

## **RANCH HORSE PLEASURE**

### **Purpose**

The purpose of Ranch Horse Pleasure should reflect the versatility, attitude, and movement of a working horse. The horse's performance should simulate a horse working outside the confines of an arena and that of a working ranch horse. This class should show the horse's ability to work at a forward, working speed while under control of the rider. Light contact should be rewarded and the horse shall not be shown on a full drape of reins. The overall manners and responsiveness of the horse while performing the maneuver requirements and the horse's quality of movement are the primary considerations.

### **Conduct**

1. Each horse will work individually, performing both required and optional maneuvers, and scored on the basis of 0 to 100, with 70 denoting an average performance.
2. The required maneuvers will include the walk, jog, and lope both directions; and the extended jog and extended lope going at least one direction; as well as stops, and a back.

In all gaits, movement of the ranch riding horse should simulate a horse needing to cover long distances, softly and quietly, like The trot is a natural two-beat gait demonstrating more forward that of a working ranch horse. The following terminology shall apply:

#### 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.

#### Trot

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.

3. Three optional maneuvers may include a side pass, turns of 360 degrees or more, change of lead (simple or flying), walk, jog, or lope over a pole(s); or some combination of maneuvers that would be reasonable for a ranch horse to perform.
4. The maneuvers may be arranged in various combinations with final approval by the judge.

5. The overall cadence and performance of the gaits should be free-flowing and ground covering at all gaits, with an emphasis on forward movement. Transitions should be performed where designated, with smoothness and responsiveness
6. No time limit.
7. One of the suggested patterns may be used (found on AQHA/AHA websites and attached herein for reference); however, a judge may utilize a different pattern as long as all required maneuvers and the three (or more) optional maneuvers are included. Should a judge use one of his/her own patterns it is recommended to not have the stop following an extended lope.
8. The use of natural logs is encouraged.
9. Posting at the extended jog is acceptable.
10. Touching or holding the saddle horn is acceptable.
11. Use of hoof polish, banded manes and tail extensions is illegal.
12. It is customary to not remove the hair from the insides of the ears, but horses with clean clipped ears will not be penalized.
13. Trimming of the bridle path, fetlocks or excessive (long) facial hair is allowed.
14. Appointments will silver should not count over a good working outfit. Silver on bridles and saddles and the use of weighted reins is discouraged.

### **Penalties**

A contestant shall be penalized each time the following occur:

1. ONE (1) POINT PENALTIES
  - a. Too slow/per gait
  - b. Over-bridled
  - c. Break of gait at walk or jog for 2 strides or less
  - d. Split log at lope
2. THREE (3) POINT PENALTIES
  - a. Break of gait at walk or jog for more than 2 strides
  - b. Break of gait at lope
  - c. Wrong lead or out of lead
  - d. Draped reins
3. FIVE (5) POINT PENALTIES
  - a. Blatant disobedience (kick, bite, buck, rear, etc.)
  - b. Eliminates maneuver
  - c. Incomplete maneuver
4. ZERO SCORE
  - a. Willful abuse
  - b. Major disobedience or schooling
5. No specific penalties will be incurred for nicks/hits on logs/poles but deduction may be made in maneuver score.

6. No specific penalties will be incurred for over/under spins but deduction may be made in maneuver score.

NOTE: This class is Ranch Horse Pleasure and horses should NOT perform or be rewarded for performing gaits as they do in Western Pleasure. The horses are to be presented in a more forward-moving style than the typical Western Pleasure Horse. The horse and rider will be scored on movement, which is cadence and rhythm of gaits, smoothness and consistency in performance, along with how they perform the optional maneuvers. Then the score sheets will be posted for the exhibitors' benefit.

## **RANCH RAIL PLEASURE**

### **Purpose**

Focus on promoting the versatility and movement of a working horse. However, this particular event only require horses to work both ways of the ring at requested gaits.

### **Conduct**

1. Horses will work together in the ring.
2. The required maneuvers will include the walk, jog, and lope both directions; and the extended jog and extended lope going at least one direction; as well as stops, and a back.

In all gaits, movement of the ranch riding horse should simulate a horse needing to cover long distances, softly and quietly, like that of a working ranch horse. The following terminology shall apply:

#### **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.

#### **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.

### **Penalties**

1. ONE (1) POINT PENALTIES

2. **THREE (3) POINT PENALTIES**
  - a. Break of gait at walk or trot for more than 2 strides
  - b. Break of gait at lope Wrong lead or out of lead
  - c. Draped reins (per maneuver)
  - d. Out of lead or cross-cantering more than two strides when changing leads
  - e. Trotting more than three strides when making a simple lead change Severe disturbance of any obstacle
3. **FIVE (5) POINT PENALTIES**
  - a. Blatant disobedience (kick, bite, buck, rear, etc.) for each refusal.
4. Equipment with silver should not count over a good working outfit. Silver on bridles and saddles is discouraged.
5. It is suggested competitors use a breast collar and a rear cinch.

#### **OPTIONAL EQUIPMENT for Ranch Horse Pleasure/Ranch Rail Pleasure**

1. Rope or riata; if used, the rope or riata must be coiled and attached to the saddle.
2. Hobbles attached to saddle.
3. Tapaderos, except in working cow horse where they are not allowed.
4. Protective boots, leg wraps and bandages are allowed in reining, working cow horse, team penning, barrel racing, pole bending, stake racing, jumping, tie-down roping, breakaway roping, dally team roping - heading, dally team roping - heeling, cutting, western horsemanship, ranch horse riding, versatility ranch horse, ranch riding and ranch trail. The use of slip on (easy care) horse boots or related footwear are not considered as protective boots and are permissible to be worn in all classes.
5. Spurs; not to be used forward of the cinch.

#### **CONTESTANT'S EQUIPMENT for Ranch Horse Pleasure/Ranch Rail Pleasure**

1. **Dress Code:** Boots, hat and long sleeves are required, anything beyond that such as chaps, chinks, etc., is optional
2. **Saddles:** The horse must be ridden with a western or stock saddle.
3. **Horse Shoes:** Any shoes are legal.
4. Two handed bridles, such as ring snaffles and hackamores, may be ridden two-handed for a junior horse only. A horse may be ridden in a two rein and the bosal may be of any size with no iron or metal of any kind. A two rein horse must be ridden one-handed. Reins on a shanked bit must be held in one hand with no more than one finger between the reins. Romal reins must be held full-fisted.
5. **Bridles and Bits:** Any bit is legal provided nothing extends below the bars of the bit. A bridle is defined as curbed, shanked bit. Chain bits are legal provided there is no gag or slide. Contestants will not be allowed to use any device that gives him/her undue control over the horse such as:
  - a. Tie Downs
  - b. Mechanical Hackamores, Quick Stops, etc.
  - c. Martingales
  - d. Nothing may be around the horse's nose
  - e. Gag Bits
  - f. Wire on the Curb Device or any part of the Bit or Headstall.

- g. Bits must be free of mechanical device
- h. Nothing extending below the bars of the bits

## **RANCH CONFORMATION**

### **Purpose**

The purpose of ranch conformation is to preserve the ranch horse type by selecting well-mannered individuals in the order of their resemblance to the breed ideal and that are the most positive combination of balance, structural correctness, and movement with appropriate breed and sex characteristics and adequate muscling. The ranch conformation class must be held after the conclusion of the other events.

To be eligible to compete in the ranch conformation class the horse must be shown in at least one class one of the other categories the day of the show. (i.e., Ranch Horse Pleasure AND/OR Ranch Rail Pleasure).

All horses will be shown together as one class.

Horses are to be shown in a good working halter: rope, braided, nylon or plain leather. Horses will walk to the judge one at a time. Silver show halters are discouraged.

### **Conduct**

1. As the horse approaches, the judge will step to the right to enable the horse to trot straight to a cone placed 50 feet away.
2. At the cone, the horse will continue trotting, turn to the left and trot toward the left wall or fence of the arena.
3. After trotting, horses will be lined up head to tail for individual inspection by the judge.
4. The judge shall inspect each horse from both sides, front and rear and place the horses in order of preference. Sweat marks on horses will not count against exhibitor.