

## Pass Pioneers 4H Club – Open Horse Show Description of Classes

*These are brief descriptions of our classes. For classes that require the performance of a pattern, the patterns will be posted on our web site at [www.yucaipaequestriancenter.com](http://www.yucaipaequestriancenter.com) approximately one week prior to the show and will also be available at the show office the day of the show. Please note – these descriptions include all gaits expected for all divisions; however, walk/trot/jog riders will be limited to walk/trot/jog/intermediate gaits only. If you still have questions about our classes, email [lynnwarren4h@gmail.com](mailto:lynnwarren4h@gmail.com)*

**Halter** – All halter classes will be judged on conformation first, (**except** for the Color and Performance Halter classes. – Halter Color is a fun class for horses that represent color breeds such as Paint, Pinto, Appaloosa, Palomino, and Buckskin and horses are judged 80% on color and 20% on conformation per the judge's discretion. Horses without these color breed characteristics, including breeding stock horses, shall enter the "non-color" halter class. – In Performance Halter the judge primarily evaluates the movement and way of going of the horse, with regards to type, English or Western, and conformation is secondary.) And all halter horses will be examined at the walk and jog as each one is led directly to and away from the judge and additionally the jog from a direct side angle. After trotting, horses will be lined up head to tail for individual inspection by the judge. The judge shall inspect each horse from both sides, front and rear. May be shown in English attire with a plain leather halter or bridle, or in Western attire with a leather halter (silver optional) and a chain may be used under the chin or hanging from the halter. If English or Western is not specified in the class title, you may dress in either style depending on your preference and what might be characteristic for your horse's breed. When your halter class is held after your riding class (or midday after you have been riding), no points will be deducted for sweat marks; however, it is expected that reasonable re-grooming be done prior to the class.

**Miniature Horse Halter** – Judge will view the ideal Miniature Horse as a beautiful, small, well-balanced horse that if all reference to size were eliminated, would have the same conformational proportions of other full sized light breeds. The general impression is to be a balanced individual regardless of size with symmetry, strength, agility and alertness. Movement is strong, natural and athletic. At AMHA Miniature Horse Shows, the mature animal should not exceed 34 inches tall, 4H Miniature Horse Shows allow 38 inches (measuring at base of the last hair of the mane), The maximum height for our open shows is 38"

**Showmanship (Pattern)** – Showmanship classes shall be judged strictly on the exhibitor's ability to fit and show a horse at halter, not on the horse's conformation. The ideal showmanship performance consists of a poised, confident, neatly attired exhibitor leading a well-groomed and conditioned horse that quickly and efficiently performs the requested pattern with promptness, smoothness and precision. When showmanship classes are held after riding classes (or midday after you have been riding), no points will be deducted for sweat marks; however, it is expected that reasonable re-grooming be done prior to the class.

**English Pleasure** –The judge evaluates a horse's movement and way of going as a hunter type. Rein contact is required, and horses should move with impulsion. The gaits are flat, smooth and very efficient, with nice reach at the trot. Extended trot, hand gallop, and lead changes may be required, and horses may be asked to back. (This class is also known as "hunter under saddle").

**English Equitation (Pattern)** – The judge evaluates the rider's equitation, riding position, and the effectiveness of riding ability while completing a pattern. Shown at walk, trot, and canter, with extension of one or more gaits. Lead changes may be required and both sitting and posting trot may be included. Riders may be required to back and/or pivot. No rail work is performed unless required by the judge.

**English Country Pleasure** – Similar to English Pleasure, the judge looks for horses that appear to be smooth, responsive and a pleasure to ride. Limited to walk and "favorite gait" of the rider's choice, may be required to back.

**Hunter In Hand** – This class is designed to demonstrate a horse's suitability as an English "Hunter" style horse. The horse is initially judged in the "open" position (which means all four legs are viewable when set up for inspection, as opposed to "square"). The horse is then asked to perform a ground covering walk around (the smaller triangle), then move into an open trot around (the larger triangle). To be judged primarily on movement while also considering conformation and temperament. The judge looks for horses who move around the triangle with ease, comfort, and a quiet relaxed & natural headset suitable for their body type. English bridle is mandatory on horses two years old and older and plain leather halter is required on weanling and yearling horses.

**Western Pleasure** – The western pleasure horse should be a pleasure to ride with free, natural movement and should appear calm and relaxed. Horses will be shown at the walk, jog and lope on a reasonably loose rein, without undue restraint. Judge may ask for extension of the walk, jog and/or lope (rider should sit the extended jog) and horses may be asked to back. Horses moving with inadequate forward motion, at a four-beat lope or with the tip of the ears sustained below the level of the withers shall be penalized.

**Horsemanship (Pattern)** – The judge evaluates the rider's western equitation, riding position, and effectiveness of riding ability while completing a pattern. Shown at walk, jog and lope, with extension of one or more gait (rider should sit the extended jog). Lead changes may be included. Riders may be required to back and/or pivot. No rail work is performed unless required by the judge.

**Western Country Pleasure** – Similar to Western Pleasure, the judge looks for horses that appear to be smooth, responsive, and a pleasure to ride. Limited to walk and "favorite gait" of the rider's choice (rider should sit the extended jog), may be required to back.

**Obedience** – Ridden English or Western. Riders are on the rail. May include walk, trot/jog, canter/lope, extension of all gaits, pivots, side pass, backing with or without reins, halt, counter canter/lope, lead changes, gait transitions, and other elements which may be requested at the discretion of the judge.

**Trail Warm Up** – This practice session on the trail course is intended to give you and your horse a chance to see and maneuver the obstacles before you actually show your class. The trail course will be open for practice at will for a few hours in the morning – please check with Lynn Warren for exact times for each day. Please be considerate and do not monopolize an obstacle. This class is not judged. Every horse show entry with a trail class will be charged a one-time fee of \$4.99 regardless of how many trail classes you enter.

**Trail (Pattern)** – All trail classes are judged on the performance of the horse and rider/exhibitor (with emphasis on manners, response to rider, and quality of movement) as they negotiate a number of obstacles within a specific pattern. Obstacles include, but are not limited to, walk overs, trot or jog overs, canter or lope overs, step overs, side pass, square, gate, back through, bridge, mailbox, serpentine, jog around, jog through, and pivots. May be shown in English attire or Western attire depending on the class.

**In Hand Trail (Pattern)** – This class was originally designed to provide exhibitors an opportunity to showcase horses too young to show under saddle, such as yearlings and 2-year-olds. However, at this show this class is **open to horses of all ages**. Obstacles should be the same as in **Trail** (above) and will be geared towards a horse in hand. May be shown in English attire with a plain leather halter or bridle, or in Western attire with a leather halter (silver optional) and a chain may be used under the chin or hanging from the halter.

**Miniature Trail (Pattern)** – Same as **Trail** (above) and may also include a jump (maximum of 12 inches high) and negotiation of obstacles will be geared towards a miniature horse in hand. May be shown in either English or Western attire.

**Miniature Horse Fun Class** – This will be a timed event with poles, barrels, and/or jumps.

**Miniature Horse Hunters and Jumpers** - There will be a minimum of four fences and a maximum of six fences. The course will be posted at a minimum of two hours before the class. The fences can range in height from twelve to twenty-four inches (in the jump-off this will change to a minimum of twelve to a maximum of thirty inches). Jumpers are judged on accumulated faults only, unless there is a tie, in which case there will be a jump-off. Ties in a Jumper class must be jumped-off. The jump-off will be held over the original course. The height of the jumps shall be increased not less than one inch and not more than six inches in height. The jump-off will be timed by a stopwatch and the horse who has the fastest time and the fewest faults in the jump off round will be declared the winner. Hunters are judged on form and consistency on the jump course.

**Ranch Horse Trail (Pattern)** – Same as **Trail** (above) except the obstacles may also include more challenging elements such as throw a rope, walk over or through brush, side pass over a log, drag a log (no dally), carry an object from one location to another, dismount and pick up all 4 feet (if requested this would be at the end of the pattern), or any reasonable obstacle that one might encounter on a ranch. You may also be asked to visibly extend all three gaits (sitting, standing, or posting at the extended jog is acceptable). Transitions should be precise and immediate. Horses should receive credit for showing attentiveness to the obstacles and the capability of picking their own way through the course when obstacles warrant it, and willingly responding to the rider's cues on more difficult obstacles. Execution of obstacles should demonstrate a confident team of horse and rider acting as partners in a calm, yet purposeful way. Rider must show in proper Ranch Horse attire (see FAQ for details). Horses of all ages may be shown in a snaffle, bosal, or curb bit.

**Ranch Rail Pleasure** – The purpose of the ranch rail pleasure class is to demonstrate a well-trained, relaxed, and soft horse that you wouldn't mind sitting on for a full day's ranch work. His expression should be bright and attentive, curious but not spooky or dull looking. Emphasis is on natural (natural tail set and head carriage that fits the horse) and forward movement at walk, jog, and lope with obvious lengthening of stride at extended gaits (sitting, standing, or posting at the extended jog is acceptable). The horse can be ridden with light contact or on a relatively loose rein without requiring undue restraint, but not shown on a full drape of reins. The overall manners and responsiveness of the ranch pleasure horse to make timely transitions in a smooth and correct manner, as well as the quality of the movement are of primary considerations. Rider must show in proper Ranch Horse attire. (See FAQ for details). Horses of all ages may be shown in a snaffle, bosal, or curb bit.

**Ranch Riding** – Formally "Ranch Horse Pleasure" (Pattern) – The Ranch Riding horse should reflect the versatility, attitude, and movement of a working horse. The horse's performance should simulate a horse riding 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 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 of the judge. Required gait/elements may include walk, jog, and lope, visible extension of all three gaits (sitting, standing, or posting at the extended jog is acceptable), lead changes (simple or flying changes are acceptable), stop, back, change of direction, side pass, and walk, jog, or lope overs. Rider must show in proper Ranch Horse attire. (See FAQ for details). Horses of all ages may be shown in a snaffle, bosal, or curb bit.

**Ranch Reining (Pattern)** – The Ranch Reining class is a pattern class which measures the ability of the ranch horse to perform basic handling maneuvers while maintaining a good attitude. These maneuvers include stops, spins, rollbacks, circles, backups, hesitate, "run" downs, and lead changes (posting diagonal change for walk/jog division). To rein a horse is not only to guide him, but also to control his every movement. The best reined horse should be willingly guided or controlled with little or no apparent resistance and dictated to completely. Correctness is favored over speed as deviations from the exact written pattern must be considered a lack of, or temporary loss of, control and therefore a fault. The horse/rider team's overall performance should be credited for smoothness, finesse, attitude, and authority of performing various maneuvers. Rider must show in proper Ranch Horse attire. (See FAQ for details). Horses of all ages may be shown in a snaffle, bosal, or curb bit.

**Ranch Horse Conformation** – Judged on conformation with **form to function as top priority**. Is this a horse that can perform ranch duties? The ideal standard in evaluating ranch horses in conformation should include but is not limited to soundness and correctness in conformation, particularly feet and legs with emphasis on correct manner of travel including athletic ability and the “appearance of” agility and durability. The horse should possess eye appeal and show balance and uniform muscling with enough athletic ability to perform different tasks on the ranch. **Horse should be clean and well-groomed yet should be shown as naturally as possible.** For example, trimming of fetlocks, excessive facial hair, and a bridle path are allowed, but trimming inside the ears is discouraged. Mane banding/braiding and tail extensions are discouraged. Halters should be plain leather, rope, or nylon. When your conformation class is held after your riding classes (or midday after you have been riding), no points will be deducted for sweat marks; however, it is expected that reasonable re-grooming be done prior to the class.

**Leadline Equitation and Trail** – There is no age limit for these classes, but prizes are directed to young children. Western attire and saddle is suggested and matching western outfits of “rider” and “leader” is recommended but not required. Helmets are required for the “riders”. These will be WALK ONLY classes. Leadline equitation will not actually be judged, although the judge may interact with the participants and all youth participants receive a prize. Leadline Trail **will** be judged, and the pattern will be geared towards leadline ability. “Rider” participants in the leadline class cannot enter any other “riding” classes.

**Walk Only Pleasure, Horsemanship, and Trail** – These classes are designed for those ready to be off the lead-line but not quite ready to trot. The classes can be ridden English or Western and there is no age limit.

**Pleasure Driving** – Pleasure driving is a horse show class, which features horses, ponies, and miniature horses hitched to a two or four wheeled show cart. Horses are driven at a walk and two speeds of trot, generally designated as a regular trot or “park” gait and an extended “strong” trot or “road” gait. Horses are expected to demonstrate required gaits in each direction, as well as back readily, and stand quietly. All gaits should be performed in a smooth, relaxed, balanced manner, consistent with the conformation type of animal. To be judged on manners, quality, performance, conformation, and suitability.

**Obstacle Driving** – Think of Pleasure Driving through a Trail course and that is basically what Obstacle Driving is. This class will be judged on the performance of the horse through the obstacles, usually giving each obstacle a designated point value. The course will consist of 6 to 8 obstacles which should simulate conditions normally encountered on a pleasant afternoon drive.

**Disciplined Rail Driving** – This class is to show the ability of a highly trained driving horse while giving the appearance of a pleasurable experience. Horses shall perform work on the rail that may include, but not be limited to: a. A flat-footed walk, b. A normal trot. c. A strong trot (not to exceed twice around the ring). d. Starting with a flat-footed walk, through a normal trot to a strong trot. e. Stand quietly. f. Pivot (Horse to side pass as though there were a wall in front and behind with one (1) wheel rolling). Pivot not to exceed 90 degrees (Judge may ask for both right and left or either.). g. Dismount from the cart and remount where there is adequate room; never going clockwise of the arena. Final judging shall be on the basis of the best overall disciplined rail performance.