

Lake County 4-H Horse Groom and Clean Contest

Rules:

- Teams will be made up of three members from a club and a handler for the horse (4 people total in each team) The handler will only the horse, he/she will not participate in the showmanship after the grooming is complete. Teams may use a member from another club if needed to fill a team.
- The participants must be in lake county equine 4h, all ages are welcomed. (Walk trot, novice, advanced, horse-less-horse and clover buddies)
- All team members must wear boots or heavy leather shoes and long pants, **NO SHORTS, FLIP FLOPS, OR TANK TOPS**
- Each team must choose one number, the number must be of that a 4h member uses while showing at the fair. The whole team will share that number, all team members must display the number clearly on their back
- Each team will provide its own grooming tools. No electric or battery powered equipment may be used.
- Each team must provide a safe horse or pony for the contest.
- Each horse/pony must arrive wearing a properly fitting nylon or leather halter (no silver show halters) and lead. The horse/pony should be reasonably groomed. No show sheen is to be used before mud is applied.
- The horses/ponies should arrive at the contest site at least an hour before the starting time, so the horses can be "dirtied" before the start of the contest.
- Each team will provide a handler. The Handle cannot be at the walk trot level. Must be a novice, advanced, or a 4h advisor.
- Handlers will not coach the team members in any way. They will speak to team members only when necessary to maintain safety.
- Any coaching from the handler or spectators will result in the disqualification of the team.**

Recommended grooming tools:

1. Curry Comb (hard rubber or plastic)
2. Stiff Bristle Brush
3. Body Brush (medium stiff bristles)
4. Soft Bristle Brush
5. Mane and Tail Comb or Regular Hairbrush
6. Hoof Pick
7. Grooming Cloth or towel
8. Fly spray can be used if needed. (no show sheen or horse finish)
9. Chain Lead

Schedule of Events:

- Judge will inspect the horses/ponies and equipment.
- Timed portion of grooming begins. Grooming time is 20 minutes.
- After timed grooming is complete, the judge will evaluate the groomed horses/ponies.
- Teams are then time to work with their groomed horse/pony to prepare for showmanship. There is no time limit for this section, it is up to the judges discretion.

Teams will be judged on:

- How well the team works together
- the judge will observe how each grooming tool was used
- Safety-the judge will observe how the team members are acting around the horse.
- **Please note the judge can have a team removed from the class if he/she feels the team is not acting in a safe and calm manor around the horse.**** -This is a timed event, but safety comes first, no running around the animal or yelling.
- the overall appearance of the horse/pony once the given time limit is up.
- are the hooves properly picked?
- mud removed from legs, face, mane, tale, barrel, and girth areas.

After grooming is completed:

1. A simple Showmanship pattern will follow 4-H rules, except that showmanship will be done in the work clothes worn while grooming, and a simple nylon, leather halter may be used. Participants will not be judged on their appearance, but they will be judged on how they interact with the animal, and how it is handled.
2. The only equipment change allowed for the showing will be a chain lead strap to replace the tie rope used while grooming. No halter changes.
3. All three members will be judged on their ability to show the horse/pony. Each member will show the horse/pony as instructed by the judge. The team members will decide which one will do each part of the pattern.
4. The showmanship pattern will be determined by the judge and posted one hour prior to the contest.

*****The judge does have the right to ask the participants any question and use their answers accordingly to place the class.*****

HAVE FUN! HAPPY GROOMING! 😊