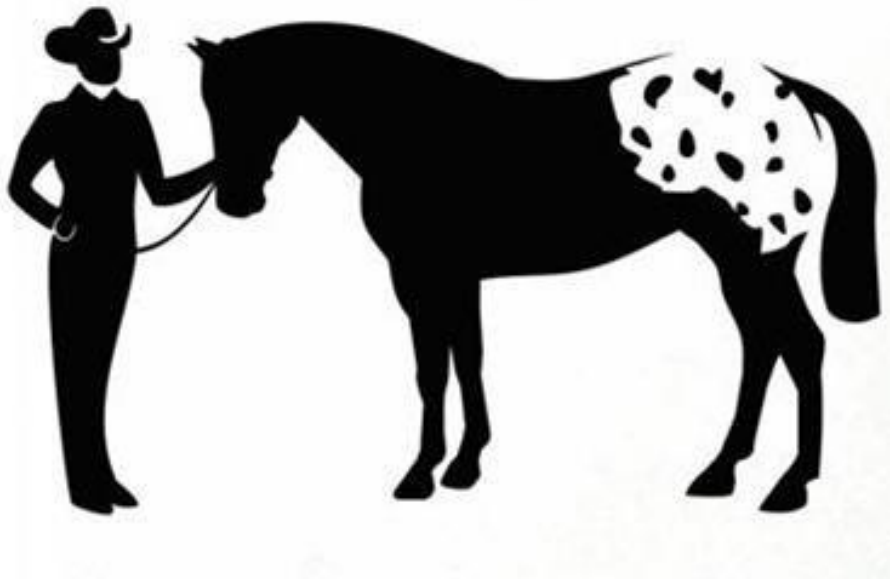




HORSE SHOWMANSHIP

A Brief Guide for Showing Your Horse In Hand



August 2022

Showmanship classes are judged on the grooming of the horse and on the ability of the showman to present the horse properly and to the best advantage. Type, conformation, and quality of the horse have no bearing on the judging of the class. Manners and response to the showman, however, do indicate the degree of training received by the animal and should be credited to the showman. At the Coweta County Fair, this class is offered as a Western Showmanship, Hunter In-Hand Class, or Saddle Seat Showmanship. Ponies and horses compete in the same class. The judge should respect breed differences in grooming presentation and appointments within the showmanship class.

Showmanship Class (All Divisions)

Club member and his/her equipment:

1. Personal appearance of club member: neat, clean, well-groomed, attentive, courteous, and in appropriate attire.
2. Equipment:
 - a) Hunter: Clean, adjusted, and acceptable hunter bridle (no halters). No crops or bats are permitted.
 - b) Saddle Seat: Clean, adjusted halter or bridle (full, pelham, curb or snaffle).
 - c) Western: Clean, adjusted halter to fit the horse. Fancy halter should not be given preference over good-working halter.

Horse (fitting and grooming)

1. The horse should be clean, well-groomed, and fitted for his type.
2. The horse's feet should be cleaned and either trimmed or properly shod.

Method of Showing (Showmanship)

1. Walk, trot, turn, stop, back, and pose your horse as directed by the judge or ring steward.
2. Lead from the left side of your horse with your right hand on the lead strap or bridle reins. When showing your horse at a walk, walk by his side – never directly in front of him. His head should be about even with your shoulder. When moving, keep your horse's neck, head and body in a straight line and maintain precise control. Move him directly toward or away from the judge, unless the judge indicates that he wishes to see him from the side.
3. If showing with a bridle, show the horse with a shank short enough to assure maximum control and responsiveness from the horse. The basic position of the exhibitor should allow constant observation of the horse's feet and also permit observation of the judge and ring officials.
4. Never obstruct the view of the judge and do not stand directly in front of the horse.
5. Run by the left side of your horse when you are showing him at the trot. He should move willingly toward or away from the judge with his head, neck, and body in a straight line. He should trot freely, fast and be alert with head up but not too high.

6. When a particular show ring procedure being used by a judge requires horse to be reversed, they should be turned to the right. Turn in as small of space as possible and attempt to keep the horse's hind feet planted in one place while turning. All turns should be made natural. Any turn requiring more than 90 degrees should be made to the right.
7. Keep your horse posed at all times and know where the judge is and what he wants. A good showman always gives the judge the best view of his horse. You cannot change your horse's type and conformation, but you can improve his style and appearance. Make it easy for the judge to see your horse to his best advantage.
8. Move easily, quietly and with confidence when showing your horse. Be courteous; respond promptly to directions and show good horsemanship at all times.
9. Do your showing with the lead shank or bridle rein.
10. Faults in showing:
 - a) Allowing the horse to remain out of position.
 - b) Standing directly in front of your horse.
 - c) Kicking horse's feet to move them.
 - d) Failure of the horse to lead properly.
 - e) Failure to stop before turning when showing at the walk or trot.
 - f) Failure to back.
 - g) Loud voice commands to your horse or other unnecessary actions.
 - h) Picking up the horse's feet for positioning purposes.

Tips for posing horse

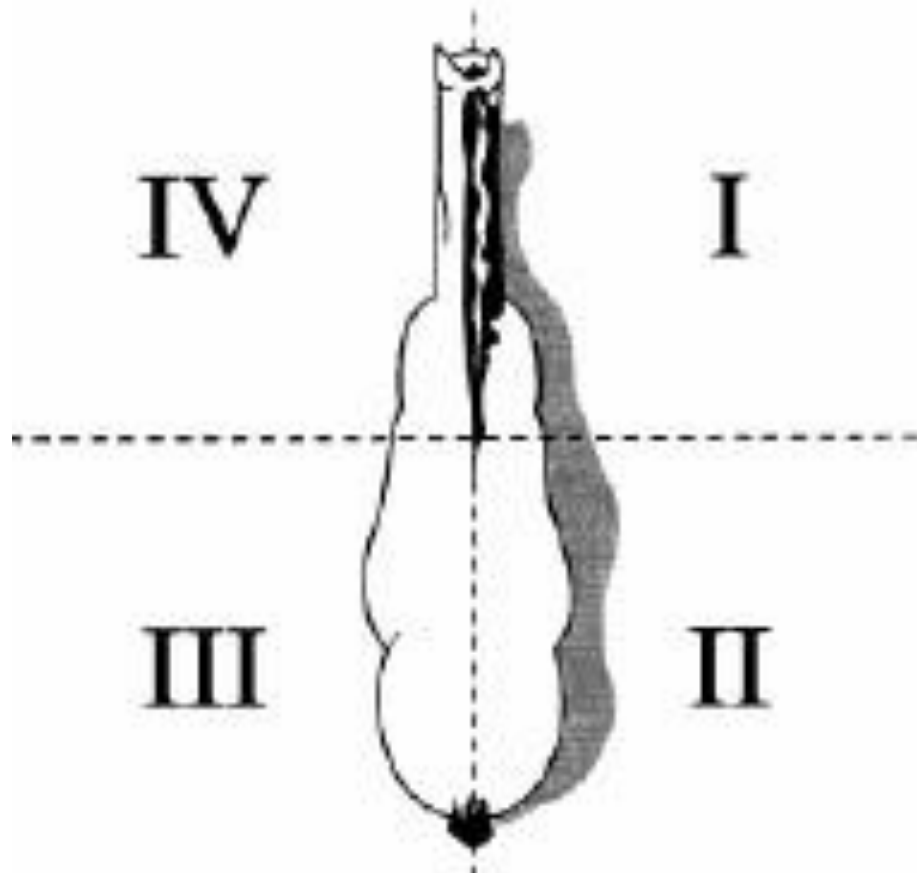
Keep your horse posed at all times, and know where the judge is and what the judge wants. A good showman always gives the judge the best view of the horse. Make it easy for the judge to see your horse at its best advantage.

When posing you horse, stand toward the front, facing the horse at a 45-degree angle to the eye, but never directly in front of the horse. Always be in a position where you can observe your horse and keep an eye on the judge. The "Quarter Method" is the suggested method of showmanship. The following guidelines are meant to serve as an illustration of movement around the horse while showing at halter and are for the exhibitors:

1. Imaginary lines bisect the horse into four equal parts as seen in the figure on the following page. The quadrants are numbered I,II,III, and IV for ease of identification. One line runs across the horse just behind the withers. The other imaginary line runs from head to tail.
2. **When the judge is in quadrant I, the showman should be in IV. As the judge moves to II, the showman should move I. As the judge moves to III, the showman returns once more to IV. When the judge moves up to IV, the showman returns to I.** This method is based on safety as the showman can keep the horse's hindquarters from swinging

toward the judge should the horse become fractious. **You should be in the quadrant directly next to the quadrant the judge is standing in, but never in the same one.**

Quadrants of a Horse



Listed below is the point system on which the class will be judged bases on a 20 point scale.

Overall appearance of the exhibitor horse = 10 points

1. Condition and thriftiness
2. Grooming
3. Trimming and clipping
4. Tack
5. Clothes and showman
6. Suitable attire

Performance Showing Horse in ring = 10 points

1. Leading
2. Posing or setting up
3. Poise, alertness, and merits
4. Accuracy of pattern
5. Precision
6. Smoothness
7. Reasonable amount of speed

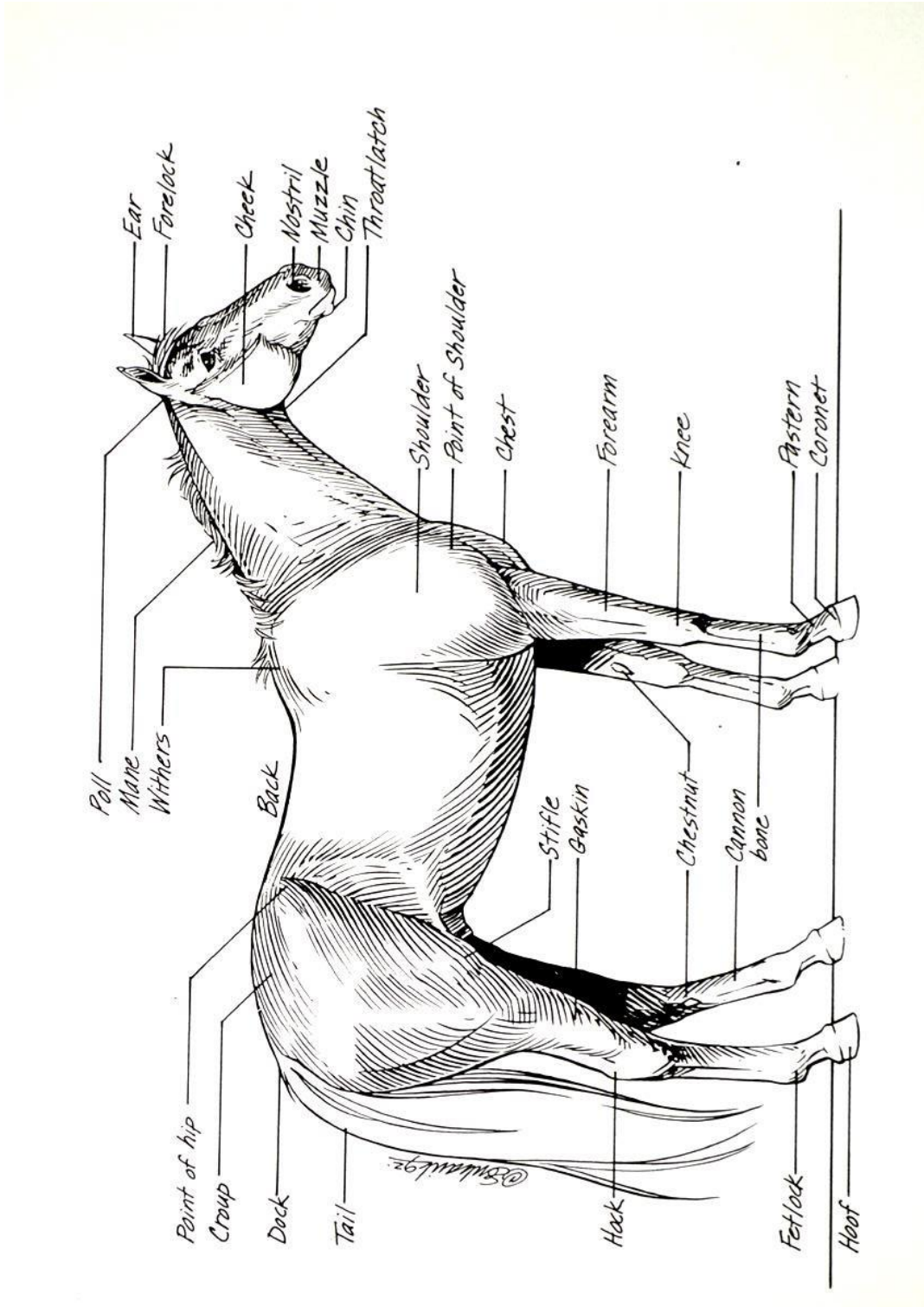
Grooming

- Curry comb (rubber, plastic, or metal)
- Dandy (stiff bristled) brush
- Finishing (soft bristled) brush
- Hoof Pick
- Sweat Scraper
- Face Brush (extra soft)
- Hoof Polish (optional)
- Hair braiding bands (optional)
- Clippers (for bigger shows where every little thing counts)

Maneuvers

- Walk
- Trot
- Halt
- Back
- Pivot
- Square Up

Horse Anatomy



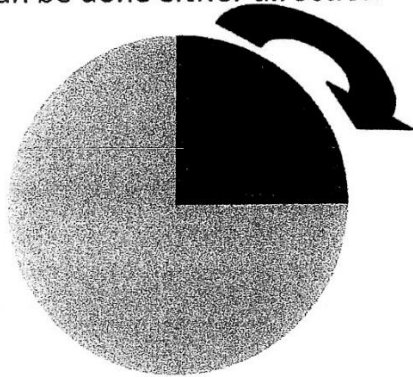
Common Showmanship Pivots

Below are some common showmanship pivot points. The black and the arrows show how far to go for each turn.

Note: A 90 degree turn can be done in either direction.
Anything above that *must* be done to the right.

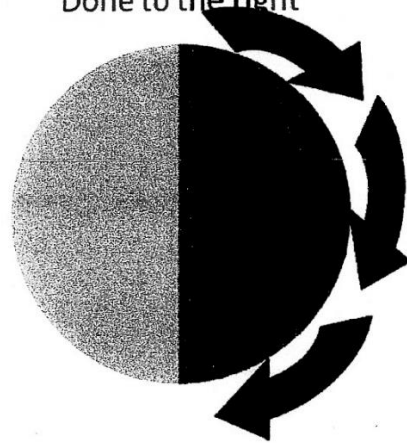
90 Degree Turn

Can be done either direction



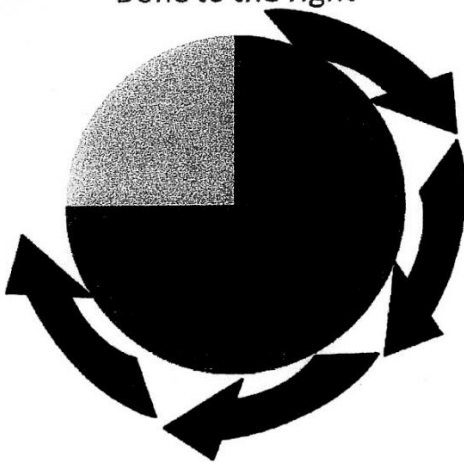
180 Degree Turn

Done to the right



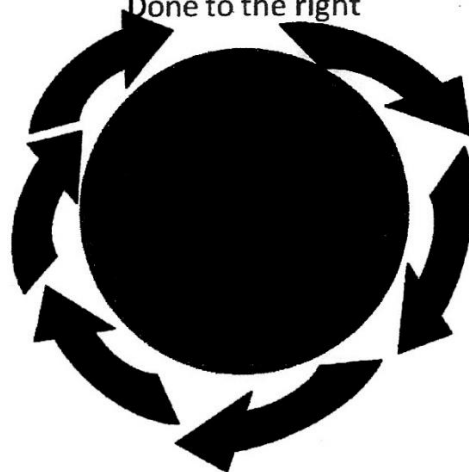
270 Degree Turn

Done to the right

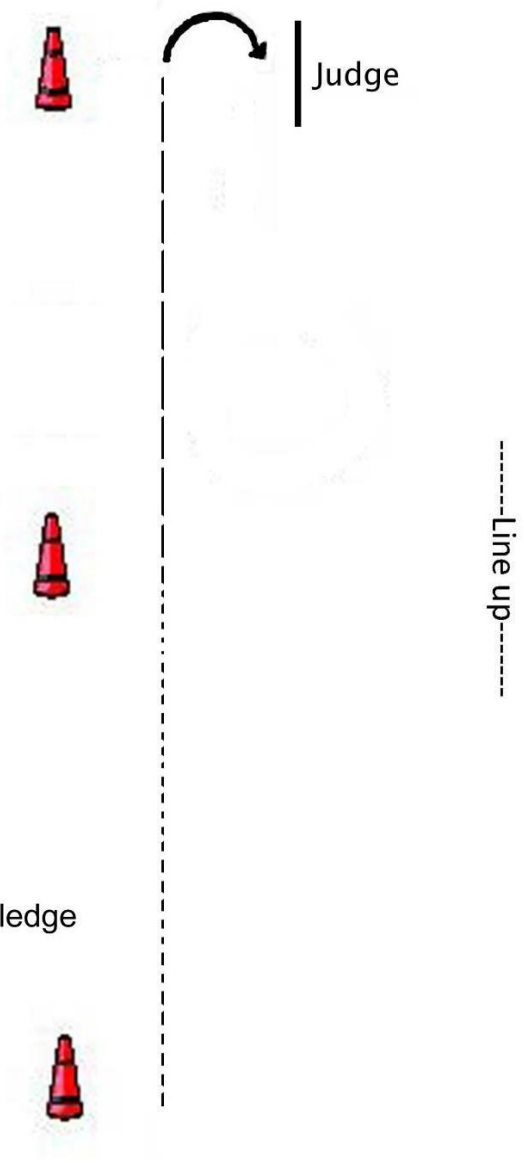


360 Degree Turn

Done to the right



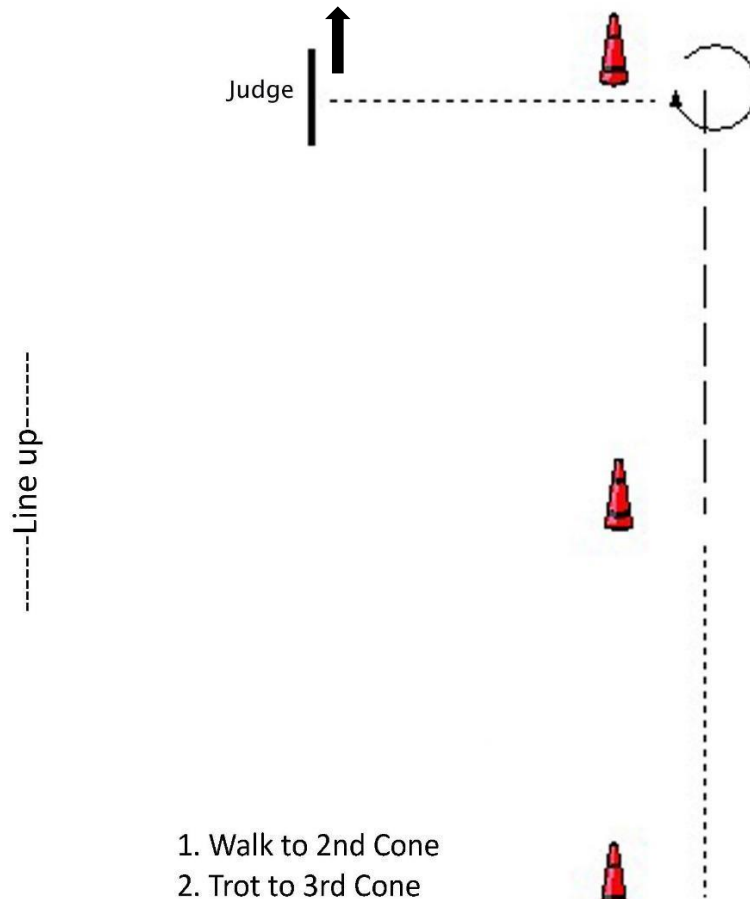
Horse Showmanship Cloverleaf



1. Wait at first cone for judge to acknowledge
2. Walk to 2nd cone
3. Trot to 3rd cone
4. Make a 90 degree turn to the right
5. Set up for inspection
6. Walk to line up when dismissed

Gate

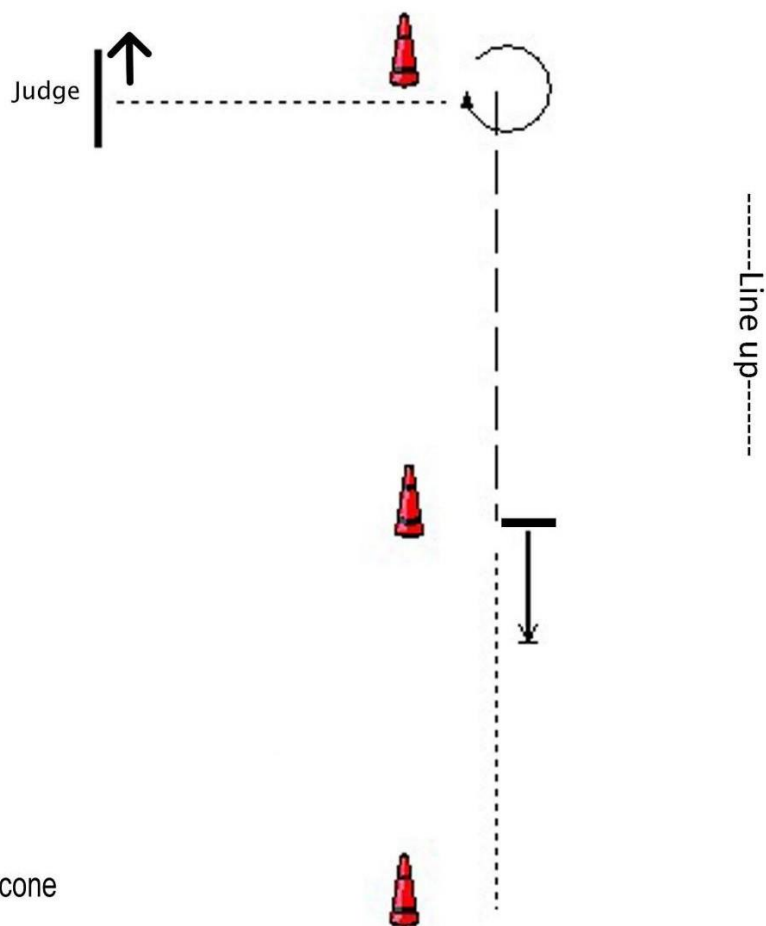
Horse Showmanship - Junior Pattern



1. Walk to 2nd Cone
2. Trot to 3rd Cone
3. Stop, 270 degrees to right
4. Walk to Judge
5. Stop, set up for inspection
6. Walk to line up when dismissed

Gate

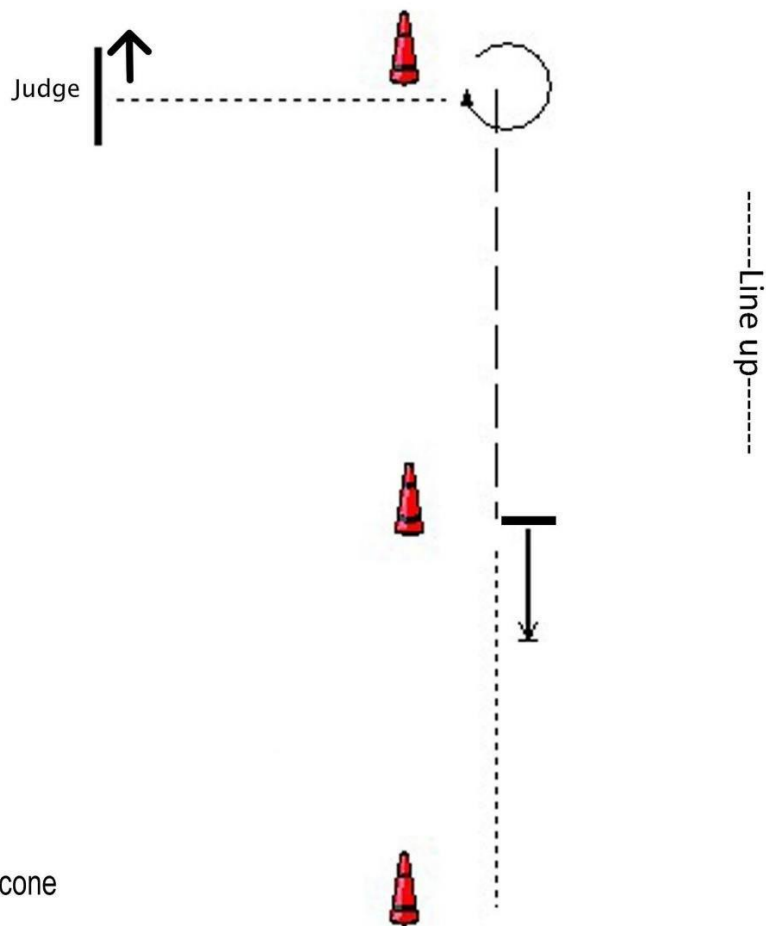
Horse Showmanship - Senior Pattern



1. Walk to 2nd cone
2. Back 4 steps at 2nd cone
3. Trot to 3rd cone
4. Stop, 270 degree turn and walk to judge
5. Stop, set up for inspection
6. When dismissed perform a 90 degree turn to right
7. Walk to line up

Gate

Horse Showmanship - Sweepstakes



1. Walk to 2nd cone
2. Back 4 steps at 2nd cone
3. Trot to 3rd cone
4. Stop, 270 degree turn and walk to judge
5. Stop, set up for inspection
6. When dismissed perform a 90 degree turn to right
7. Walk to line up

Gate