

Ideal Ranch Horse

The Ideal Class is a performance event. This class displays the balance required of a pleasure horse which also exhibits good conformation.

Horses to be stripped and judged on conformation after the under saddle work.

To be judged sixty (60) percent on performance and manners, forty (40) percent on conformation.

Wheel barrows, carts or any type of mechanical apparatus are prohibited in the ring and will result in the disqualification of the entry.

Horses to be shown in a suitable halter for the halter portion of judging.

Ideal Class Performance

To be shown at a walk, jog, and lope, both ways of the ring on a reasonably loose rein, without undue restraint.

Extended jog may be required.

Horses are required to back.

Ideal Class Grooming

Each Exhibitor must have at least one (1) groom, and no more than two (2) grooms to assist with tack removal and grooming. 3. Grooms shall wait at the gate until the announcer/ring steward indicates that the judge/s have directed the grooms/attendants to enter the ring. 4. Grooms/attendants are to walk to the Exhibitor and wait until the announcement is made to start grooming. The Exhibitor shall remain mounted until the announcer calls for grooming to begin. 5. Time limit for grooming/stripping is two (2) minutes. 6. Exhibitor to remain with Horse, and must retain number

RANCHMANSHIP

The purpose of this class is to bring forth the versatility in both the ranch horse and exhibitor, in the task of performing a designated pattern.

Each horse will work individually.

There will be no time-limit.

A simple or flying lead change should be executed precisely in the specified number of strides and/or at the designated location. A simple lead change is performed by breaking to a walk or trot for one to five strides (before break of gait penalty applies). Flying lead changes should be simultaneous front to rear. All changes should be smooth and timely.

This class will also be judged on quality of movement on horse.

Judge will score on all gaits performed at the end of the pattern on overall average of each gait.

Transitions should be performed where designated, with smoothness and responsiveness. Posting at extended trot is acceptable. Touching or holding the saddle horn during any extended gait is acceptable.

Exhibitor will be judged on ability and decision making in the show pen.

An exhibitor that puts their horse in the correct positions and making the horses job easier should receive credit.

RANCH RIDING DESCRIPTION

The purpose of the ranch riding class is to measure the ability of the horse to be a pleasure to ride while being used as a means of conveyance from performing one ranch task to another. The horse should reflect the versatility, attitude and movement of a working ranch horse riding outside the confines of an arena. 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. The overall manners and responsiveness of the ranch riding horse to make timely transitions in a smooth and correct manner, as well as the quality of the movement are of primary considerations. The ideal ranch riding horse should have a natural ranch horse appearance from head to tail in each maneuver.

Class requirements:

Each horse will work individually.

A specific pattern will be designated

The overall cadence and performance of the gaits should be with an emphasis on forward movement, free-flowing, and ground covering for all gaits. Transitions should be performed where designated, with smoothness and responsiveness.

No time limit.

Sitting the regular trot and lope is recommended; though standing in the stirrups at the extended trot and extended lope, or posting the extended trot is acceptable.

Touching or holding the saddle horn is acceptable.

RANCH RAIL DESCRIPTION

The Ranch Rail class measures the ability of the horse to be a pleasure to ride and should reflect the versatility, attitude, and movement of a working horse. The horse should be well-broke, relaxed, quiet, soft and cadenced at all gaits. The movement of the Ranch Rail horse should simulate a horse needing to cover long distances, softly and quietly. The overall manners and responsiveness of the horse and the horse's quality of movement are the primary considerations. Maximum credit should be given to the horse that has a natural flowing stride and consistent, ground covering gaits. Transitions should be performed when requested, with smoothness and responsiveness. The ideal Ranch Rail horse should have a natural head carriage at each gait. The horse should be ridden on a relatively loose rein with light contact and without requiring undue restraint while being responsive to the rider and making timely transitions in a smooth and correct manner. The horse should be soft in the bridle, yield to contact and shall not be shown on a full drape of rein. Riders are encouraged to use adequate space given the extension of gaits required. This class should show the horse's ability to work at a forward, working pace while under control by the rider. The horse shall be balanced and appear willing and a pleasure to ride in a group situation.

In all gaits, movement of the ranch horse should simulate a horse needing to cover long distances, softly and quietly, like that of a working ranch horse.

Walk - the walk is a natural, flat footed, four-beat gait. The gait is rhythmic and ground-covering. As in all gaits, the horse should display a level, or slightly above level topline with a bright, attentive expression.

Extended Walk – the extended walk is an obvious lengthening of stride that will naturally increase the pace. The horse should move in a natural manner (not a running walk) as if it were moving across an open pasture.

Trot- the trot is a natural two-beat gait demonstrating more forward motion than the western jog.

Extended Trot- the extended trot is an obvious lengthening of the stride with a definite increase in pace. The horse should be moving in a manner as if it were covering a large area on a ranch with an above level topline.

Lope- the lope is a three-beat gait. The lope should be relaxed and smooth with a natural, forward moving stride.

Extended Lope- the extended lope is not a run or a race but should be an obvious lengthening of the stride, demonstrating a forward, working speed. The horse should display an above level topline with a bright, attentive expression.

Touching or holding the saddle horn during any extended gait is acceptable.

Horses are to be reversed to the inside (away from the rail). They may be required to reverse at the walk or trot at the discretion of the judge but shall not be asked to reverse at the lope.

Horses are required to back easily and stand quietly.

Horses may be brought to the center or backed on the rail.

The rider shall not be required to dismount except in the event the judge wishes to check equipment.

RANCH REINING DESCRIPTION

The ranch reining class measures the ability of the ranch horse to perform basic handling maneuvers with a natural head carriage in a forward looking manner. The ideal ranch reining horse should have a natural ranch horse appearance from head to tail in each maneuver. Patterns may be chosen from any of the ranch reining patterns or approved by the show management and judge.

CREDITS AND PENALTIES. All runs begin upon entering the pen and any infractions are subject to penalty at that time such as two hands on the reins, using either hand to instill fear or praise, etc.

To rein a horse is not only to guide him but also to control his movement. The best reined horse should be willingly guided or controlled with little or no apparent resistance. All deviations from the exact written pattern must be considered a lack of or temporary loss of control and therefore a fault that must be marked down according to severity of deviation. The horse/rider team's overall performance should be credited for smoothness, finesse, attitude, quickness and authority of performing various maneuvers while using controlled speed which raises the degree of difficulty and makes the horse/rider team more exciting a pleasing to watch.

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 the correctness, efficiency, and pattern accuracy with which the obstacles are negotiated, and the attitude and mannerisms exhibited by the horse. Judging emphasis is on identifying the well broke, responsive, and well-mannered horse which can correctly navigate and negotiate the course. The ideal ranch trail horse should have a natural ranch horse appearance from head to tail in each maneuver.

Stock Horse Showmanship

Judges on the exhibitors ability to fit and train a horse for show or sale. **ATTIRE:** Neat and clean; dark colored jeans, plain white, buff or light colored long sleeve shirt. Hats should be clean and well shaped. Boots should be clean. Spurs and chaps are not allowed. Halter should be clean and well fitting. Silver on halters are not allowed other than what is found on buckles and hardware.

Video example: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lei7FMogNZo&t=2s>

Ranch Horse Pleasure

Stock Horse Pleasure serves to measure the ability of the horse to be functional and a pleasure to ride while being used as a means of conveyance from one task to another. This horse should be well-broke, relaxed, quiet, soft and cadenced at all gaits.

The horse should be ridden on a relatively loose rein with light contact and without requiring undue restraint. Excessively long floppy reins will not be given extra credit. The horse should be responsive to the rider and make all required transitions smoothly, timely and correctly. The horse should be soft in the bridle and yield to contact.

Horses shall be shown individually at the walk, trot and lope in both directions. The walk, trot and lope will be extended in one direction only. Walk Trot classes, Horses shall be shown individually at the walk and trot in both directions.

At the preference of the rider, the extended trot may be ridden with the rider posting, sitting or standing in the stirrups, to the front of the saddle. Holding the saddle horn is permissible at the extended trot only. Preference should not be given by the judge for any method of showing, as emphasis should be on the performance of the horse and how effective the horse is at actually extending the trot and the mannerisms and responsiveness to the rider.

Description of Ranch Horse Pleasure Gaits

The ideal pleasure horse will have a level head carriage at each gait – neither too high nor too low.

Ordinary Walk – A stock horse pleasure walk should be straight, square, flat footed, relaxed and should move out freely with no anticipation to move to the next gait.

Extended Walk – A stock horse pleasure walk should be straight, square flat footed, relaxed and should move out freely with horse looking ahead, The extended walk should show more length of stride than the ordinary walk.

Trot – This gait should be a square two-beat diagonal trot. The trot should be steady, soft and slow enough for riding long distances. Trots which are rough and hard to sit should be penalized. Excessively slow and uncadenced trots should also be penalized.

Extended Trot – The extended trot should show an evident lengthening of stride from the regular trot with the same cadence that will cause an increase in speed. This trot should be level, flat and steady with the appearance that the horse would hold this gait for an extended distance.

Lope – This gait should be a three beat gait that is cadenced, straight and steady and is comfortable to ride over long distances.

Extended Lope – This gait should be an obvious lengthening of stride from the previous lope, be at the same cadence and cause an increase in speed. The gait needs to be steady, quiet, and holding the increased speed while being under control.

Stop (from both lope and trot) – The horse should be in the correct stopping position – both hocks engaged and stopping on the hindquarters.

Reverse – A horse should turn briskly and flat with front feet on the ground and holding an inside rear pivot foot.

Cues and Transitions

There is no advantage to making these transitions with cues that are imperceptible to a judge. Judges expect to see horses that been trained to respond to cues. To see these cues applied discretely and the horse responding correctly could be a credit earning situation.

Transitions should be smooth without undue fuss from the horse.

A horse may be taken back (collected) a bit from the extended trot as the horse moves into the lope.

The transition from the extended lope down to the trot is very difficult to achieve, however, a good stock horse will have to make this transition several times during a day's work. This transition is down to the normal or sitting trot not the extended trot. Therefore, an extra cue to achieve this gait is expected. Horses that complete this total transition within three strides calmly and obediently should be rewarded. Horses that bring the hocks together to go into a stopping position should be penalized according to the magnitude of the error.

RANCH HORSE DISCIPLINE RAIL

Ranch Disciplined Rail is a judged "command class" that tests obedience, responsiveness, and versatility. Unlike standard rail classes, riders must instantly execute varied, complex maneuvers—such as lead changes, counter-canthers, pivots, or side passes—on command, emphasizing precision, manners, and minimal resistance.

Key Aspects of the Class:

Purpose: To showcase a well-trained horse that listens to subtle cues.

Commands: Judges call for specific maneuvers, which can include walking, trotting/jogging, loping/cantering, extended trot/canter, backing up, reversing, side-passing, or turning on the forehand/hindquarters.

Judging Criteria: Performance and manners are paramount. It is not an elimination-style "Simon Says" game, but rather a class focused on the best overall execution of the requested tasks.

This class demonstrates the horse's ability to handle advanced requests while remaining calm and responsive on the rail.