

AHR Disposition and Trainability Testing

The purpose of this test is to evaluate a horse's character, disposition and trainability.

The testing consists of three parts:

Test In Hand

Riding Test (including obedience obstacles)

Driving Test (including obedience obstacles)

All horses must be presented for Work In Hand.

Horses of an appropriate age and with suitable training may be presented for the Riding and /or Driving Tests

Nature of Tests

Test in Hand

The horse shall be presented by a handler in a halter and lead line. The halter may be leather, nylon, or rope with a lead. A chain shank is permitted over or under the nose but is not allowed with a rope halter.

The handler should not touch the animal while doing the obstacle (except in the side pass) and may not bait the animal with food. The handler may pet the animal briefly after an obstacle is finished.

Requirements:

Lead at a walk and trot.

Halt

Back

Stand on a loose lead.

Pick up all four feet and examine teeth

Demonstrate ability to touch any part of the horse at the judge's request.

Allow a stranger to approach and touch the horse.

Perform any of the obedience obstacles listed.

Riding Test

The horse may be ridden in English or western tack (or other at judges discretion), including a bit appropriate for the discipline. Martingales or tie downs are not permitted. Spurs and dressage whip or crop are permitted but excessive use will be penalized.

Requirements:

Saddle and bridle horse and mount in arena. (Mounting block or a leg up for mounting are allowed.)

Walk, trot, canter or lope, in both directions, halt, back and stand quietly on a loose rein.

Perform any of the obedience obstacles listed.

Driving Test

The horse may be presented in draft or pleasure harness to a vehicle appropriate in size. Wooden, metal, rubber, or pneumatic tires are allowed. Harness must be in safe condition and fitted properly. All conventional driving bits are allowed. Double twisted wire bits, chain bits, and saw mouthpieces are not allowed. Judge may have discretions over harness safety, fit and appropriateness of bits. Carrying a driving whip is highly recommended. Check reins are allowed although an overly tight check may detract from performance.

Test Requirements:

Harness and put to vehicle in arena.

Demonstrate ability to tie before putting to.

Walk, trot, back, halt and stand while in harness.

Perform any of the obedience obstacles listed.

Disqualifications (automatic score of zero)

- Deliberate and unprovoked attack on any person or another horse.
- Bolting from ring.
- Violent resistance (kicking, rearing, biting, spinning, bucking, bolting) resulting in fall of rider or dangerous loss of control or loose horse (a casual walk off during ground tie is not to be considered violent resistance)
- Actions by the handler considered abusive or excessive by the judge, including excessive use of the whip, spurring or pulling/jerking on the reins.
- Removing the bridle while horse is harnessed to a vehicle.
- Failure to complete requirements of the test.
- Use of drugs, abuse, or inappropriate preparation for the test.
- Noticeable lameness