



Show Rules Q & A

Q: Does my horse have to be registered with a specific registry to be eligible to show?

A: All horses must be registered with a foreign or domestic registry that maintains proof of Gypsy horse heritage through DNA testing and record maintenance. These registries include the GVHS, GHRA, GHA and GCDHA. Crosses must be registered with either the GHRA, GHA or GCDHA.

Q: How old does my horse have to be to show under saddle or in harness?

A: Gypsy horses cannot be shown under saddle or driven until they are three years of age.

Q: How do you calculate each horse's age?

A: The age of horses for competition purposes is considered to be one year old on the first day of January following the actual date of foaling.

Q: What are some things that result in a horse being disqualified?

A: All horses entered must be serviceably sound, healthy, and in good condition. Lameness, obviously unhealthy, or unthrifty animals will be disqualified. Unruly, dangerous or aggressive horses may also be disqualified and asked to leave the ring and/or show grounds.

Q: Does my horse have to be clipped?

A: Horses may be shown clipped or unclipped, both are equally acceptable.

Q: How old does a handler have to be to show a stallion or colt?

A: No one under the age of 18 may show a stallion in hand, or riding including lead line. A Junior age 12 or older may show a weanling colt in hand. No one under the age of 12 may show any horse under the age of three, including leading in a lead-line class.

Q: Can I wear a protective helmet in a western class?

A: Use of a protective helmet or vest, worn by any exhibitor in any class will not be penalized and is strongly encouraged.

Q: Who must sign the entry form and release of liability?

A: Every exhibitor, rider, driver, handler, and trainer or his/her agent must sign an entry form. In case of a rider, driver, or handler under the age of 18 his/her parent or guardian, or if not available, the trainer, must sign an entry form on the minor's behalf.

Q: What type of tack do I need to show my stallion for halter classes?

A: Stallions three years and older must be shown in a bridle with a snaffle bit with no shanks or with a stallion bit or full stallion tack which may include a surcingle, side reins and crupper or a halter with a flat chain shanked either under the chin or over the nose. Chains of any type may not be run through the mouth or over the gums. Bridles, stallion tack and halters may be leather or synthetic.

Q: What types of tack can I show my mare or gelding in for halter classes?

A: Mares and Geldings may be shown in a bridle with a snaffle bit with no shanks or in a halter. Halters may be of leather, synthetic or traditional rope halters. A flat chain may be shanked over the nose or under the chin. Leads should be at least 6' long.

Q: Can I show my horse in a knotted rope halter?

A: No, Knotted training rope halters are prohibited in all classes.

Q: Can I use a dressage style saddle in the English Pleasure class?

A: Yes, both hunt seat and dressage saddles are acceptable.

Q: Can I cross enter between either walk/trot and walk/trot/canter classes or walk/jog and walk/jog/lope classes?

A: Yes, cross entering between these classes is acceptable.

Q: What are some things that count as disqualification in the Liberty class?

A: The following are all examples of disqualifications in Liberty classes:

- Going past the 1 ½ minute catch time
- Touching of the horse in any manner while the music is playing
- If the 2nd handler who is not wearing a number touches the horse during the 1 ½ minute catch time
- If a handler is unable to catch their horse within the 1 ½ minute time limit
- Use of treats or other baiting to aid in catching a horse
- Touching of the horse with a whip during the performance

Q: Can I cross enter between Traditional Halter classes and Performance Halter classes?

A: No, cross entering between these classes is not allowed.