

2011 Labor Day Show Class Descriptions

PLEASURE CLASSES

Stick Horse Class - for those little partners that have yet to get their own real horse. This class is judged on the understanding between stick horse and rider and their ability to perform in front of the judge at a walk, jog, lope and halt.

Showmanship - this is an in-hand class that focuses on the exhibitor's ability to fit and show an equine along with their poise and alertness. Judges evaluate the grooming and cleanliness of both the equine and handler and the condition, the training and manners of the equine and the expertise of the exhibitor in presenting the equine to the best of his/her ability. Exhibitors must work a predetermined pattern consisting of maneuvers such as walking, jogging/trotting, pivoting, backing and setting up.

Halter Horse (Equine) - the purpose of this class is to select individuals for the best resemblance of their breed's quality based on their conformation, soundness, muscling and movement. Presentation and cleanliness of the equine also affects placement within the class.

Bareback Equitation - this class is to be ridden with bridle only without the use of any type of saddle or bareback pad and is open to either discipline. In this class the rider's skills, form, balance and control will be judged. You will be judged on how well you can control your equine - not how well your equine moves. The judge will focus mainly on your leg position, seat position, your upper body position, your posture, your hand position and your overall horsemanship. The judge will also take notice of how well your equine responds to your cues, and how accurate your movements are. Riders are together in the ring while they perform the walk and jog/trot/slow gait in each direction. You will be asked to back your equine while in the line-up but you will not be asked to dismount for any reason. *PLEASE NOTE – this equitation class is shown “on the rail”, not a pattern.

Balloon Bust - this class is a timed event where the little partners dash on foot from a predetermined starting line to a chair holding a balloon. They must sit down on and burst the balloon, jump up and then dash back across to the starting line as fast as they can. Quickest time wins.

Lead Line Class - this class is for the little partners that have advanced to the real equine but are not quite ready to take the reins. The partner rides at a walk while an adult leads and controls the equine. They are judged on how well they sit the equine and how cute and adorable they look atop that monstrous animal. Appearance of both handler and rider may be taken into account.

Costume Class - each contestant prepares themselves and their mount to carry out a specific theme which shows imagination, ingenuity and clearly represents the efforts of the exhibitor. All costumes must be designed in such a manner as to allow movement and to be safe. Be sure to prepare your mount prior to arriving at the show grounds so that he/she will not become frightened or unruly in the arena. Helmets are permissible.

Western Pleasure - this class for the 3-gaited equine is judged on the equine and its quality of movement. The equine should be as the name implies, a pleasure to ride. He should be relaxed but alert and ready to respond to the rider's command without excessive cueing. He should look smooth, comfortable, agreeable, pleasant, fun and easy to control. It is up to the rider to make them look this way. He carries his head in a natural position, not high and over flexed at the poll or low with the nose out. Exhibitors compete simultaneously, traveling around the perimeter of the arena. The equines are judged on functional correctness, quality of movement including consistency of their gaits and attitude. Exhibitors are asked to show their equines at all three gaits travelling in both directions and will be asked to back and stand quietly. Any break in gait will result in a penalty mark in the class. Pulling, tossing of the head, going sideways and other indications of poor manners will be penalized.

English Trail Pleasure - this class for the 3-gaited equine is ridden with relatively loose single rein and should give the impression of going at a complete ease with very minimum control by the exhibitor. Equines will be asked to walk or trot and to come to a stop on the rail, walk to the line up and back effortlessly in the line up. They will be judged on the smoothness and consistency of the gait, as well as obedience and overall “pleasure to ride”.

Western Gaited Horse (Equine) Class - this class is open to all non-trotting equines. Gaits to be called for will be a walk, slow gait and regular (faster) gait. The equine will be judged on the smoothness and consistency of the gait, as well as obedience and overall performance. Equines will be asked to back in the line up.

Western Pleasure Novice - the novice class is open to any person that has not won a first place blue ribbon prior to this year. This class is for the 3-gaited equine and the requirements are the walk and jog. In this class the exhibitor is judged on their saddle confirmation and their ability to relate with their equine who needs to be willing, obedient and sound. He should get his correct leads when you ask for them and be able to travel on a reasonably loose rein and in a straight line down the rail - no weaving. This class offers the rider an opportunity to improve his/her show skills under the acknowledgment of a qualified judge. You may also be asked to halt, back and for the equine to stand quietly on a free rein. **A novice rider may not show in any class that lopes.**

English Pleasure Novice - description for this class is the same as for the Western Novice only the gait requirements are the walk and trot. This class is also for the 3-gaited equine. **A novice rider may not show in any class that canters.**

Gaited Pleasure Novice - description for this class is also the same as for the Western Novice only the gait requirements are the walk and slow gait. This class is open to all non-trotting equines. **A novice rider may not show in any class that fast gaits.**

English Pleasure Under Saddle - the equines are to be shown at a walk, trot, canter (and at judge's discretion, hand gallop) both directions of the ring. The pleasure equine should be obedient, smooth, relaxed, willing and easy to handle. These traits should be evident when the equine is worked at each gait. Emphasis will be placed on the smoothness of the performance of the equine and on the suitability of the equine to the rider for this style of riding.

Western Pleasure - same description as on the previous page but lope is required. Class is open to all ages.

Open Gaited GAYP - this class is open to all non-trotting equines. It is a variation of the traditional pleasure gaited class. Gaits that will be called for are the walk and the rider's choice or favorite gait. The choice gait must be the same in both directions each time it's called. The strategy is in choosing the gait that will best show your equine's ability.

Western Equitation - this class is for the 3-gaited equine and in this class the rider's skills, form, balance and control will be judged. You will be judged on how well you can control your equine - not how well your equine moves. The judge will focus mainly on your leg position, your upper body position, your posture, your hand position and your overall horsemanship. The judge will also take notice if your equine runs away, if he's lazy so that you have to kick him excessively, how well your equine responds to your cues, how accurate your movements are and also how you interact with the other riders and equines in the arena. Do you cut them off or ride too closely to another equine? Also how neat and tidy you look. Riders are together in the ring while they perform the walk, jog and lope in each direction. You will be ask to back your equine while in the line-up.

English Equitation - this class is for the 3-gaited equine and in this class the rider's skills, form, balance and control will be judged. You will be judged on how well you can control your equine - not how well your equine moves. The judge will focus mainly on your leg position, your upper body position, your posture, your hand position and your overall horsemanship. The judge will also take notice if your equine runs away, if he's lazy so that you have to kick him excessively, how well your equine responds to your cues, how accurate your movements are and also how you interact with the other riders and equines in the arena. Do you cut them off or ride too closely to another horse? Also how neat and tidy you look. Riders are together in the ring while they perform the walk, trot and canter in each direction. You will be ask to back your horse while in the line-up.

Style Racking - the gaits to be called for in this event will be the show walk and the style rack in both directions. The Style Racking equine should display brilliance and show presence while performing a true 4-beat rack. The equine should be balanced both front and rear with animation and action in both the show walk and style rack. Exhibitors should not sacrifice style or gait for speed. Style racking equines are not required to back.

English Pleasure Open - the 3-gaited equine's are to be shown at a walk, trot and canter both directions of the ring. The pleasure equine should be easy to handle, obedient and consistent. Light contact with the equine's mouth must be maintained. These traits should be evident when the equine is worked at each gait. Emphasis will be placed on the smoothness of the performance of the equine and on the suitability as a pleasure mount. Pulling, tossing of the head, going sideways and other indications of poor manners will be penalized. Open to any age.

Western Pleasure Open - same as page one description and open to any age.

Gaited Pleasure Open - this class is open to all non-trotting equines and is judged on the equine and its quality of movement. The equine should be as the name implies, a pleasure to ride. He should be relaxed but alert and ready to respond to the rider's command without excessive cueing. He should look smooth, comfortable, agreeable, pleasant, fun and easy to control. It is up to the rider to make them look this way. He carries his head in a natural position, not high and over flexed at the poll or low with the nose out. Exhibitors compete simultaneously, traveling around the perimeter of the arena. The equines are judged on functional correctness, quality of movement including consistency of their gaits and attitude. Exhibitors are asked to show their equines at three gaits (walk, slow gait, fast gait) travelling in both directions and will be asked to back and stand quietly. Any break in gait will result in a penalty mark in the class. Pulling, tossing of the head, going sideways and other indications of poor manners will be penalized. This class is open to any age.

Trail Class - the equine and rider will be asked to maneuver over and through an obstacle course without disturbing the obstacles. They may be required to trot or lope between obstacles. Some obstacles may include rails, bridge, cones, mailbox, poles, etc. The rider may also be required to back the equine through/over some of these. Be prepared for the big blue tarp or strange props meant to distract your mount. A participant is given three tries at any one obstacle and then must pass it and move on if it's not negotiated successfully. There will be a time limit on each participant in this class and entries will be excused by the judge if this time is exceeded. The equine will be expected to walk, jog or trot, lope, canter or slow gait, do proper lead changes and back easily. The equine should handle each obstacle quietly and willingly, but not without showing some curiosity about the obstacle. A good trail equine should be relied upon to investigate obstacles to determine the safety of proceeding over or through them. The equine should not forge ahead without inspecting the obstacle.

English GAYP - this class for the 3-gaited equine is judged on the equine and its quality of movement. Only two gaits are ridden: the walk and the rider's choice of gait (trot or canter). The strategy is in choosing the gait that will best show your equine's ability. The choice gait must be the same in both directions each time it's called. Equines will also be asked to back while in line-up.

Gaited Horse (Equine) Equitation - this class is open to all non-trotting equines and in this class the rider's skills, form, balance and control will be judged. You will be judged on how well you can control your equine - not how well your equine moves. The judge will focus mainly on your leg position, your upper body position, your posture, your hand position and your overall horsemanship. The judge will also take notice if your equine runs away, if he's lazy so that you have to kick him excessively, how well your equine responds to your cues, how accurate your movements are and also how you interact with the other riders and equines in the arena. Do you cut them off or ride too closely to another equine? Also how neat and tidy you look. Riders are together in the ring while they perform the walk, slow gait and fast gait in each direction. You will be asked to back your equine while in the line-up.

Gaited Pleasure Youth - Same as the **Gaited Pleasure Open** class only the age limit is 17 and under.

Western Pleasure GAYP - this class for the 3-gaited equine is judged on the equine and its quality of movement. It is a variation of the traditional pleasure class. Only two gaits are ridden: the walk and the rider's choice of gait (jog or lope). The strategy is in choosing the gait that will best show your equine's ability. The choice gait must be the same in both directions each time it's called. Equines will also be asked to back while in line-up.

Open Walk/Trot or Walk/Jog or Walk/Slow Gait - this class is for the beginners that are not comfortable in the arena with the more experienced riders. The exhibitor will be asked to walk or trot/jog/slow gait their equine in both directions. They are judged on their saddle confirmation and their ability to communicate with their equine and the consistency of the gait.

****NOTE – participants in this class are not allowed cross-entry into any other class that REQUIRES loping, such as English or western pleasure.**

Country Gaited Pleasure - this class is open to all non-trotting equines that should be flat shod and ridden with relatively loose single reins and should give the impression of going at ease with a minimum of control by the exhibitor. Gaits will be a show walk, a smooth easy comfortable intermediate gait and a rack or fast gait (country pleasure gait, no trot or canter.) Excessive speed will be penalized and the quality of gait should never be sacrificed for speed. The equine may be asked to halt while working on the rail to test for quietness. The equine must stand quietly on the rail and in the line-up, and back freely when asked.

Bridle Path Hack - This is a basic flat class for the 3-gaited equine that is judged as an English pleasure class (relaxed forward movement with light contact) that can also include extended trot and hand galloping in both directions around the arena. Your equine will also need to halt and back up and you may be asked to dismount and remount from the ground.

Speed Racking - the non-trotting equine enters the arena at a show walk. The equine will need to exhibit a show walk, slow gait and fast gait (gait-on or speed rack) in both directions of the arena. The slow gait is added in order to give all entrants a brief warm-up period to set up the equine or position themselves better for the gait-on/speed rack gait. The fast gait should have a noticeable increase of speed over the equine's slow gait. The Speed Racking equine should exhibit the brilliance and excitement of speed racking however form shall not be sacrificed for speed. Speed Racking equines are not required to back.

Western Pleasure Championship - this class is available for anyone that has placed in a preceding Western class today. Same pleasure rules apply.

English Pleasure Championship - this class is available for anyone that has placed in a preceding English class today. Same pleasure rules apply.

Gaited Horse Championship - this class is available for anyone that has placed in a preceding Gaited class today. Same pleasure rules apply.

GAME CLASSES

Ride -A-Buck - a dollar bill will be placed under the knee, seat, thigh or calf of the exhibitor who is riding bareback. The horses will be shown at a walk, lope/trot, lope/canter/slow gait. You may be ask to halt abruptly, ride with arms straight out and feet out straight, all trying to loosen the bill from under the leg. The last exhibitor with the dollar intact wins the class.

Speed Ball - Get the ball in the cone ... it's that simple! Go through timing line to the cone. Turn the cone in either direction, dropping the golf ball in the cone. Go back through timing line. Special penalty: A rider will be disqualified if the golf ball does not go inside the cone or if the cone is knocked over. Any action by the horse or rider that causes the ball to be outside of the cone at the end of the ride shall be a "No Time" ride.

Pole Bending - This is a timed event. The course consists of a series of six poles spaced 21 feet apart, which horses and riders weave through. Horses run to the far end of the series of poles, turn and weave in and out as they work their way back to the front. Horses then complete a turn around the front pole and maneuver through the series again. At the last pole they complete that turn and race toward the finish line at full speed. A five-second penalty is added for each pole knocked down.

Pole Bending Payback Class - Same as regular pole bending only this class pays back a percentage of the entry fees to the winner and placers. Payback amount and placings is determined by the number of entrants.

Water Glass Class - this class is like a typical pleasure class although other maneuvers may be added. Each entry will receive a "Dixie cup" or plastic glass filled with clear water. Riders will hold the filled glass out from their body for the entire class. As the different gaits are performed, the water begins to spill from the glasses. The rider who retains the most water in their glass the longest is the winner. Penalty judges will periodically check everyone's glass to eliminate riders with less and less water. Gaits to be called will be the walk, jog or trot, lope/canter or slow gait. Quick halt on the rail and backing may also be requested.

Quadrangle Stake - This is a timed event where the contestants race against the clock and turn around 4 barrels in a set pattern. Cross the timing line toward the furthestmost right side barrel, turn from the inside toward the right and around toward the left barrel. At the left barrel turn from the outside inward (right turn) and race to the first barrel on the right closest to the timing line. Turn around it from the inside (left turn) and then race to the last barrel to the left going to the upper side and around the outer side (left turn.) After clearing the fourth barrel race back to the first barrel make a right turn and run back to the timing line, being sure to keep between the barrels and the fence. If the start is with the furthestmost right side barrel, there will be two right turns then two left turns and finishing with a right turn around the first barrel and a race to the timing line. If the start is with the furthestmost left side barrel, there will be two left turns then two right turns finishing with a left turn around the first barrel and a race to the timing line. Barrels are permitted to be touched, but if one is knocked down during the course of the run, a five-second penalty per downed barrel is added to the run time.

Egg & Spoon - this class is like a typical pleasure class although other maneuvers may be added. Each entry will receive a spoon and a raw egg. Riders will hold the spoon with the egg in the spoon portion which in turn is held at the end of the shank. As the different gaits are performed, the eggs will fall because the riders may not touch the rounded spoon area nor the egg. The rider who retains the egg on the end of the spoon the longest is the winner. Gaits to be called will be the walk, jog or trot, lope/canter or slow gait. Quick halt on the rail and backing may also be requested.

Mailbag Race - This is a timed event where the contestants race against the clock to "deliver" the mail. The course consists of either barrels or barrels and poles. Contestant dashes down the arena, staying between the first barrel or pole on the right side of the arena, jumps over a low jump or pole combination on the ground on toward the second barrel at the end of the arena. On top of this barrel is placed a set of "mailbags". Constants pick up the mailbags and race back to the finish line being sure to weave between the third set of barrels or poles on the left side of the arena. When contestant reaches the gate and has their horse under control, they must raise the mailbags up high to show that they successfully completed the "mail delivery." Dropped mailbags gets a "No Time" penalty, overturned barrel or pole is a 5-second penalty.

Cloverleaf Barrels - This is a timed event where the contestants race against the clock, following a course consisting of three barrels in a triangular "cloverleaf" pattern. Contestants must choose either the right or left barrel as barrel #1, circle it and go on to the barrel #2, then completing the course after circling barrel #3 and running to the finish line. Barrels are permitted to be touched, but if one is knocked down during the course of the run, a five-second penalty per downed barrel is added to the run time.

Texas Barrels - This is a timed event where three barrels are placed in a straight line, 60 feet apart, the first barrel being 30 feet from the timing line. The exhibitor crosses the timing line, pass the first barrel on either side, pass the succeeding barrels on alternate sides, turn around the third barrel and return the same manner to cross the timing line. Knocking over a barrel carries a 5 second penalty and failure to follow the course will cause a "no time" disqualification. (Should the arena space be smaller, the distance shall be reduced by 5 feet between each barrel until pattern fits arena, leaving at least 60 feet of stopping area.)