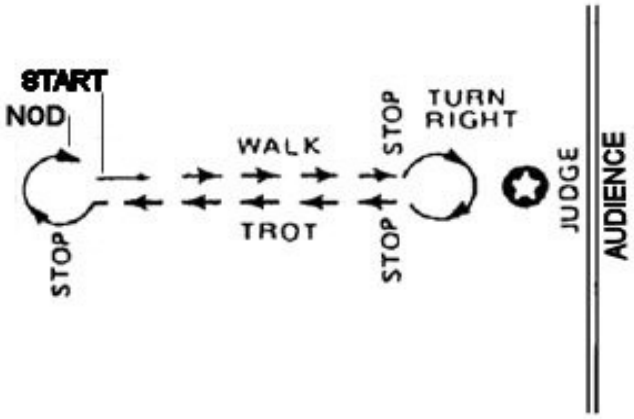
SHOWMANSHIP AT HALTER

In Showmanship classes, the Junior Exhibitor is judged on his/her ability to present a horse in the ring to its greatest advantage, recognize the conformation pluses and minuses of the animal and show it to overcome any faults.

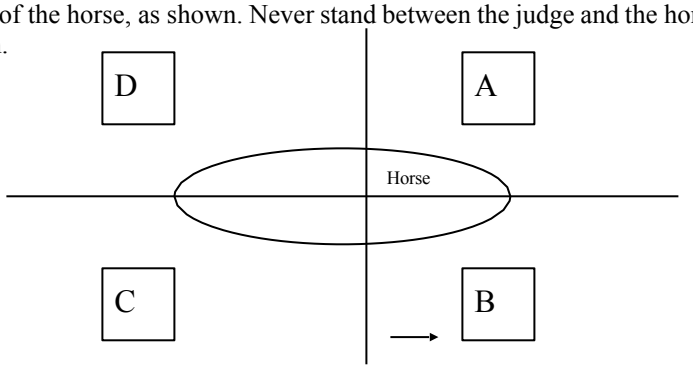


MOVING THE HORSE
Refer to diagram to right.

- Walk to starting point. Stop.
- Turn in straight line to face judge. Stop.
- Walk horse to judge. Stop.
- Step to front of horse. **Switch hands**. Stand horse correctly. Move away from judge.
- Keep track of judge. Never be between judge and horse. Move accordingly.
- When excused, **switch hands again**, step back beside horse, walk forward a step and turn **RIGHT** back to straight line facing away from judge. Stop.
- Look back to judge, then look ahead and trot back to starting point in straight line. Stop.
- Turn **RIGHT** again and face judge. Nod, turn right and exit.

HINTS – Be prompt and sharp and **show** your horse. Change your reins quickly, but with ease. Keep track of the judge and horse at all times. ***Always turn right!*** Work in straight lines and square corners. Walk quickly. Do not walk and run with small steps. Look up – don't hide! Watch judge at all times, even after your turn. Show energy and confidence. Handle your horse with authority and with ease.

When presenting your horse to the judge, picture the four quarters of the horse, as shown. Never stand between the judge and the horse but always be in the quarter next to the one the judge is standing in.



If the judge is in quarter B you should be in A.
If the judge is in quarter C you should be in B.
If the judge is in quarter D you should be in A.
If the judge is in quarter A you should be in B.

YOUR SCORE IS BASED 80% ON PRESENTATION AND 20% ON APPEARANCE. You will be judged on:

- Confidence, energy and effort
- Walk
- Trot
- Turns
- Stops
- Rein handling
- Appearance – Hat, hair, shirt, vest, pants, shoes

OVER FOR MORE SHOWMANSHIP PROCEDURE

The following is taken from the ASHA Showmanship Judging Standards

Class Procedure

Enter the show ring at the gait requested and lead in the direction indicated by the ringmaster until requested to line the horse up for inspection.

Leave at least ten feet (about two horse lengths) between your horse and the other horses, both in circling the ring and in the line-up.

Presentation in the Line-Up

Horses must stand squarely on all four feet with the front legs perpendicular to the ground. Move the horse's feet by pulling/pushing on the lead/rein as necessary along with putting your hand on his shoulder, exerting pressure as needed. NEVER use your foot or whip to move the horse's feet. Hind legs may be placed slightly back. The horse's head should be up, neck arched and ears forward.

Stand the horse as straight as possible with weight distributed on all four feet, hooves pointed straight ahead. Be careful not to stand the horse in a low place.

Position yourself in front of the horse or facing him in such a way as to be able to see the animal and present a full view of the horse to the judge, being careful to stay out of the judge's way. Watch both the horse and the judge at all times. Do not be distracted by persons or objects outside the ring.

Hold the reins in your right hand about 8-12 inches from the bit. The other end should be neatly held in the left hand. Change hands when you get to the judge’s end and before standing your horse on its feet .

Your body should be balanced over your legs to permit free movement to properly present the horse. Fluidity of motion and a flexible position to work the horse are essential.

When the judge is down the line or looking at another entry, stand at the horse's head on the opposite side of the judge as much as possible. Watch carefully for instructions, and follow promptly and sharply. Do not be afraid to adjust or mildly correct your horse.

Moving the Horse

Stand to the horse's left and move off on a loose rein if possible. Touch the horse lightly with your whip if necessary. Move out briskly and in a straight line. When moving away from the judge, keep the horse in line with the judge so the horse's movement can be observed. Lead from the horse's left side. Bring your horse to a complete stop at either end of the line before turning. Turn the horse to the right, or away from you, when at the end of the line.

When the judge is observing other horses, let your horse stand, if posed reasonably well. Keep alert and showmanlike until the entire class has been placed and the judge has submitted his card.

Be natural - avoid overshowing, undue fussing and maneuvering. Respond promptly to requests from the judge or other officials. Be courteous and sportsmanlike at all times.