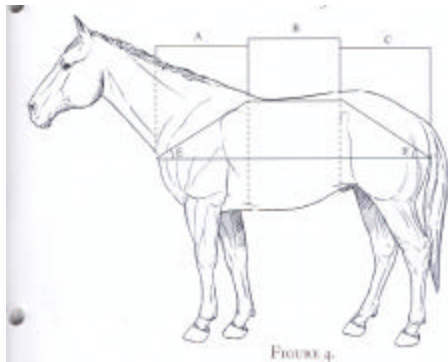


Judging Quick Notes: Halter:



Ideal: Balance

When evaluating halter horses look at:



Front View Rear View Front Leg Rear Leg

Balance: Do the parts fit together?

Structural Correctness: are the legs straight and correct.

Muscle: examine volume, length, and quality

When evaluating muscle look at the gaskin and forearm for volume.

Type: Does the horse look like the breed it is?

Does a mare look feminine, stallion masculine?

Performance:

Five points used to evaluate performance:

Functional Correctness: Does the horse do what is ask of them in the class and perform the requirements of the class.

Manners: Is the behavior and attitude of the horse pleasant?

Responsiveness: refers to the quickness and smoothness of the Horse's response as well as the lightness of the cue

Gait Quality: accuracy of the gait, the fluidity of movement, The correct degree of action, the correct and constant speed.

Conformation: Is the horse sound?

Western Pleasure:

A western pleasure horse should have a balanced, flowing motion in all gaits. He should carry his head and neck in a constant, relaxed, balanced position without being over-flexed, which gives an appearance of intimidation, or nosed out, which gives an appearance of resistance, His ears should be alert. He should be shown on a reasonably loose rein, but still have light contact and control. He should be responsive, yet smooth in transitions.

Maximum credit should be given to the flowing, balanced, and willing horse, which gives the appearance of being fit and a pleasure to ride.

Hunter Under Saddle:

Hunters under saddle should be suitable to purpose. Ideally, it should be a horse that is ridden through fields and woods following hounds chasing a fox. They should move in a long, low frame, and be able to lengthen their stride and cover ground. They should be obedient, alert, and responsive to their riders. Quick, short strides should be penalized. Horses that move in an artificial frame are over flexed and behind the bit should also be penalized. The trot should be long, low, ground covering, cadenced and balanced strides, smoothness is more essential than

Reining:

To rein a horse is not only to guide him, but also to control his every movement. The best reined horse should be willfully guided and controlled with little or no apparent resistance and dictation to completely. Any movement on his own must be considered a lack of control. All deviations from the exact written pattern must be considered a lack or temporary loss of control, and therefore faulted according to severity of deviation. Credit will be given for smoothness, finesse, attitude, quickness, and authority in performing various maneuvers while using controlled speed.

References:

Competitive Horse Judging, AQHA
Light Horse Selection, The Ohio State University Extension, 4-H175
Uniform Rules for 4-H Horse Shows, The Ohio State University Extension, 4-H179