

WESTERN ALL BREED SCHOOLING SHOW CLASS DESCRIPTIONS

CLASS DESCRIPTIONS

Halter: Horses are shown in a halter before the judge so that lameness and quality of movement can be evaluated. Horses are judged on balance, structural correctness, breed and sex characteristics and degree of muscling. Horses will be shown at the walk and trot/jog and will be stood to their best advantage or breed standard for the judge to evaluate conformation.

Ranch Horse Conformation: This class is designed to evaluate a horse's structure, balance, and capability to perform ranch work. Judges look for a structurally sound horse with correct limbs, good muscling, and overall balance, ensuring the horse is built to withstand a full day of ranch work. In this class, handlers will walk in toward the judge, then once past the judge, trot around a cone and line up, standing with the horse squared up to be judged.

Showmanship: Horses are shown in a halter. The judge evaluates the showmanship skills of the exhibitor. Judges evaluate the ability to execute, in concert with a well-groomed and conditioned horse, a pattern of maneuvers with precision and smoothness while exhibiting poise and confidence.

Western Pleasure: Contestants compete simultaneously on the rail and are asked to walk and jog both directions for the walk/jog classes and at the walk, jog and lope both directions for the walk/jog/lope classes. Horses are evaluated on a natural movement, with quality and consistency of gaits while staying quiet and calm, traveling on a reasonably loose rein, giving the appearance of a horse that is a pleasure to ride.

Ranch Riding Rail Classes: Contestants compete simultaneously on the rail and are asked to walk and trot both directions for the walk/trot classes and at the walk, trot and lope both directions for the walk/trot/lope classes. The judge may call for the extension of any gait. The movement of the horse should simulate a horse needing to cover long distances, softly and quietly, like that of a working ranch horse. The horse should be well-trained, relaxed, quiet, soft and cadenced at all gaits. The ideal ranch horse will travel with forward movement and demonstrate an obvious lengthening of stride at extended gaits. The horse can be ridden with light contact or on a relatively loose rein without requiring undue restraint, but not shown on a full drape of reins.

Ranch Riding: Horses show individually, performing a set pattern. Judges are looking for relaxed, responsive horses with soft and cadenced gaits. The overall manners and responsiveness of the horse to make timely transitions in a smooth and correct manner, as well as the quality of movement are the primary considerations.

Ranch Trail: This class should test the horse's ability to cope with situations encountered while being ridden through a pattern of obstacles generally found during the course of everyday ranch work. The horse/rider team is judged on correctness, efficiency, and pattern accuracy with which the obstacles are negotiated, and the attitude and mannerisms exhibited by the horse. At least six obstacles will be used: opening and passing through a hinged gate, riding over at least 4 logs or poles, riding over a wooden bridge, sidepass and a backing obstacle. Other obstacles may include but are not limited to: carrying an object from one place to another, dragging an object, trotting through cones, and removing and replacing objects from a mailbox.

Arena Trail: This class is judged on the performance of the horse over obstacles, with emphasis on manners, response to the rider, and quality of movement. At least six obstacles will be used, 3 of which are mandatory: opening and passing through a gate, riding over at least 4 logs or poles, and a backing obstacle. Other obstacles may include but are not limited to: carrying an object from one place to another, sidepassing, riding over a wooden bridge, putting on and removing a slicker, removing and replacing objects from a mailbox, and serpentine obstacles.

Reining: Horses show individually, running a set pattern. The pattern will include small slow circles, large fast circles, flying lead changes, rollbacks over the hocks, a series of 360 degree spins done in place, and sliding stops. The horse should be willingly guided or controlled with little or no apparent resistance and dictated to completely. Credit will be given for smoothness, finesse, attitude, quickness and authority in performing the various maneuvers while using controlled speed.

Western Gaits: The **Walk** shall be a natural, flat footed, four-beat gait. The **Trot** shall be a consistent two-beat gait, or for gaited horses, showing their correct forward movement. The **Lope** shall be a relaxed three-beat gait.