

## 2011 SHOWMANSHIP IN HAND

**NOTE: Awards for Walk/Trot & Novice Showmanship In Hand will be by the Danish System. Standards for classes are as follows:**

### **Novice and Walk/Trot**

**Scores greater than or equal to 85 = Blue**

**Scores 75-84 = Red**

**Scores less than or equal to 74 = White**

### **General Requirements:**

1. This class is to be judged on the cleanliness and condition of the horse, the training and manners of the horse and the way in which the exhibitor presents the horse to the judge. **4-H exhibitors will not be penalized nor gain extra points due to the expense of the horse, equipment, or clothing** that they will be utilizing to exhibit in this class.
2. All leading will be from the near side of the equine with the lead shank held in the right hand 8-12" from the halter ring or the end of the shank or side piece of the bit; the end of the lead or rein is to be held in the left hand, the arm relaxed and carried in a natural manner. The lead or rein should be folded loosely, not coiled or in tight, narrow folds.
3. The lead rein is not to be switched from one hand to the other during posing.
4. When not being led, the equine is to be posed.
5. The exhibitor's feet may not be used to position the feet of the equine.
6. No whips or crops are to be carried or used.
7. Western exhibitors are prohibited from wearing chaps and spurs.
8. Impression points will only be used to break ties.
9. Any person showing two horses in the same division (different seats) at a show where only one Showmanship In Hand class is offered for that division will be allowed to show one horse in the Pony division to be scored for Showmanship In Hand in their respective class.

### **Class Requirements**

#### **1. Group Method**

All exhibitors are to enter the ring and be lined up side-by-side, leaving at least 30' from the line-up to the nearest fence. One judge will evaluate the class. All exhibitors shall be asked to back their equines, to lead either away from or toward the judge at a walk and a trot, and to demonstrate their ability to move around the equine.

## 2. **Posing**

The exhibitor will move back and forth across the front of the equine in accordance with the “Quarter System” (see enclosed diagram), depending on the position of the judge. In general, if the judge is positioned toward the front half of the equine, the exhibitor is to be on the opposite side; if the judge is positioned toward the rear half of the equine, the exhibitor is to be on the same side. The exhibitor should at all times remain in front of a line perpendicular to the long axis of the equine’s body at the equine’s nose, facing the shoulder. The exhibitor’s body should remain stationary, but the head may be turned to keep the judge in view.

## **Judging the Class**

### 1. **Appearance of the Horse**

#### a. Condition and Thriftiness

#### b. Grooming

- Hair coat clean, well brushed
- Mane, tail, foretop, and wither tufts free of tangles and clean. It is prohibited to use ornaments of any kind, except in divisions in which this is acceptable, i.e. Draft and Gaited Horses classes. Manes, tails, foretops, and wither tufts may be braided or banded in English, Western, French, or other style appropriate to breed and/or style of riding.
- Hooves should be trimmed properly. If shod, shoes must fit properly and clinches should be neat.

#### c. Trimming

- Manes and foretop should be trimmed according to breed type and/or division shown.
- Inside of ears may be clipped.
- Long hair on jaw, legs, and pasterns should be clipped.

#### d. Tack

- Tack should be neat, clean, and in good repair.
- Tack should be appropriate to division shown.

### 2. **Appearance of Exhibitor**

#### a. Clothes and exhibitor are to be neat and clean.

#### b. Appropriate clothes should be worn for the division shown.

### 3. **Showing the Horse**

#### a. Leading

- Enter the arena leading the animal at an alert walk in a counterclockwise direction unless otherwise directed by the judge. Walk on the animal’s left side, holding the read/rein in the right hand, 8-12 inches from the animal’s head. The remaining lead/rein is held neatly and safely in the left hand. A tightly coiled and rolled lead/rein will be considered a fault at showmanship. The horse

should lead readily at the walk or jog/trot.

- After the judge has lined up the class, he/she will call on each exhibitor to move their horse individually. When moving the horse, be sure that the judge gets a clear, unobstructed view of the horse's actions. Allow the horse sufficient lead/rein so that it can move freely and in a straight line. Lead the horse from its left side to the required distance; stop; and turn to the right around the horse.

b. Posing

- When posing the horse, stand toward the front facing the horse, but not directly in front of the horse, and always in a position where you can keep your eye on the judge.
- Post the horse with their feet squarely under them. Rear legs should be placed squarely under the horse or according to breed type. Do the positioning with the lead/rein. Do not use your hand or foot to position your horse. Never kick a horse's leg into position.
- Do not get too close to the horse and exhibitor next to, in front, or behind you. **THIS IS A SAFETY ISSUE!! STAY OUT OF KICKING AND BITING RANGE OF ANOTHER ANIMAL!**
- While the judge is observing other animals, keep your animal posed as well as possible.
- Be natural, overshadowing or undue fussing and maneuvering are objectionable.

c. Poise, Alertness and Merits

- Keep alert and be aware of the position of the judge at all times. Do not be distracted by persons or happenings outside of the ring.
- Show your horse at all times, not yourself.
- Respond quickly and politely to the requests of the judge and show officials.
- Be courteous and sportsmanlike at all times.
- Quickly recognize and correct faults of your horse.
- Keep showing until the entire class has been judged and you are excused from the ring.

4. **Soundness**

Unsoundness of the horse being shown shall not penalize the handler unless it is sufficiently severe as to impair the required performance, in which case penalty is at the judge's discretion.

**Suggestions to Exhibitors**

1. Always respond to the judge's comments and questions quickly and politely.
2. Avoid excessive makeup.
3. Choose conservative appointments.
4. Look alert, interested, keep head up.
5. Smile.
6. Follow instructions, be ready.
7. Be courteous to judges and other exhibitors.
8. Know where the judge is at all times.
9. Keep the equine alert and properly posed.
10. Be sure your exhibitor number is clearly visible.