



Frequently Asked Questions about Showing

This document aims to assist AHHA members who are either new or experienced at showing understand what is expecting at an AHHA show and answer some of those frequently asked questions.

1. Does my horse need to be registered to enter?

Yes and No.

- (i) To enter the registered classes, **YES**, they **DO** need to be registered. They can either be registered with their breed society or the *Australian Heavy Horse Association* (AHHA).
- (ii) If they are **NOT** registered with any breed society, then they can enter the *Any Unregistered Heavy Breed* classes only.
- (iii) Registration certificates **MUST** be sent through with your entries.

2. What classes can my horses enter?

Pure breeds can only enter their **pure breed** classes listed. If your horse's breed is **NOT** listed, then you can enter the *Any Other Pure Registered Heavy Breed* classes.

Part Bred Horses – you can enter the class that your horse is registered as. E.g. if your horse is registered *Part Bred Friesian*, they enter the *Part Bred Friesian* classes, and if they have more than 25% of one other breed, they can enter the part breed class for that if it is offered, i.e. *Part Bred Clydesdale*. **BUT** this other part breed **MUST** be visible on your horse's registration certificate. If their other breed is **NOT** listed in the programme, then they can enter the *Any Other Part Bred Heavy Horse* classes. **ONE** horse **CANNOT** enter more than **TWO** classes based on their breeding. **NOTE:** Breeds only relate to their Sire and Dam, **NOT** Grand Sire or Grand Dam etc.

3. Do I need to be a member of the AHHA to enter a show?

Yes, you do need to be a member of the AHHA to participate in one of our shows. This is for insurance purposes.

4. Do I have to sign and send in my 'waiver for'?

YES. This shows that you acknowledge the risks associated with horse events and understand the requirements of signing. You will **NOT** compete without this sign form submitted with your entry.

5. What is a Young Stock Class?

These are classes for horse who are 3 years and under. (Weanling, Yearling, 2-year-olds and 3-year-olds)

6. What tack do I need to show my horse in?

In-hand Classes – Halter and lead **OR** Bridle and Lead that you can maintain control of your horse. All **stallions** 2 years and over **MUST** be bitted and have a **GREEN** stallion disc easily visible on their bridle.

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Ridden Classes – Bridle with bit, saddle, whip and spurs (optional), Approved safety helmets should be worn by competitors at all times. These can be either English or Western, depending on what you are most comfortable riding in.

Harness/Long Rein Classes – Bridle, long reins and roller (around the belly) with eyelets to pass the long reins through **OR** full Harness, Bridle with blinkers, long reins, collar, hames

7. What horses are eligible for Champion & Reserve Champion classes?

Led/In-hand - Any horse who won a 1st place in their age classes are eligible to compete for Champion & Reserve Champion. **Best Presented** horses are **NOT** eligible for champion and reserve champion classes.

Ridden – Any horse who won their ridden gender class are eligible to compete for Champion & Reserve Champion.

8. What horses are eligible for In-Hand/Led Supreme Champion Classes?

Led/In-hand - Any horse who won their **age** champion class.

9. Who is eligible for Grand Champion classes?

- (i) **Grand Champion Young Stock** - In-hand/Led Breed Classes - Any horse who won their Supreme Champion Breed Young Stock Exhibit.
- (ii) **Grand Champion Led Breed Exhibit** - In-hand/Led Breed Classes - Any horse who won their Supreme Champion Breed Exhibit.
- (iii) **Grand Champion Ridden Horse in Show** - Any horse who won their gender champion class. *Smartest on Parade Champions* are NOT eligible for *Grand Champion Ridden Horse in Show*.
- (iv) **Grand Champion Harness/Long Rein Horse in Show** - This is based on points scoring system during the harness classes for 1st, 2nd, 3rd and/or 4th place in each harness class. At the end of the Harness/Long Rein Classes these points are tallied to decide the overall Grand Champion Harness Horse in Show.

10. What do I wear for In-hand/Led classes?

Gypsy Cobs

Smart jacket (or waistcoat) and trousers, shirt and tie, gloves, hat or cap, Junior competitors, (under 18 as of 1st January in the current year) **must** wear a riding hat or skull cap correctly done up and complying with the current hat rules, suitable footwear and show cane/whip (**must not** exceed 76cm/30inches length).

Clydesdales

The standard handler attire in heavy horse competitions (Clydesdales and Shires) is pants, shirt, tie, jacket, hat and boots.

Pants – Most people in Australia show in either pale coloured moleskins or nice dress pants.

Shirt – Generally a collared dress shirt is worn, though women also use dressy tops without collars.

Tie – A tie is not always necessary, but when worn, ties are often matched to the colours the horse is wearing.

Jacket – A nice suit coat or horse specific riding jacket are the most common choices.



Hat – The type of hat you wear is completely up to you! Akubras are very common here in Australia, but you can choose any type of dress hat you like. Just make sure it fits well enough not to blow off your head easily.

Other Breeds

As per breed requirements

11. What do I wear for ridden classes?

Gypsy Cobs and Other Breeds

Hacking/tweed show jacket, shirt and tie, gloves, breeches, or jodhpurs, in **one** of the following colours: cream, beige, white or dark coloured, hair net, show cane/whip (**must not** exceed 76cm/30inches in length), jodhpur boots for juniors and long black boots for adults, riding hat or skull cap complying to the new hat rules.

Clydesdales

You can either wear what you wore for your in-hand classes OR same as the Gypsy Cob and Other breeds above.

12. What is the judge looking for in the In-hand/Led classes?

Gypsy Cobs

Exhibits enter the ring individually and perform a high energy trot on a loose rein to cover at least 2 sides of the ring/arena, this is commonly called a *FLASH*.

NB: The term *FLASHING* is used to exhibit the Traditional Gypsy Cob (TGC) In-hand.

Once all exhibits have performed the initial flash, they will continue to walk around the arena until they are pulled into the line-up by the steward/judge. Exhibits will be required to be stood up in front of the judge individually for their inspection. Exhibits on request should walk away from the judge, turn on the right rein and trot straight back towards and past the judge in a straight line before walking to retake their place in the line-up.

In-hand classes will be judged: 60% correctness to type, conformation, and movement, 40% manners and way of going and overall presentation.

Clydesdales

At most shows, you can expect that the competitors will be asked to walk in a large circle around the judge, then line up, then individually work out.

When walking in the circle, make sure your horse is stepping out well but do not allow it to trot. Whatever you do, don't dawdle – if the horse in front of you is moving too slowly you can overtake it on the outside. The judge needs to see the active pace of your horse in order to assess it properly.

When you are standing your horse in the lineup, make sure you're paying constant attention to it. Stand facing your horse so you can keep it 'stood up' correctly – head up, front legs square, hind legs together with feet next to one another – while also keeping one eye on the judge. When the judge moves to assess your horse, they will likely inspect the horse closely, ask you a question or two, feel the horse's legs and then request you do your workout.

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Most judges will use a workout that involves both walking and trotting, generally in a line straight out from where you were standing and then back. They may also ask you to back the horse up several paces. When doing your workout, keep your focus on the horse and the pace active. Aim straight towards the judge – they will move out of the way as you get closer.

In-hand classes will be judged: 70% correctness to type, conformation, and movement, 30% manners and way of going and overall presentation.

Other Breeds

At most shows, you can expect that the competitors will be asked to walk in a large circle around the judge, then line up, then individually work out.

When walking in the circle, make sure your horse is stepping out well but do not allow it to trot. Whatever you do, don't dawdle – if the horse in front of you is moving too slowly you can overtake it on the outside. The judge needs to see the active pace of your horse in order to assess it properly.

In-hand classes will be judged as per their breed standards and based on 70% correctness to type, conformation, and movement, 30% manners and way of going and overall presentation.

Most Importantly—Have Fun!

While it's important to strive for the best possible standard when showing, if you're not enjoying yourself, there is no point spending your time and money.

Remember that everyone is there to show off their horses and enjoy their hobby just like you, so put a smile on your face and make the most of the day out with your horse!

13. What is the judge looking for in the ridden classes?

Gypsy Cobs

For Ridden Classes, exhibits will enter the ring together and perform the go-around as per the judge/steward's instructions. Exhibits will then all be pulled into the line-up by the steward/judge, and each asked to perform an individual display not lasting longer than 1 & 1/2 minutes. The display should include walk, trot, and canter on both reins, change of rein, halt, and stand and if required by the judge a lengthening of stride or gallop.

Ridden Breed Classes will be judged 60% correctness to type, conformation, and movement 40% ride, manners, and way of going and overall presentation.

Junior Ridden Finals Classes will be judged: 60% correctness to type, conformation, movement, and overall presentation, and 40% ride, manners, temperament, partnership, and suitability.

Judges may take into consideration the severity of the bit.

Pure Breed Clydesdales and Other Heavy Horses

Aim: to ensure that both judges and riders have the same understanding of what is expected and assessed in heavy horse ridden classes.



This is a breed class. An assessment of Heavy Horse breed features is to be made and scored by the judge, as well as the workout, behaviour and overall impression

Class to be judged on a points system.

Workout:

The workout should include a walk, trot and canter (if appropriate at judge's discretion) (on the correct lead, i.e. leading with the inside foreleg), ideally if time permits on both reins (both directions), plus a backup. The horse should be forward moving, travel on the bit and have a controlled gait. Transitions through the gaits should be smooth and the horse should finish calmly and without pulling.

Type/conformation of the horse and its movement:

The heavy horse is a weight carrying animal, which should carry the rider with ease and safety. It should be forward moving with an active gait, strong and elevated. The horse should display strength, quality and movement which will appeal to the judge and spectator. The horse should be sound, of heavy horse type (i.e. Clydesdale, Gypsy Cob, Shire, Percheron etc) and conformationally correct for its breed.

Splints should not be discriminated against as long as they do not appear to cause unsoundness. Scars should not be discriminated against provided they do not impinge on the movement of the animal and are not too disfiguring.

Manners and behaviour of horse

The horse should be well behaved at all times during the class, both during the workout and during the lineup, and should perform calmly and obediently while in the ring.

Disobediences such as bucking, rearing, disobeying direction or refusing to walk or stand in the workout or line up should be penalised.

Overall appearance

To be judged on the overall appearance of the rider and horse. Competitors should be turned out neatly and to a high standard in appropriate riding attire. The horse should also be turned out to a high standard, in show condition and with decorations appropriate to its breed. The horse and rider combination should appeal to the eye and look to be working in harmony at all times.

Allocation of Points:

Points to be allocated as follows:

Workout	25 points
Type/conformation of horse and its movement	15 points
Manners and behaviour of horse	10 points
Overall impression/appearance of horse and rider	10 points
Total	60 points