lower than the pulse rate or a serious problem has developed that needs immediate attention.

## CHAPTER TWO

# HORSE JUDGING: WHAT TO LOOK FOR

**Action.** How a horse moves its feet and legs at a walk, trot, etc.

**Cannon.** The lower leg bone below knee or below hock, and above the fetlock joint.

**Chestnuts.** The horny growths on inside of horse's leg; also called night eyes.

**Coarse.** Lacking refinement; rough, harsh appearance.

**Conformation.** Structure, form, and symmetrical arrangement of parts as applied to a horse.

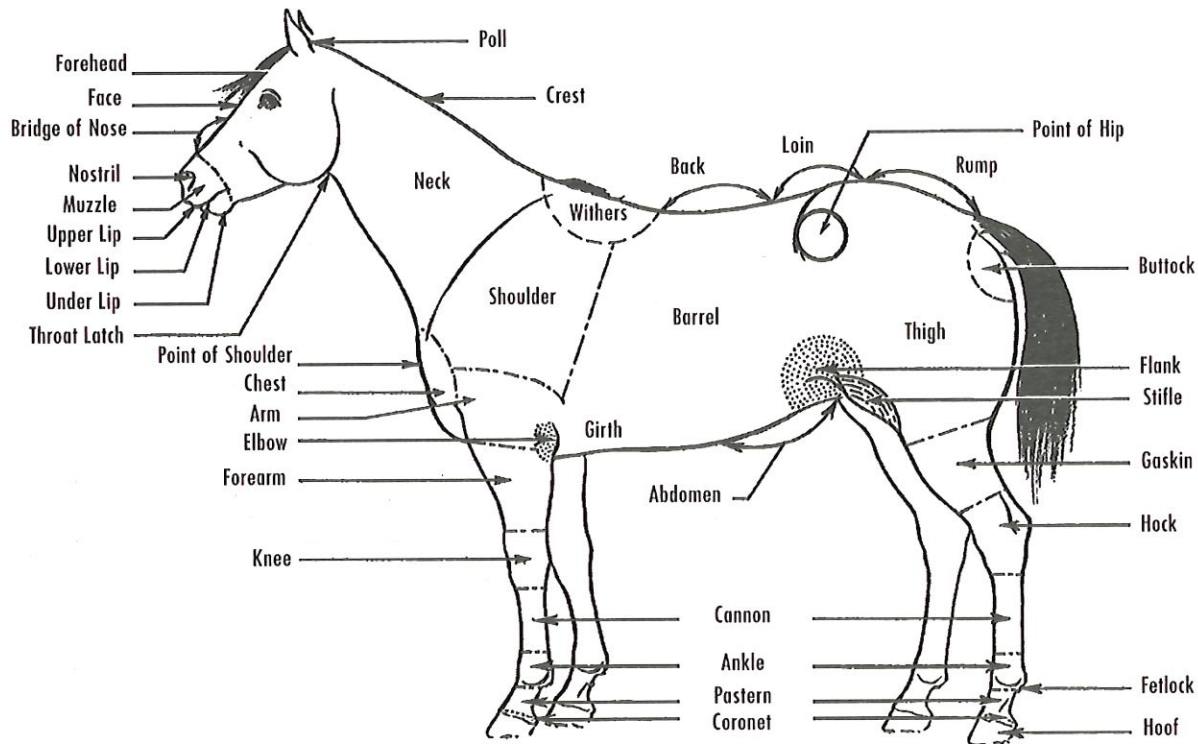
**Coon Footed.** Long, sloping pasterns throwing fetlocks low.

Judging horses, like all livestock judging, is an art that must be developed through patient study and long practice. A horse judge must:

- Know the parts of a horse and their location
- Know which parts are most important and the most desirable form of each part
- Visualize the ideal horse, perfect in all respects
- Make keen observations of horses and compare them to the ideal
- Weigh the good and bad points of each horse
- Develop a system of examining horses so that important points are not overlooked

## CONFORMATION

Conformation includes type, muscling, balance, and structural



Parts of a Horse

**Coupling.** Region of the lumbar vertebrae, loin, or space between last rib and hip.

smoothness. It also includes the form and proportion of the various parts of the body.



## **SAFETY RULES AND PRECAUTIONS**

Safety for yourself and others, courtesy for others and kindness to horses are basically akin. They fit into the same "package" for discussion. Safety goes hand-in-hand with common "horse sense" and good animal husbandry practices. Horses have an instinct or awareness for reflecting the care, caution and concern of the rider. They are normally gentle and quiet animals, but can become highly excited or nervous if frightened or mistreated. A calm attitude, slow easy movements and a gentle flow of soft words will lessen fear and excitement in nervous horses. Disregarding simple safety rules in handling horses can result in serious injury, or even a fatality.

Basic safety rules are a must and should be learned and practiced until they become everyday habit and custom.

For purposes of clarity and convenience, we shall discuss horse and rider safety and courtesy under five appropriate classifications.

These are:

- Safety in catching, handling and leading horses.
- Safety in bridling, saddling and mounting horses.
- Safety controlling and riding horses.
- Showing the horse with safety and courtesy.
- General safety rules.

### **SAFETY IN CATCHING, HANDLING AND LEADING HORSES**

#### ***Catching Your Horse Safely***

1. Approach a horse from its left and from the front. Never walk or stand behind a horse unannounced. The horse is always on the defensive. If it becomes aware of something behind it, the immediate instinct - prompted by fear - is either to kick or run. If tied or confined in a stall, the animal cannot run, so it usually kicks. Even in single stalls it is possible to approach from an angle.
2. When a rider is kicked, it is usually through his or her own carelessness. If it is necessary to approach a horse from the rear, speak to it to warn of your presence. As soon as the animal is aware of you, stroke it gently on the croup, then move calmly to the head, keeping always close into the horse's body. The closer you stand to a horse, the less likely you will be kicked; you may be shoved away, but not hurt.

#### ***Safe Handling of Your Horse***

1. Always let the horse know what you intend to do. For instance, when picking up the feet, do not reach for and seize the foot hurriedly, as this will startle the horse and is liable to cause it to kick. Learn the proper way to lift the feet. (See previous sections.)
2. Learn simple means of restraint, such as cross tying in the open and holding up a front foot.
3. Tie horses to an object that is strong and secure with a rope long enough to allow comfortable movement, but short enough to avoid becoming tangled or getting a foot over the rope. Do not stake horses out.
4. Pet a horse by first placing your hand on the shoulder and neck. Don't dab at the end of its nose.

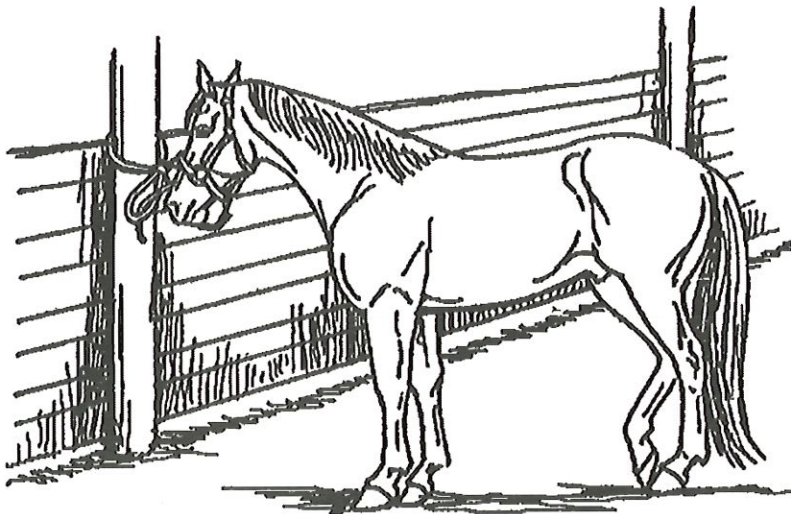


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5. Work about a horse from a position as near the shoulder as possible. In this way, the front nor hind feet of the horse cannot touch you. This is particularly true when passing around the horse's head, or in working about the haunches.
6. Always walk around your horse. Never walk under the tie rope nor step over it.
7. Tie your horse far enough away from strange horses so they cannot fight.
8. Always untie the lead shank or rope before taking the halter off your horse. This may prevent it from pulling back and becoming a "halter-puller."
9. Never tie your horse by the reins as it may pull back and break the reins or injure its mouth. Always use a halter.

### *Leading Your Horse Safely*

1. Walk beside the horse when leading, not ahead or behind. Always turn the horse to the right and walk around it.
2. Use a long lead strap or rope and both hands when leading. If the horse rears up, release the hand nearest the halter so you can stay on the ground.
3. When leading a horse, grasp the reins 12 to 24 inches from the bit on the left side.
4. Your horse is stronger than you; so don't try to out-pull it. The horse will usually respond to a quick snap on the lead rope.
5. Never wrap the lead strap, rope or reins around your hand, wrist or body. Always keep a secure hold on the lead.
6. If the horse hangs back on the end of the rope, lead it a few steps forward before touching it with your hand.
7. Keep leads and long lines off the ground.
8. When leading into a box stall, turn the horse so that it faces the door before releasing the lead.



Horse Tied Safely

### SAFETY IN BRIDLING, SADDLING, AND MOUNTING HORSES

#### *Bridling Safety*

1. SEI approved helmets, with harness fastened should be worn when mounted or driving.
2. Keep your head in the clear when bridling the horse. It may throw its head or strike to avoid the bridle. Avoid bridling a nervous animal in close quarters. After buckling the throat latch always place the loose end of the strap through the keeper on the buckle.

#### *Saddling Safety*

1. In addition to safely putting equipment on your horse, keep all tack in good repair. Keep bridle reins, stirrup leathers and cinch straps in the best possible condition, as your safety depends on these straps. Replace any strap when it begins to show signs of wear.



## APPENDIX B

# BREEDS OF HORSES AND PONIES

**Breed.** A group of horses having common origin and possessing certain distinguishable characteristics that are transmittable to their offspring.

**Breed character.** Those characteristics of a breed that distinguish it from other breeds such as function, conformation and/or color.

**Breeder.** Owner of the dam (female) at the time of service (breeding). The Jockey Club, which records Thoroughbreds, uses the term to refer to the owner of a mare at the time a foal is born.

**Breed Standard.** Standard of excellence set up by an association for its breed or registry i.e.: color, type, size.

**Breed Type.** Those characteristics commonly accepted as ideal for a particular breed.

**Cold Blood.** A horse of draft-horse breeding.

**Crossbred.** The offspring of a sire and a dam of different breeds or types.

**Dam.** The female parent (mother)

**Family.** A group of animals within a breed, all of which trace directly to a common ancestor.

**Get.** The offspring of a sire.

**Grade.** An animal of unknown ancestry. It may show some specific breed or type characteristics, and be designated a specific grade breed or type.

**Hot Blooded.** Of eastern or oriental blood.

**Part-Bred.** Designating the pedigree of an individual consisting of one or more breeds.

**Pedigree.** Written record of the ancestry of an animal. It may or may not be used to refer to a registration certificate.

**Performance Registry.** A record book in which the performance of animals is recorded and preserved.

**Produce.** The offspring of a dam.

**Purebred.** An individual having parents recorded in the same registry association. A registered animal is one whose parents are recorded, and is itself eligible to be registered with the breed registry.

### Breeds, Registries & Assoc.

### Contact

### Place of Origin

Appaloosa Horse Club, Inc.  
P.O. Box 8403  
2720 West Pullman Rd.  
Moscow, ID 83843-0903

208-882-5578  
Fax: 208-882-8150  
aphc@appaloosa.com

Depicted in cave drawings over 2000 years ago, bred by the Nez Peirce Indians in the Pacific Northwest of the United States.

Arabian Horse Registry of America, Inc.  
P.O. Box 173886  
Denver, CO 80217-3886

303-450-4748  
Fax: 303-450-2841  
www.theregistry.org

Oldest purebred and foundation horse for many modern horse breeds, first breeders were tribesmen of Arabia, imported to America in 1730.

International Arabian Horse Association (Half-Arabian and Anglo-Arabian Registries)  
10805 E. Bethany Dr.  
Aurora, CO 80014-2605

303-696-4500  
Fax: 303-696-4599  
www.iaha.com

The sire or dam must be a registered purebred Arabian.

Clydesdale Breeders of the U.S.A  
17346 Kelly Rd.  
Pecatonica, IL 61063

815-247-8780  
Fax: 815-247-8337  
clydesusa@aol.com

Southern Scotland.

American Donkey and Mule Society, Inc.  
2901 N. Elm St.  
Denton, TX 76201-7631

940-382-6845  
Fax: 940-484-8417  
adms@juno.com

George Washington was the first breeder of mules in North America

American Miniature Horse Association, Inc.  
5601 South 1H 35 W  
Alvarado, TX 76009

817-783-5600  
Fax: 817-783-6403  
amha@flash.net

Breeding from small English and Dutch mine horses brought to the United States in the 19th century.

Missouri Fox Trotting Horse Breed Association, Inc  
P.O. Box 1027  
Ava, MO 65608-1027

417-683-2468  
Fax: 417-683-6144  
foxtrot@goin.missouri.org  
www.mfthba.com

Developed from saddle horses by settlers in the Ozarks.

American Morgan Horse Association, Inc.  
P.O. Box 960  
Shelburne, VT 05482-0960

802-985-4944  
Fax 802-985-8897  
info@morganhorse.com  
www.morganhorse.com

United States: in the New England states.

American Paint Horse Association  
P.O. Box 961023  
Fort Worth, TX 76161-0023

817-834-2742  
Fax: 817-834-3152  
www.apha.com

Fort Worth, Texas, to preserve and promote spotted patterns of stock-type conformation horses.



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### GUIDELINES FOR RING STEWARDS

The ring steward is best described as the judge's assistant. The steward works with the judge, the announcer, the gate person, and the exhibitors to ensure that the show runs smoothly and efficiently. A 4-H ring steward should have showing experience and should at least be a 4-H teen aged 13 and up. The duties of the ring steward include:

1. Meeting with the judge, the announcer, the show chairperson, committee members, or superintendents as soon as possible before the show begins. Any special rules applying to the show should be discussed. The number of entries at which classes will be split, and who is to be responsible for keeping track of splits, should be decided.
2. Carrying a copy of the show class list, 4-H rules (this book), and any special rules for the show. The ring steward should help keep the judge informed of the type of class being judged.
3. Knowing when all of the entrants in a class have entered the arena and checking for scratches.
4. Helping keep the ring safe by watching for unruly or unsafe horses and asking the judge to excuse them.
5. Paying special attention to young or inexperienced exhibitors and helping to keep them safe.
6. Working with the judge, the announcer, and the arena gate person to help keep classes moving.
7. Being as courteous as possible to all involved. However, the ring steward should not "visit over the fence" with spectators, with exhibitors, or with the judge.
8. Staying out of the judge's line of vision.
9. Not helping the judge place the class in any way.
10. Acting as a buffer between the judge and the exhibitors and spectators.

### FITTING & SHOWING DIVISION

In judging 4-H fitting and showing classes, judges should emphasize the exhibitors' ability to handle and show their horses and to recognize breed customs, with safety as the major consideration.

The horse's conformation is not judged, since the horse is considered a means of displaying the exhibitor's abilities.

The judge or show management will designate a pattern to demonstrate the exhibitor's ability to handle and show the horse to greatest advantage. Patterns are not limited to the examples provided in this publication.

**APPOINTMENTS OF HORSE**—Tack must be clean, neat, supple, and properly fitted. Appointments of the horse for the various divisions follow.

- **Western**—Horse must be shown in a halter. The use of a chain end lead shank with the chain under the horse's jaw or over the horse's nose is permitted for safety reasons.
- **English (saddle seat type)**—Horse may be shown in a bridle if over age 2. (**Exception:** Arabians may be shown in a suitable show halter at any age.) The snaffle rein should be removed or secured to the mane at the withers. Whips or crops may be used with discretion.
- **English (hunter seat type)**—Horse may be shown in a bridle (snaffle, kimberwick, or pelham) if over age 2. A plain leather halter with throat latch is also acceptable.

**APPOINTMENTS OF EXHIBITOR**—Exhibitor appointments must be clean and neat. Appointments for the various sections follow.

- **Western**—Exhibitor must wear a western hat or protective headgear, western boots (**fashion heels are prohibited**), a long-sleeved shirt with a collar (including standup, tuxedo, oxford, button-down, turtleneck, and mock turtleneck) and long pants. If the pants have belt loops, a belt must be worn. A tie, pin, choker, necklace, or scarf is required for open-collared shirts. Gloves are optional.
- **English Saddle Seat**—Exhibitors must wear jackets in conservative colors such as black, blue, grey, or brown in fitting and showing. Riding habits for equitation classes will consist of a jacket (with collars and lapels of the same conservative color) with matching Kentucky jodhpurs (with pants straps to hold jodhpurs in place), a collared shirt, tie, vest, and gloves. A derby of matching color or protective headgear may be worn. Boots should be jodhpur boots of patent leather or leather in complementary colors. Conservative colors for informal riding habits include black, blue, grey, burgundy, green, beige, or brown, and may contain herringbone, pinstripes, or other combinations of colors that appear solid. For exhibitors riding in the pleasure division, day coats may be worn. Derby may match Kentucky jodhpurs. Whips and unrowelled spurs are optional.
- **English Hunter Seat**—Entrants must wear hunt-style jackets or blazers in conservative colors (including but not limited to black, blue, hunter green, brown). Traditional hunt shirts in conservative colors are required, including but not limited to white, ivory, pale pink, lavender, yellow, green, blue, or subtle patterns. Riding breeches and hunt boots or jodhpurs with garters or legging straps



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and jodhpur boots, are required. Recommended colors for breeches include tan, rust, grey, or olive. ASTM-SEI-approved hunt caps are required when riders are mounted. Approved hunt caps are optional in fitting and showing; however, some form of hunt cap must be worn when exhibitors are wearing hunter seat attire. Regular ties or stock ties and stock pins are acceptable.

**Note:** Numerical breakdowns of criteria evaluated in each event will be provided throughout this book. These breakdowns don't represent every judge's scoring system, but are shared for educational purposes only.

Fitting & Showing Criteria	Points
<b>Appearance of horse</b> .....	<b>40</b>
Condition & thriftiness (20)	
Grooming (15)	
Tack (5)	
<b>Showmanship</b> .....	<b>40</b>
Actions (10)	
Leading (15)	
Posing (15)	
<b>Exhibitor presentation</b> .....	<b>20</b>
Attitude (5)	
Appearance (5)	
Ring deportment (10)	
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>100</b>

### CRITERIA EXPLANATION

#### APPEARANCE OF HORSE (40 points)

##### Condition and thriftiness (20 points)

- Smooth, glossy coat and hard, rippling muscles
- Alertness and vigor
- Loose, pliable skin that is clean and healthy with fine, smooth, glossy hair
- Evidence of correct balance of nutrition, care, and exercise
- Excess fat or a thin, unthrifty condition is objectionable, and may be penalized at the judge's discretion.
- As stated in general rule 34, horses should demonstrate a body condition score of 4 or greater.

##### Grooming (15 points)

- Clean, well-brushed hair coat; dust, dandruff, and stains are objectionable.
- Areas around the eyes, ears, muzzle, nostrils, between the legs, under the tail, and the sheath (male animals only) must be clean.
- Mane and tail trimming and braiding should correspond to breed standards. The mane and tail must be clean and free of snarls, with the mane trained properly to fall on one side of the neck.
- Long hair should be trimmed from the fetlocks, bridle path, whiskers, throat latch, and ears to correspond to breed standards. **Hair left inside the ears to protect against insects will not be penalized.**

##### Tack (5 points)

- Must be clean, neat, supple, and properly fitted.

#### SHOWMANSHIP (40 points)

- Manners and actions in handling the horse should reflect the time and effort spent in training. Actions of the horse indicate a willing response to the exhibitor.
- Exhibitor and horse should demonstrate the ability to work calmly and quietly in the class. Figure 2 illustrates patterns that might be used in a fitting and showing class.
- The exhibitor should lead from the left side of the horse, holding the lead shank in the right hand about 8 to 12 inches from the halter. Smaller exhibitors may need a longer hold. Emphasis should be placed on light control of the horse with minimum pressure on the lead shank to allow the horse to hold its head naturally. A loose, flopping lead strap is objectionable. Any excess strap length should be held loosely in the left hand in a figure eight coil or in a loose loop for safety.
- The horse should move readily and freely at a walk and trot (or second gait for gaited horses) with very little urging by the exhibitor. Those breeds that do not trot at halter should be shown according to breed standards. The exhibitor should stay in position by the near (left) side of the horse's neck, preferably halfway between the horse's head and shoulder. A well-trained horse will move rapidly at a gait and speed equal to the speed at which the exhibitor is moving.
- The judge will designate an acceptable pattern for showing the horse's way of going. There are several points to remember when showing and moving a horse.
  - The horse should move out quickly and quietly when signaled to do so by the exhibitor.
  - When moving toward or away from the judge or ring steward, the horse should be kept in a straight line.
  - The exhibitor should move in a brisk, alert manner and allow enough slack in the lead rope for the horse's head to move freely. When walking behind another horse, the exhibitor should keep at least a horse length between themselves and the horse ahead.
  - When stopping the horse in front of the judge or ring steward, the exhibitor should stop approximately a horse length away.
  - The horse should set up quickly and stand squarely (or according to breed standards.)
  - The exhibitor should stay to one side and not block the judge's view of the horse.
  - When lining up horses, if there is not room to enter the existing line safely, exhibitors should start a new line (with help from the ring steward).
- Turns are usually made to the right. Small turns or pull turns (90 degrees or less) may be made to the left when common sense or safety applies, but collection and control of the horse are important. The horse must be under control and not free to swing its hindquarters. When a turn requires a pivot, the ideal turn should involve the horse pivoting on the right hind leg. The pivot foot should remain steady and the horse should not switch feet while turning. An exhibitor should not be penalized if the



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horse pivots on the left hind leg; however, more credit should be given to the exhibitor with the more correct pivot.

- **Donkeys and Mules**—The exhibitor may use their hand on a donkey or mule's shoulder or nose to help position its feet when posing. Turns should be a pivot on the haunches. Exhibitors should hold the lead shank in the right hand about 6 to 12 inches from the halter. A donkey exhibitor may carry a crop and have a trailer to assist at the trot.
- **Exhibitor Position**—When the horse is in the posed position (see fig. 3) and the judge walks past or around the horse, the exhibitor should be in areas A or B. A and B are to the side, but ahead of the horse. This position allows the most ease of moving from side to side with as little motion as possible. The area around the horse is divided into four quadrants as shown. The handler should be in the quadrant adjacent to the quadrant the judge is occupying, as follows:

### Judge's Position

Quad 1

Quad 2

Quad 3

Quad 4

### Exhibitor's Position

B

A

B

A

- Note the shaded "safe zones" in figure 4. These are the safe areas where the exhibitor is out of the direct line of a sudden lunge, a strike from the front legs or a kick from the back legs. In halter and fitting and showing classes the exhibitor can move to either side of the horse. This is safe if the horse is properly trained before entering the show ring. A horse acts independently on each side; therefore, it must be trained to lead, stand, and show from each side. The shaded areas in figure 4 indicate the safe areas for showing a horse from either side. Note the danger zone directly in front of the

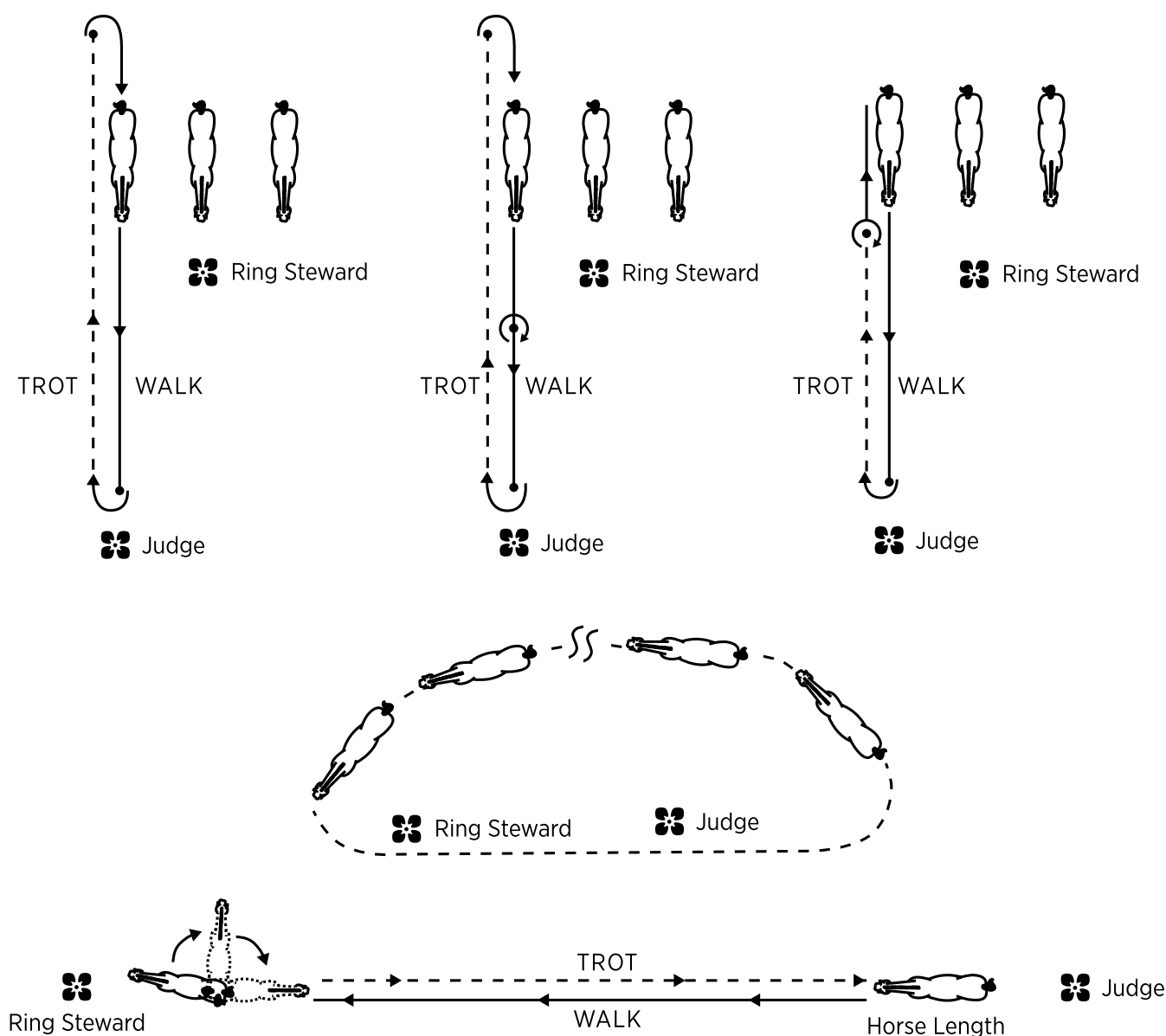
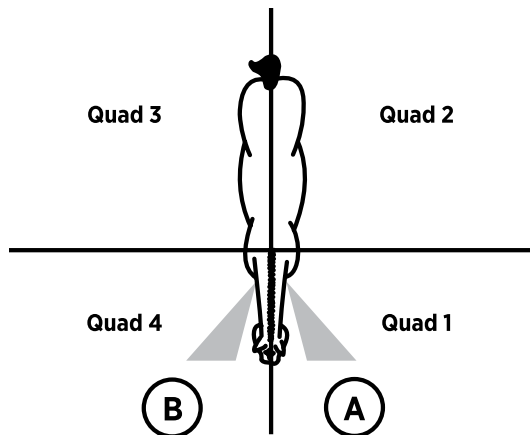


Figure 2. Sample fitting and showing patterns.



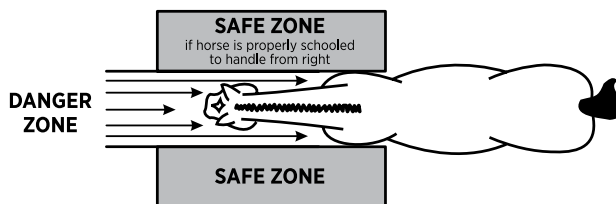
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horse. Learn to stand toward the front, not in the danger zone, but out of the direct line of action of a strike or a lunge. The exhibitor can cross the danger zone to get from one side of the horse to the other. Remaining in the danger zone, including when backing, is a major fault.



**Figure 3. The quarter system of judging fitting and showing.**

- When it is necessary to let the judge inspect the horse's near (left) side, step into the safe zone on the off (right) side as shown in figure 4. An exhibitor should not remain in the danger zone longer than the moment it takes to cross in front of the horse. A good exhibitor will try to use positions within the safe zones where they can watch both the horse and the judge.
- The exhibitor can pass between the judge and the horse as the judge moves around the animal. In doing so, the exhibitor should avoid blocking the judge's view longer than the moment required to step quickly and quietly between the horse and the judge.



**Figure 4. Danger and safety zones for handling horses.**

### EXHIBITOR PRESENTATION (20 points)

- Businesslike and friendly.
- Cooperates with the judge, ring steward, and other exhibitors.
- Concentrates on showing the horse and is not distracted by people and events outside the ring.
- Is courteous, attentive, and maintains a sportsmanlike attitude toward officials, other exhibitors, and all horses.
- Portrays confidence in the horse's training and in their own ability to present the animal.

## HALTER DIVISION

**APPOINTMENTS OF HORSE**—Tack must be clean, neat, supple, and properly fitted. Appointments of the horse for the various divisions follow.

- **Western**—Horse must be shown in halter. The use of a chain end lead shank with the chain under the horse's jaw or over the horse's nose is permitted for safety reasons.
- **English (saddle seat type)**—Horse may be shown in a bridle if over age 2. The snaffle rein should be removed or secured to the mane at the withers. Whips or crops may be used with discretion. **Exception:** Arabians may be shown in a pleasure type or fine horse show halter at any age.
- **English (hunter seat type)**—Horse may be shown in a bridle (such as a snaffle, kimberwick, or pelham) if over age 2. A plain leather halter with throat latch is also acceptable.
- **Draft**—Horse should be shown in a white rope halter or flat white nylon or leather halter with matching lead strap. Show sticks are optional, but abusive use of show sticks will be penalized.

**APPOINTMENTS OF EXHIBITOR**—Exhibitor appointments must be clean and neat. Appointments for the various sections follow.

- **Western**—Exhibitor must wear a western hat or protective headgear, western boots (**fashion heels are prohibited**), a long-sleeved shirt with a collar (including band, standup, tuxedo, oxford, button-down, or turtleneck) and long pants. If the pants have belt loops, a belt must be worn. One-piece equitation suits are permissible. A tie, pin, choker, or scarf is required. Gloves are optional.
- **English Saddle Seat**—Exhibitors must wear jackets in conservative colors such as black, blue, grey, or brown. Pleasure class exhibitors may wear day coats. Clothing must include Kentucky jodhpurs that match or coordinate with the jacket; a collared shirt; a tie; a derby, soft hat, or protective headgear; and jodhpur boots. Whips, gloves, and small boutonnieres are optional. Formal evening wear is inappropriate for daytime 4-H shows.
- **English Hunter Seat**—Exhibitors must wear hunt-style jackets or blazers in conservative colors (including but not limited to blue, black, hunter green, or brown). Traditional hunt shirts in conservative colors are required. Riding breeches and hunt boots, or jodhpurs with garters or legging straps and jodhpur boots are required. Recommended colors for jodhpurs include tan, rust, grey, or olive. Protective headgear is required (see General Rule 3). Regular ties or stock ties and stock pins are acceptable.