



Showing Guide

We have put together a quick guide to help you enter the correct classes at the show, and maybe give you an insight into other classes you may not have considered entering as you were not familiar with the expectations.

Best Turned Out

This class is open to any horse or pony. As the name suggests, the emphasis is on the appearance and tidiness of the horses .

Clean the underside of saddle flaps, girth straps and girth guards.

Girth guards must be worn.

Holes in straps - poke the saddle soap out with a matchstick so holes are clear and clean.

Underside of rider's boots - clean after mounting.

Underside of bridle - noseband and browband; and inside of reins.

Under the horse's tail, and make sure the tail is clean and tangle free.

Don't use a lot of baby oil, as the judge may stroke the horse; run hands down its legs and possibly through the tail, so you don't want her coming away with an oily hand. Likewise, be careful with using chalk on white legs.

Rider's hair must be in a hairnet if it's long enough (and the rider is female!) and very tidy.

Sheath or udders must be cleaned.

Hooves oiled and picked out. If your horse has white legs, be very careful not to get oil on the hair.

Oil inside the feet as well.

Plaits should be sewn rather than banded.

Numnahs, if used, must be non-hairy and clean. No numnah is preferable, but if used it must be as discreet as possible. This is more important than for a 'performance' class.

Shoes must have been recently done - no risen clenches or slipped shoes.

Children wear jodhpur boots with clips, adults must wear long boots with spurs if appropriate for the type of horse. Garter straps on long boots are a must if they don't have zips.

No jewellery.

Show cane is essential.

Makeup or boot polish can be used on chestnuts to make them blend in with the leg colour.

Eyes, ears and nostrils must be clean - do this last minute before entering the ring, at the same time as cleaning the rider's boots and picking out the feet.

Ensure the string or elastic attaching your number is the same colour as your jacket, and round off the corners of the number so it's oval rather than rectangular.

Make sure your tie pin is attached to your shirt.

All straps on the bridle must be in their keepers, and the keepers the same length away from the end of the strap.

Best rider classes

All classes will be judged on the following criteria

40% riders position and effectiveness of aids.

40% individual show

20% overall presentation

Within the best rider classes we hold :

Lead rein best rider

These will only walk and trot. A snaffle bridle is preferred with the lead rein attached to the nose band.

First ridden best rider

Entrants will be expected to walk and trot together and only to canter in their individual show

Open best rider

Entrants will be expected to walk trot and canter together.

Your individual show is where you can impress the judge. Why not include (practice at home first) a sitting trot or a rein back. The following can also be included leg yield, walk to canter, serpentine etc. all of which if done correctly will show off your riding skills and your horse or pony.

New combination for 2018

This class will be judged on the following criteria

- 50% individual show
- 20% overall presentation
- 30% suitability

Horse or pony and rider to be a new combination to showing for 2018. You might have a show jumper or a dressage horse and might fancy a go at showing. Alternately you have had the same horse or pony for some time and never done any showing before or you simply have a new equine partner for this season..

Children just coming off the lead rein but riding the same pony are also welcome in this class.

Mountain and Moorland classes

This class will be judged on the following criteria

- 50% correctness of type
- 30% manners and individual show
- 20% overall presentation

Lead reins will be judged separately..

Mountain and moorland ponies are divided into two categories – small and large.

Exmoor Dartmoor, Shetland, Connemara, Highland, Dales, Fell, New Forest and Welsh sections A,B, C & D. Riders can be any age

Ridden Turnout

Bridles: The bridle should be chosen to compliment the head. M&Ms generally suit workman like bridles with plain browbands and nosebands. Brass clencher browbands are acceptable on Welsh and Shetlands, although may not suit all heads. Nosebands are recommended to be a minimum of 1" wide. Discreetly stitched nosebands and browbands may suit some breeds.

Saddles: The cut of the saddle should aim to show off the shoulder and movement. Straight cut or working hunter saddles are both popular. GP saddles may be used in working hunter pony classes. If a numnah is required they should be dark in colour and as discreet as possible. Girths should match the colour of the tack, white girths may also be used.

Brown leather suits most breeds and is considered more traditional, however black may be used and is often the choice of dapple grey or jet black ponies.

Bits: Double bits or pelhams may be worn in Open, Intermediate and Restricted classes.

First ridden and Novice classes vary according to the society or show rules. Some stipulate that snaffle bridles only may be used.

Lead rein ponies must be shown in a snaffle bridle only and lead reins may only be attached to the noseband.

Rider Turnout for Ridden M&M Classes

Cream, beige or canary jodhpurs or breeches.

Tweed hacking jacket with a green or brown base. Navy jackets should not be worn with the exception of evening performances.

Plain or striped white or coloured shirt and complimenting tie.

Dark coloured or brown, preferably leather, gloves.

Navy, brown or green velvet hats are all acceptable (black for men only).

Small breeds: All riders should wear short brown jodhpur boots, including adults.

Large breeds: Long, black boots are generally the choice of all riders. Juniors under 16 may wear short jodhpur boots, as may any rider of Welsh Section Cs.

Handler turnout for M&M In Hand Classes

Tweed jacket with shirt and tie or blouse.

Trousers should be in a contrasting colour to the ponies' legs.

Dark coloured sturdy shoes or boots suitable for running in.

Dark, preferably leather, gloves and a show cane should be carried

Hats are optional but look smart and some shows stipulate they should be worn. Suitable hats include a beagle, riding hat, tweed cap or brimmed trilby or panama. Children should be encouraged to wear a riding hat.

In hot weather, it is acceptable for handlers to wear either a waistcoat or shirtsleeves.

If you are showing a **Highland**, especially in Scotland or at the Breed Show, then a kilt or tartan trousers can be worn. With a kilt, the handler will often wear a Highland Pony Society sweatshirt or discreet sweatshirt in a dark colour.

Breeds and Types

SHOW CLASSIFICATION and TURNOUT

SHOW PONY. Manes to be plaited and tails pulled or plaited. To be shown in any suitable bridle. Lead Rein and First Ridden ponies to be shown in snaffle bridle only. For Lead Rein ponies a lead rein **MUST** be attached directly to the pony's noseband, the reins must go directly from the bit to the rider's hands

WORKING SHOW PONY/HORSE . Manes, tails and trimming to be in accordance with "type"; Plain boots (in the jumping phase only), martingales, dropped, flash and grackle nosebands are permitted.

RIDING HORSE. Small Riding Horse: exceeding 148cms but not exceeding 158cms. Large Riding Horse: exceeding 158cms. Riding horses should have quality, substance and good action. They must be comfortable rides and be able to gallop if required. Manes to be plaited and tails pulled or plaited. Legs trimmed.

SHOW HUNTER PONY. Not to exceed 153cms. Should be of middleweight hunter type to be ideal. Short individual show to last approx 1½ minutes with a gallop. Manes to be plaited and tails pulled or plaited. Legs trimmed.

RIDDEN PONY. Not to exceed 153cms. A quality pony of substance and movement, not a show or hunter pony. Manes to be plaited and tails pulled or plaited. Legs trimmed.

HACK. Small Hack: exceeding 148cms but not exceeding 154cms. Large Hack: exceeding 154cms Hacks are usually small Thoroughbred types with some Arab blood. They must be a pleasure to ride and well schooled. Quality, elegance, smooth and graceful

movement coupled with a true pointing of the toe. Manes to be plaited and tails pulled or plaited. Legs trimmed.

HUNTER. Must possess power, scope and a good length of rein, with a strong back, loins and hocks. Must have a good galloping action, ride with balance and be responsive. Manes to be plaited and tails pulled or plaited. Legs trimmed. To wear either a double or pelham bridle.

WARMBLOODS. To be registered with one of the Warmblood Societies or eligible for registration. Bred to be all-round performance horses to compete in performance disciplines (i.e. show jumping, dressage or eventing), with substance, good sloping shoulders and athletic paces.

Part-breds having at least 25% recognised and documented Warmblood parentage; to be true to type.

SPORTHORSE. Usually a crossbred carrying a high percentage of TB blood and bred to compete in performance disciplines (i.e. showjumping, eventing or dressage); should show athleticism and quality of movement.

AMERICAN TYPES. Types and breeds to include Part-bred Quarterhorse, Morgan, Saddlebred and American Show Horses. To be shown in natural state as per respective breed standards

ARABS – PURE/PART-BRED. Part-bred Arabs MUST carry a minimum of 12½% verifiable Arab

MINIATURES. Pure-bred Miniatures registered with the BMHS/International Miniature Society . To be shown trimmed as per breed society guidelines.

COB – SHOW. A short-legged animal exceeding 148cms but not exceeding 155cms. The cob should have substance, bone and be able to carry substantial weight. To be shown with a hogged mane and pulled and banged tail with legs trimmed.

COB – TRADITIONAL. A short-legged animal, open height. The cob should have substance, bone and be able to carry substantial weight. A true traditional type should be shown natural with full mane and tail and feathered legs. Should not be shown with a plaited mane.

COB – NATIVE. To be shown as naturally as possible. A Native Cob, e.g. Part-bred Welsh Section D, will usually have more quality of coat, less coarse hair and less feathering than a true traditional type animal would.

NATIVE TYPE PONIES. To be shown fully plaited at the discretion of the exhibitor.

VANNER. Usually considered the traditional type of a Tradesman's horse of pre-motor days. Of mixed breeding, active and capable of a good trot. Frequently have upright shoulders. Can be shown traditionally with full manes, tails and feather OR pulled tail and hogged manes.

SHETLANDS. To be shown as per their parent society guidelines.

YOUNGSTOCK. Open to horse and pony fillies, colts and geldings not exceeding 3 years old. May be shown in halter, leather headcollar or snaffle bridles; except colts 2 years old or over which MUST be shown suitably bitted. Colts 138cms and under, handlers MUST be 12 years old or over, or 14 years or over for larger colts; the suitability of the handler to the animal must also be considered.

Non-native types, manes to be plaited and tails pulled or plaited; legs trimmed

Show cob types to be shown with a hogged mane and pulled and banged tail with legs trimmed.

Native and Traditional type to be shown in as natural a state as possible.

BROODMARES. May be shown in halter, pelham or double Part-bred British native animals that choose to show in Native type classes should be shown in as natural a state as possible.