

'HA' TURNOUT / SHOW IN HAND GUIDELINES

OBJECT: to demonstrate the ability to present a horse to its best advantage as for a horse inspection, trot up, vet inspection, etc.

TURNOUT:

Handler: clean breeches in good repair, jacket, ratcatcher/shirt, helmet with harness done up, hairnet, boots clean and in good repair; whip optional, no more than 30" long, armband.

Horse: bridle, clean, well fitted; mane braided, tail style optional; hooves oiled all the way round; trimmed face, fetlocks, outside ears; sheath/udder/dock clean; eyes, nose, muzzle clean.

Preferably use firm level ground.

GUIDELINES FOR SHOWING A HORSE IN HAND

- Reins held in two hands. Whip in outside hand.
- Must release the head during movement and keep the neck straight. Walk/trot must be relaxed but forward.
- Must move straight away from the judge/examiner, checking over the shoulder occasionally to see if still straight.
- Move straight towards a marker (or assistant) so hind end can be seen.
- Halt. Turn ¼ to the right so the side view can be seen. Finish with ¼ turn to the right so front view can be seen.
- Trot directly back to the judge/examiner.
- Keep your eyes up at all times and look at a point or person where you are headed.
- When standing a horse up for observers, stand the horse to show off its best features: i.e. viewing from the near side, place near fore slightly ahead of off fore to show the shoulder to best advantage and place the off hind slightly ahead of the near hind to show the hip/hind leg off well.
- Can stand from the front, with one hand on each rein, or to the side of the head. In both cases ensure that you are not between the observer and the horse at any time. i.e. move as the observer moves.
- Decide whether the horse needs practice or warm up by doing so ahead of time. Possibly have a helper assist with the trot up.
- Smile and say "Good Morning".

These guidelines are just that – a guide. Examiners are looking for an alert, sharp presentation of an immaculate horse and handler, so be sure your turnout and body language reflect this.