

Class Descriptions

Note: Stallions and intact Jacks shown in-hand must be shown in a stud chain and by a contestant over age 18 .

Demonstrations: Exhibitors are welcome to do a demonstration at the Mid-Atlantic Wild Horse and Burro Show. This may include a freestyle dressage routine or something special that an animal has been taught to do, If an exhibitor wishes to do a demonstration, a brief description of the demonstration should be attached to the entry form.

A. Halter Classes:

Animals of any age may be shown at halter. Horses and burros shall be exhibited in a halter. A silver show halter shall not be judged over plain halters. As there is no standard for these animals, scoring will be determined by lack of conformation faults, way of going, soundness and grooming. Horse/burro to be judged in a stock horse manner (squared, straight legs, not stretched in any way), individually, standing, at the walk, and trot on lead line. False tails are prohibited.

Attire: Mandatory dress for exhibitor shall be long sleeved shirt, boots or hard sole shoes with heels, hat or helmet, and belt. Exhibitor will not be penalized for touching or moving the animal. Exhibitor is not to hinder a judge's view of the animal.

Equipment: Use of bats or whips is prohibited.

(In Hand Classes)

With the exception of burros, which are shown in-hand, these classes are for animals not yet under saddle. These animals may not be shown in any other classes except costume.

B Showmanship Classes:

This class shall be judged strictly on the contestant's ability to fit and show. This is separate from all other halter classes and a pattern may be required. Patterns will be posted each day before the start of the show. Only the showman and condition of the horse is to be judged. In showmanship classes the animals must be well groomed and conditioned. Hair coat is to be clean and well brushed. Hooves may be polished, left clear or have clear gloss applied. A neat halter and lead shank will be judged the same as an expensive one. Showman is to be on the animal's left side holding lead in the right hand. The remaining portion of the lead is to be held safely and neatly in the left hand. When posing the horse/burro, the showman is not allowed to touch any part of the animal.

Kicking, whipping or petting the animal is prohibited. The animal is to stand in the stock horse manner. Exhibitor is not to hinder a judge's view of the horse/burro. Undue fussing and maneuvering is objectionable.

Attire: Same as for halter classes

A. Lunge Line:

The exhibitor will enter the arena and await the signal from the judge. When the signal is given, the exhibitor will be allowed 1 ½ minutes to present their animal. The animals are judged 80% on movement and 20% on manners. The judge, at his or her discretion may penalize the animal for excessive bucking, running off or displaying attitudes uncomplimentary to pleasure horses/burros such as ear pinning or tail wringing. It is suggested that the animal walk, trot and lope in each direction but it is not mandatory. The exhibitor may begin the work in the direction of their choice. All animals are to remain in the arena after they have been judged and should stand quietly while other exhibitors are being judged.

Equipment: Animals are to be shown in a halter. The Lunge line attached to the halter may not exceed 30 feet and must hang free from the halter without touching any part of the horse/burro. It is permissible to use a Lunge whip.

B. English Division Classes:

Animals shall be exhibited using English tack. Animals may be shown in a bit-less bridle. (Optional) Spurs of the unrolled type, crops, bats, gloves or English breast plate, braiding of mane and/or tail are all optional. (Prohibited) Boots of any description on the animal, draw reins, martingales and roweled spurs or artificial appliances are prohibited.

English Pleasure: Riders should have a workmanlike appearance, seat and hands light and supple. Animals are to be shown at a walk and trot or at a walk, trot and canter with an optional extended trot, extended canter or hand gallop in both directions. Horses are to stand quietly and back readily. Horses 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 canter. Riders carrying whips may change hands without stopping while continuing with the required gait.

C. Command Class:

Riders will follow the instructions (command) of the judge. Riders will be asked to walk, trot, canter, back up, circle, etc. at the discretion of the judge. Judging will be based on the rapid and smooth response of animal and rider to all commands.

D. English Equitation:

The Equitation Class is to determine the riding ability of the rider. Riders may be asked to work on the rail and ride a pattern. If a pattern is asked for, the pattern will be posted at least one hour prior to the class.. The pattern will be completed first.

E. Jumping:

Horses under 4 years old are not permitted in jumping classes. Helmets must be worn by all riders.

Youth 12 and under:	4 jumps 2' high
Youth 13-18	6 jumps 2' to 2'6"
Amateur	6 jumps 2'to 2'6"
Open	8 jumps 2'4" to 3'

Jump offs may be held at the discretion of the judge. In no case will a jump be raised to more than 3'6."

F. Suitability for Dressage:

Open to all categories except In Hand. Commands at the discretion of the judge. The horse should be on the bit with appropriate flexation depending on the direction the horse is traveling. Undue "sawing" of the horse's mouth is discouraged. Horse should move with high energy in forward gaits. May be asked to do a 10 meter circle at a walk or trot. May be asked for an extended trot or collected canter at the discretion of the judge.

G. Pleasure Driving

Horse/burro to be shown to a suitable two or four wheeled vehicle. Wooden spokes and pneumatic wheels are acceptable. Light harness, either leather or synthetic, with a suitable driving bit properly adjusted and fitted to the animal. Suitable over check or side rein is permitted. Boots, bell boots and quarter boots are prohibited. Animals should be clean, well groomed and presented in properly adjusted and fitted harness. Braided forelock and hunt style braiding of tail is optional.

Personal attire should be neat and clean. Coat, tie, hat, helmet and driving gloves are optional. Hair must be neat and contained.

Animals to be shown at a flat walk, trot and road trot. Extreme speed will be penalized. Animals are expected to stand quietly and back readily. Animals will be penalized for head tossing, breaking stride, going sideways and excessive mouthing of bit or tail swishing. Maximum credit should be given to the horse/burro that moves straight with free movement, manners and bright expression.

H. Trail

In Hand, Horses and Burros: Class objective is to successfully navigate a trail course. Open to horses not yet under saddle. Class will be judged on the performance of the animal over the obstacles with emphasis on manners, response to the handler and attitude. Handler may touch the animal with hands for cues. Animals may be asked to trot beside the handler as part of the course. Failure to complete obstacle shall not be a disqualification but will be penalized. Halter with lead required, chain optional. No bridles or whips allowed. A minimum of six obstacles will be used. The course pattern will be posted at least one hour before the scheduled time of the class.

Ridden: Class is judged on the performance of the animal over the obstacles, with emphasis on manners, response to the rider, and attitude. Riders may be asked to mount and dismount. The course must be designed to require each animal to show the 3 gaits (walk, jog, lope). Any animal not performing over any particular obstacle but moving on shall not be disqualified but shall be penalized. After 3 refusals of an obstacle, the horse must move on. A minimum of six obstacles will be used with a maximum of eight.

I. Western Classes:

Attire: Rider shall wear western hat, long sleeve western style shirt and western boots. Helmets are optional in place of a western hat. Chaps or chinks may be worn at the option of the rider.

Equipment: Animals may be shown in a bosal, snaffle bit, leverage bit or a bit less bridle. Mechanical hackamores or twisted wire snaffles are not allowed. Absolutely no iron will be permitted under the jaws. An optional loose curb strap of leather or nylon only may be used with the reins attached above the curb strap. A rope or riata may be properly coiled and attached to the saddle. Romal or split reins may be used. Tapaderos are permitted. Wire curbs, martingales and tie-downs are prohibited.

Exception on prohibited equipment: Games and gymkhana may be ridden English. Tie downs, cavesson or nose bands and a running martingales are permitted. Draw reins and a tack collar are not permitted for gymkhana.

J. Western Walk Jog and Western Pleasure:

A good pleasure animal has a stride of reasonable length in keeping with his conformation. The head is carried in a natural position and the animal is relaxed but alert and ready to respond to the rider without excessive cuing. Animals should give a smooth, pleasurable ride. Animals are to be shown at a walk, jog (Western walk-jog) or a walk, jog and lope (Western Pleasure) on a reasonable loose rein or with light contact and no undue

restraint both directions of the ring. Animals may be asked to halt, back or extend the gait at the discretion of the judge. The judge may also require animals to reverse at the jog.

K. Western Equitation:

This class is judged on the basis of the rider's seat, hands and ability to control and show the horse. The class may be judged on individual work patterns, on the rail or a combination of the two. Patterns will be posted at least one hour prior to the beginning of the class. The class will be worked at a walk, jog and lope in both directions. If both a pattern and rail work are used, the pattern work will be done first. The class may be asked to extend the jog, mount and dismount, back the horse, and reverse at the walk or jog.

L. Western Reining:

Scoring will be on the basis of 0 to 100 with 70 denoting an average performance. Each horse will be judged on the neatness, dispatch, ease, calmness and speed with which it performs the pattern. A judge may require any contestant to repeat his performance of any or all of the various parts of the pattern. The pattern will be posted the afternoon before the day of the event.

M. Country Pleasure:

This class is open to any style of riding (English, Western, Saddleseat, Australian Stock, Sidesaddle). Contestants enter the ring counterclockwise at a walk. The judge will request that each contestant perform in their favorite gait in both directions. After performing in both directions at the walk and favorite gait, contestant will take his/her place in the line up at the end of the arena. The judge may have riders back their animals.

N. Figure 8 Stake Game:

Horses expected to execute a figure 8 pattern. Animals may walk, trot or lope the pattern. Timed.

O. Musical Feed Bags :(Burros)

Burros circle feed bags placed on the ground. There is one less bag than number of entrants. When music stops, the handler must find a bag and stand on it.

P. Ribbon Race:

Horses and riders are paired . A length of "ribbon" is held between two riders. Riders may be asked to trot and canter and reverse direction. When "ribbon" is dropped, that pair is eliminated.

Q. Hat Snatch :

Riders place knit hats over helmets or use a bandana tucked in a pants pocket. Riders move toward each other and attempt to take each other's hat or bandana. Winner is the last rider with a hat on head or bandana in pocket. Horses should be accustomed to being in close proximity with other horses. Animals are to walk or trot only. Animals bearing a red ribbon are prohibited. Riders not to approach one another from the rear or pin others against the fence. This may also be a team event with two or more teams with each team wearing the same color hat or bandana.

R. Rattlesnake Roundup: (burros)

Pieces of colored rope (rattlesnakes) will be scattered around the arena. Each contestant will be given a plastic sack and a color. He/she must pick up all the "rattlesnakes" of his/her assigned color. The burro/handler pair that pick up all their "rattlesnakes" and crosses the finish line first wins.

S. Keyhole Game:

A rider, at the starting signal crosses the starting line, races into the "keyhole" turns his horse and returns across the starting line. Knocking down a marker, stepping on or over any lines of the keyhole disqualifies the horse and rider. This is a timed event.

T. Flag Race:

A small flag will be placed in a bucket of sand at the end of the arena. At a signal the rider must remove the flag from the bucket and place it in an adjacent bucket of sand and return to the finish line. Timed.

U. Pole Bending:

Contestant runs from the starting line to the last pole, turns and bends back through making a U turn on the pole closest to the starting line and bends back through then races back across the finish line. Contestant may have the choice of starting the race to the right or left of the poles but must finish on the opposite side. Knocking over a pole disqualifies the contestant. Timed.

V. Barrel Racing:

Three barrels will be used. Contestants are allowed a running start and may be run to either the right or the left. Exhibitors shall not be allowed to either enter or exit the arena moving at full speed.

W. Costume:

Animals may be shown in-hand, mounted or driven. Children under 6 must be accompanied by an adult.