

Summary

- Allow plenty of time, become familiar with the showground and the timetable
- Enter at walk on the right rein, when instructed trot and canter.
- Change the rein, canter and show lengthened strides
- Back to walk, the judge will select an initial line up
- The judge will ride each horse to assess them, or a show is performed
- Remove the saddle and present the horse to the judge for the In-hand section
- Tack up and remount
- Walk around on the right rein for final assessment and final line up
- Prizes awarded, lap of honour.

Summary for Championship

- Horses enter the ring in class order at walk on the right rein
- First placed horses followed by their respective second place
- When instructed trot and canter
- Change the rein, canter and show lengthened strides
- Back to walk, Line up firsts in front, seconds behind
- Individual show, return to line up
- Champion and reserve are selected
- Prizes awarded, lap of honour

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The Arab Horse Society
Windsor House
Ramsbury
Marlborough
Wiltshire
SN8 2PE
Tel; 01672 520782 (Administration)
Tel: 01672 520793 (Shows Office)
www.arabhorsesociety.com

The Arab Horse Society

Guide to Showing

And Ring Procedure

For In hand and Ridden Classes

AHS Guidelines for Inhand Show Classes

Shows are advertised very early in the season (February/March). To enter a show you will need to get a schedule and fill in an entry form. Check the schedule for rules and conditions of the show. Shows can be affiliated to the AHS and ECAHO, check the schedule to determine which rules you are entering under. All horses increase in age by one year on the 1st of January regardless of the month they were born. Check you have selected the correct classes and age group for your horse; make sure you enclose a copy of your horse's registration document along with the correct entry fees. Entries must be posted so they are received in advance of the closing date; these are usually weeks before the show is actually held. You may receive your numbers/entry tickets through the post; remember to take them with you to the show. If you have to pick up your numbers on the day allow yourself plenty of time to do this and to familiarise yourself with the show ground layout.

Before you show your horse check the rules and regulations of the society and any separate show rules to make sure that you are abiding by them. The type and class of show will depend whether it is run under AHS rules or ECAHO rules. It is your responsibility to understand and abide by all rules and to know which rules the show is running under. These rules are updated every year, be aware of any changes.

One of the elements the judge will look for is the turnout of the horse. Presentation is important. When you enter the ring first impressions are very important so pay particular attention to the turnout of your horse and yourself.

The Pure Bred Arabian Horse

When producing an Arabian for the show ring it is to be left natural with no pulled or plaited manes or tails. No whiskers or tactile hair are to be removed, and no coloured make up or hoof oil is allowed. Only clear highlighter may be used and chalk can be used to enhance the natural white markings. Foals should be shown in their natural state.

type and conformation. These points are added up to give the final results and will usually be available to view at the end of the show. The horse with the most points wins the class, the next highest second and so on down the line.

The Rosettes are awarded, the steward makes a note of the results and the class is completed.

On instruction from the steward the horses will canter around the arena on a 'lap of honour' before leaving the ring.

Championship

First and second prize winners of classes may be eligible for a championship. At the end of your class, check when and where this will be held. Arrive in the collecting ring 10 minutes before the start of the championship. Make sure you are wearing your prize winning rosettes.

When instructed by the steward the horses will enter the ring, on the right rein in class order, first placed horses followed by their respective second placed horses. When instructed by the steward the horses will be required to trot and then canter. When instructed by the steward change the rein, showing canter on the left rein. Lengthened strides in canter may be required, after which bring your horse down to walk on the left rein.

The steward will instruct the competitors to line up in class order, first placed horses in the front line, second placed horses will stand behind their winner. When instructed by the steward, each horse will be required to do a short show, and then return to their place in the line. The Judge will make his/her selection of champion and reserve, instructing the steward to place the horses.

The Rosettes are awarded, the steward makes a note of the results and the championship is completed.

On instruction from the steward, the other competitors will leave the ring at walk.

On instruction from the steward the Champion and reserve horses will canter around the arena on a 'lap of honour' before leaving the ring.

mounts and do not let go until the judge is ready to ride away. The judge will ride your horse in walk trot and canter on both reins, and in open classes may ask for extended canter. Once the judge returns to the line up with your horse go to meet him/her and hold your horse for the judge to dismount, and return to your place in the line.

If you are riding a part-bred 148cms or under you will be required to do a show as the judge will not ride. When instructed by the judge, start your show. Keep the show short, show a few strides of walk, some trot with a few lengthened strides, and canter on both reins, with a few lengthened strides of canter. Halt at the end of the show and salute to the judge. Use the space available to keep your horse balanced and free moving. It should be calm, obedient and flowing, but should still have carriage and presence. Once you have completed your show, return to your place in the line.

When your horse has either been ridden or done a show, remove your saddle ready to show in hand. A groom is allowed into the ring to help with this process. On instruction from the steward, each horse usually starting with the first placed horse, will be required to stand in front of the judge. The judge will assess your horse for type and conformation. It is important that your horse is suitably trained to be able to stand still, so the judge can walk around and view it from all sides. When instructed, walk your horse away, a short distance as required by the steward, turn your horse around to the **right**, walk a couple of strides to balance your horse before trotting straight back towards the judge. The judge will move out of the way, continue to trot straight away from the judge and around the arena on the right rein, until you reach the line up of horses. Walk back to your place in the line. This allows the judge to see your horse's movement from the front and the rear in walk and trot. On completion of the inhand show section the horses are tacked up and remounted. When instructed by the steward the first placed horse will be asked to lead off around the arena at walk on the right rein, the rest to follow on. The Judge will make his/her final choice, instructing the steward the order in which to place the horses.

At some shows the horses are awarded points for manners and performance, ride, type and conformation. Sometimes two judges are appointed, one judge awards points for ride and manners and performance, the other judge awards points for

Tack

A correctly fitted suitable in-hand bridle or Arabian show halter should be worn with a chain or back strap. The chain/back strap can be captured or active and should be used with a long leather lead line. The bridle should be adjusted so the noseband lies just below the horses cheek bone. This ensures it is high enough not to interfere with the horses breathing. Stallions and colts aged three years and over must be shown wearing bridles and bits which are both secure and comfortable for the horse. All bridles without bits are equally to be both secure and comfortable for the horse. Foals must be suitably haltered without chains. Solid metal nosebands and headpieces are not allowed.

Dress

Handlers must be neatly dressed. Men to wear smart trousers (no jeans) with shirt and tie, a jacket or waistcoat may be worn. A hat, trilby or panama, may be worn if required. Ladies are to wear smart trousers with blouse. A jacket may be worn. No jeans or shorts. No low cut blouses, shoulders should be covered. Sensible footwear to be worn to allow the handler to be able to run safely, no sandals, flip flops or high heels. Handlers will not wear clothes carrying any form of advertising. A whip may be carried provided it is within the regulated length. Remember to wear your allocated number for the horse you are showing.

Performance

The horse should be able to walk with a relaxed open stride and move with a balanced exuberant trot with head and tail carried. The horse should have been trained at home to be able to stand up in front of the judge so he can be viewed from all sides. If the horse cannot stand still the judge cannot judge him. You need to be aware of ring procedure and what is required at each show depending on whether a points system or comparison/ranking judging system is used. For more information on ring procedure see the section for **AHS GUIDELINES FOR IN-HAND RING PROCEDURE**

The Anglo or Part bred Horse

The horse should be shown with the mane plaited and the tail either plaited or pulled and banged. The other rules that apply to pure bred horses also apply to Anglo and Part bred.

Tack

The horse should wear suitable leather halters or bridles depending on age. Most exhibits from yearling upwards are shown in leather inhand show bridles with brow band and nose band. A suitable light weight bit can be used but the horse need not be led from the bit. Mature horses from 4 years upwards are usually shown in riding bridles, or a double bridle.

Dress

Appearance must be neat and tidy. Traditionally tweed jackets and smart trousers with shirt and tie. (No jeans or shorts allowed) Suitable shoes for running with your horse, a riding hat, velvet hunting cap, bowler or felt hat with gloves and show cane (not whip) complete the outfit. Remember to wear your allocated number for the horse you are showing.

Performance

The horse should be mannerly; the walk should be relaxed and the trot should be a free moving open stride. The horse should have been trained at home to be able to stand up in front of the judge so he can be viewed from all sides. If the horse cannot stand still the judge cannot judge him. You need to be aware of ring procedure and what is required when a comparison/ranking judging system is used. For more information on ring procedure see the section for **AHS GUIDELINES FOR IN-HAND RING PROCEDURE**

You are only in the ring in front of the judge for a relatively short period of time. Use it wisely, dedication and attention to detail is needed. Make the concentrated effort all the time you are in the ring, it could make the difference between winning and losing. Preparation is the key element to producing a top quality show horse. But most of all once you are there ENJOY and who knows you may take home that red rosette!!

listening to both hand and leg. You should allow plenty of room between yourself and other horses. When instructed by the Steward, go forwards to trot. This should be an open free moving stride, with carriage and cadence. The horse should be carrying himself, working forwards into a contact and 'on the bit'. When instructed by the Steward, go forwards into canter. This should be calm, relaxed and be free moving, but not fast. The horse should carry himself in an uphill posture, maintaining his shape. It should look effortless.

When instructed by the Steward, you will be required to change the rein. The Steward should direct you where to do this. As you come across the arena to change the rein you should come down to trot for a few strides, change the horses bend and go forwards to canter on the left rein, and use the space you have in the arena. Be aware that you may pass horses that have not yet changed the rein, do not ride head to head, but allow plenty of room to ride past, keeping to the inside on the initial change across the diagonal, and then to the outside of the arena when meeting horses that are coming around the end of the arena to change the rein.

You may be asked by the Steward to show a few lengthened strides in canter (gallop if space allows). This should only be done if space allows for open horse classes and should not be required of novice classes. This will be done on a long side of the arena, when instructed by the steward. If you are too close to the horse in front to be able to do this turn a circle until you have the space. Once you have shown your lengthened strides, bring your horse down through transitions to walk and walk around the arena on the left rein.

The judge will select an initial line up of horses; this will be done via the steward. The steward will call the horses in to line in order of preference. The first horse will be placed by the steward. The second horse will stand to the left of the first, the third to the left of the second, and so on down the line until all the horses are placed.

Dismount ready for the judge to ride your horse. When instructed by the steward grooms will come into the ring. The steward will instruct the competitors in turn, starting with the first placed horse, to step forward for the judge to mount. Your horse should be trained to stand quietly to be mounted from a mounting block or from a leg up. Hold your horse by the back of the noseband while the judge

Performance

A good ridden Arabian or Anglo and Part Bred horse should have excellent manners, good conformation and be expected to give the judge a lovely light responsive ride. It should have three nice settled paces (walk, trot and canter), working relaxed and with a big open free moving stride. The horse should be obedient and accept the rider's aids and work up to a nice light contact. This will give the judge a comfortable enjoyable ride. At some shows in open classes the horse may be required to extend in canter. Your horse should be suitably trained at home before being brought into the show ring. The judge is not there to school your horse. You need to be aware of ring procedure and what is required at each show depending on whether a points system or comparison/ranking judging system is used. For more information on ring procedure see the section for **AHS GUIDELINES FOR RIDDEN RING PROCEDURE**.

You are only in the ring in front of the judge for a relatively short period of time. Use it wisely, dedication and attention to detail is needed. Make the concentrated effort all the time you are in the ring, it could make the difference between winning and losing. Preparation is the key element to producing a top quality show horse. But most of all once you are there ENJOY and who knows you may take home that red rosette!!

AHS Guidelines for Ring Procedure for Ridden Showing

Arrive at the show in plenty of time so that before the start of your class you make yourself familiar with the showground, the collecting ring, the ring and the timetable of events. Allow time to collect your numbers and catalogue. You may have received your numbers/entry tickets through the post, remember to take them with you to the show. Always take the horse's passport with you; this is a requirement by law. Be aware of the running order of the classes, not all shows run in class order. Make sure you are ready in the collecting ring at least 10 minutes before the start of your class. It is your responsibility to be in the ring on time. If you miss the walk around the ring at the start of your class you will not be allowed to compete.

The steward will invite you into the ring at the start of the class. Enter at walk on the right rein, show a nice free balanced walk. The horse should be obedient and

AHS Guidelines for Ring Procedure for In-Hand Showing

Arrive at the show in plenty of time so that before the start of your class you make yourself familiar with the showground, the collecting ring, the ring and the timetable of events. Allow time to collect your numbers and catalogue. You may have received your numbers/entry tickets through the post, remember to take them with you to the show. Always take the horse's passport with you; this is a requirement by law. Be aware of the running order of the classes, not all shows run in class order. Shows can be affiliated to the AHS and ECAHO, check the schedule to determine which rules you have entered under. Make sure you are ready in the collecting ring at least 10 minutes before the start of your class. Under ECAHO rules, which cover pure bred Arabians, your horse needs to be presented with its passport to the Disciplinary Committee. This can be when you arrive at the showground or immediately before your class in the collecting ring. This must be done before your horse can be allowed to enter the ring. It is your responsibility to be in the collecting ring on time. If you miss the walk around the ring at the start of your class you will not be allowed to compete.

Comparison/Ranking Method of Judging

The steward will invite you into the ring at the start of the class. You may enter the ring either at walk or trot depending on the stewards instructions, listen carefully. You will enter on the right rein. If you enter at trot, trot all the way around the arena until you return to the entrance or catch up to the horse that entered the ring in front of you. Wait patiently, with plenty of space between horses until instructed by the steward to walk on, once all the horses have entered the ring.

In the walk your horse should show a nice free balanced walk. You should allow plenty of room between yourself and other horses. When instructed by the Steward, the horses will be halted in one corner of the ring. When all the horses are halted, the steward, through direction from the judge will instruct each competitor in turn, to trot their horse around the arena to the back of the line. This should be an open free moving stride, with carriage and cadence. The pure bred Arabian should have a balanced exuberant trot with head and tail carried. The Anglo or part bred Arabian horse should be carrying himself, working forwards in a mannerly workman like performance. Once every competitor has

trotted with their horse, the steward will direct the competitors to walk around the ring.

The judge will instruct an initial line up of the horses; this will be done via the steward. The steward will call the horses into line. The first horse will be placed by the steward. The second horse will stand to the left of the first, the third to the left of the second, and so on down the line until all the horses are placed.

The steward will instruct competitors in turn, starting with the first placed horse, to step forward and stand in front of the judge to be assessed for type and conformation. It is important that your horse is suitably trained to be able to stand still, so the judge can walk around the horse and view it from all sides. When instructed, walk your horse straight away from the judge, a short distance as instructed by the steward, turn your horse around to the **right**, walk a couple of strides to balance your horse before trotting straight back towards the judge. The judge will move out of the way, continue to trot straight away from the judge and around the arena on the right rein, and down the long side of the arena, until you reach the end of the line up of horses. Walk back to your place in the line. This allows the judge to see your horse's movement from the front and the rear in walk and trot, and again from the side.

Once all the horses have been assessed by the judge, he/she may walk down the line for a further comparison. When instructed by the steward the first placed horse will be asked to lead off in walk around the arena on the right rein, the rest to follow on. The Judge will make his/her final choice, instructing the steward the order in which to bring the horses in to line.

The Rosettes are awarded, the steward makes a note of the results and the class is completed.

On instruction from the steward the horses will lead off at trot around the arena on a 'lap of honour' before leaving the ring.

Points System method of Judging (Pure Bred In-hand horses only)

Some shows run the classes on a points system method of judging. When it is run under a points system, the horses will enter the ring in number order at trot. Once all the horses are in the ring the steward will instruct you walk around the arena.

make sure the stirrups are large enough and the leathers will go both long enough and short enough to allow for all lengths of leg. Make sure the tack is safe and secure; otherwise the Judge can refuse to ride. If the judge feels comfortable in the saddle then he/she will get a better ride and it all adds to the final result.

Dress

You should wear a correctly fitting riding hat, which meets with the rules and conditions of both the society and the show organisation, and to the current safety standards. Traditionally the hat is a blue velvet show hat, and a discreet safety harness (leather flesh coloured) may be worn. Traditionally, gentlemen may wear a riding bowler and ladies may wear a beagler. Always check the shows rules and the rules of the venue for specific conditions. Ladies, and gentlemen with long hair, should make sure their hair is neat and tidy by wearing a suitably coloured hair net. Traditionally tweed or hacking jacket may be worn if the class is before noon. If the class is after noon you are permitted to wear a navy blue show jacket. Both of these should be worn with a collared shirt and tie and a neat tie pin. Traditionally leather gloves should be worn, these should be brown/tan coloured, along with a brown leather covered show cane (not whips). Cream or pale yellow jodhpurs or breeches should be worn, with long black leather boots. Juniors may wear Jodhpur boots with Jodhpur clips. Remember to wear your allocated number for the horse you are showing.

Your groom will be required to attend to you in the class. Your groom must dress appropriately. Preferably a tweed jacket and smart trousers (not jeans) with suitable footwear (no high heels, sandals or flip-flops) should be worn. A suitable hat completes the picture. For ladies this may be a velvet hunting cap and gentlemen may wear a suitable Trilby or Panama hat. This all adds to the overall presentation and a professional look, and will ensure that you get noticed for the right reasons.

If you are fortunate enough to go through to a championship then the attire in which you qualified is perfectly acceptable. However, you may choose to make a few changes. A top hat is permitted and can replace the velvet show cap, for the ladies this should be a low crown silk top hat, for the gentlemen it should be taller. A blue cutaway show jacket and waistcoat, or black tailcoat can be worn with a well tied hunting stock, and stock pin, in white or cream silk (no bright colours or patterns). Gentlemen may wear 'Morning Dress'. This consists of a black morning coat and special riding trousers; a collared shirt, tie, waistcoat and black Jodhpur boots. Always remember to wear your prize winning rosette.

The Pure bred Horse

When turning out, an Arabian is to be left natural with no pulled or plaited manes or tails, no whiskers or tactile hair are to be removed, and no coloured make up or hoof oil is allowed only clear highlighter and chalk can be used to enhance their natural white.

The pure bred Arabian is judged as a riding horse and although they can be found in all different shapes and sizes the class is usually split into three sections Mares, Geldings, Stallions and sometimes into pre-novice, novice and open.

The Anglo and Part Bred Horse

The horse should be shown with the mane plaited and the tail either plaited or pulled and banged. Other rules that apply to pure bred horses also apply to Anglo and Part bred horses.

The Anglo or Part bred Arabian is judged as a riding horse and as they vary greatly in height the classes are usually split into height sections. They may also be split into Mares and Geldings, or Stallions and into pre-novice, novice and open. The height sections can vary depending on the show. The 148cms and under section will not be ridden by the judge, but will be asked to perform a short show. All horses over 148cms will be ridden by the judge. If there is only one mixed class, 148cms and under, again will not be ridden by the judge but will be asked to give a short show instead. It is your responsibility to make sure you enter the correct height section for your horse.

Tack

Ridden showing is founded on etiquette and traditional values, and presentation is very important. Your horse needs to be shown in traditional show tack to give the right presentation. Do not use boots, bandages or martingales in the ring. An ordinary snaffle bridle can be used if being shown in a novice class; otherwise a show bridle or double bridle with two reins should be used. A snaffle bridle and bit (as per British Dressage rules) must be used on 4 year olds in pre-novice classes. It is traditional to use a brown straight cut well fitting show saddle with an unobtrusive numnah and girth. The Judge may ride your horse so please bear in mind the saddle has to accommodate various sizes of bottoms and feet. To do this

After the walk around all the horses except the first horse entered leaves the main ring.

The first horse then is presented in front of 3 or more judges to be assessed at the stand, walk and trot. The walk is usually assessed by walking away from the judges turning around to the **right** and walking back towards the judges. The horse is then asked to trot; this is usually done on a triangle. The judges can see the horse trot away, then from the side, and then back towards them. The horse stands up for a short time for a final assessment. Once the horse is assessed, it leaves the ring for the next horse to be presented. The points are awarded and announced almost immediately for each horse. When all the horses have been assessed and awarded points, the horse with the most points wins the class, the next highest second and so on down the line. They come back into the ring in result order for the awards to be presented. On instruction from the steward the horses will lead off at trot around the arena on a 'lap of honour' before leaving the ring.

Championships

First and second prize winners of classes may be eligible for a championship. At the end of your class, check when and where this will be held. Under ECAHO rules 1st and 2nd prize winners **must** attend. Failure to present **will** mean disqualification, removal of awards and the horse being banned from showing for the period of one year.

Arrive in the collecting ring 10 minutes before the start of the championship. Make sure you are wearing your prize winning rosettes. When instructed by the steward the horses will enter the ring in class order first placed horses followed by their respective second placed horses. Once all the horses have walked around the ring the steward will instruct the competitors to line up. First placed horses in the front line, second placed horses will stand behind their winner.

When instructed by the steward, each horse will be required in turn to walk and trot in front of the judge, and then return to their place in the line. The judge or judges will select their Champion/ Gold medal winner and reserve/ silver medal winner.

The Rosettes are awarded, the steward makes a note of the results and the championship is completed. On instruction from the steward the horses will lead off at trot around the arena on a 'lap of honour' before leaving the ring.

Summary for Comparison/Ranking Judging System

- Allow plenty of time, become familiar with the showground and the timetable
- Present in the collecting ring 10 minutes before the class
- Enter at walk or trot depending on instruction given, on the right rein
- Each horse does an individual trot
- The horses walk around the ring and the judge will select an initial line up
- The judge will assess each horse individually, at the stand, walk and trot
- Walk around on the right rein for final assessment and final line up
- Prizes awarded, lap of honour.

Summary for Points Judging System

- Allow plenty of time, become familiar with the showground and the timetable
- Present in the collecting ring 10 minutes before the class
- Enter at trot in number order, on the right rein
- The horses walk around the ring
- Each horse in turn is assessed by 3 or more judges, at the stand, walk and trot
- Points are awarded and announced
- Results announced and prizes awarded
- Lap of honour.

Summary for Championship

- Horses enter the ring in class order
- First placed horses followed by their respective second place
- Line up first in front, seconds behind
- Individual assessment by judge/judges
- Champion and reserve selected

- Prizes awarded
- Lap of honour

AHS Guidelines for Ridden Showing

Shows are advertised very early in the season (February/March). To enter a show you will need to get a schedule and fill in an entry form. Check the schedule for rules and conditions of the show. Shows can be affiliated to the AHS and ECAHO, check the schedule to determine which rules you are entering under. All horses increase in age by one year on the 1st of January regardless of the month they were born. Check you have selected the correct classes and age group for your horse; make sure you enclose a copy of your horse's registration document along with the correct entry fees. Entries must be posted so they are received in advance of the closing date; these are usually weeks before the show is actually held. You may receive your numbers/entry tickets through the post; remember to take them with you to the show. If you have to pick up your numbers on the day allow yourself plenty of time to do this and to familiarise yourself with the show ground layout.

Before you show your horse check the rules and regulations of the society and any separate show rules to make sure that you are abiding by them. The type and class of show will be run under AHS rules, in conjunction with any separate show rules. It is your responsibility to understand and abide by all rules and to know which rules the show is running under. These rules are updated every year, be aware of any changes.

One of the elements the judge will look for is the turnout of the horse. Presentation is important. When you enter the ring first impressions are very important so pay particular attention to the turnout of your horse and yourself.