Judge Along
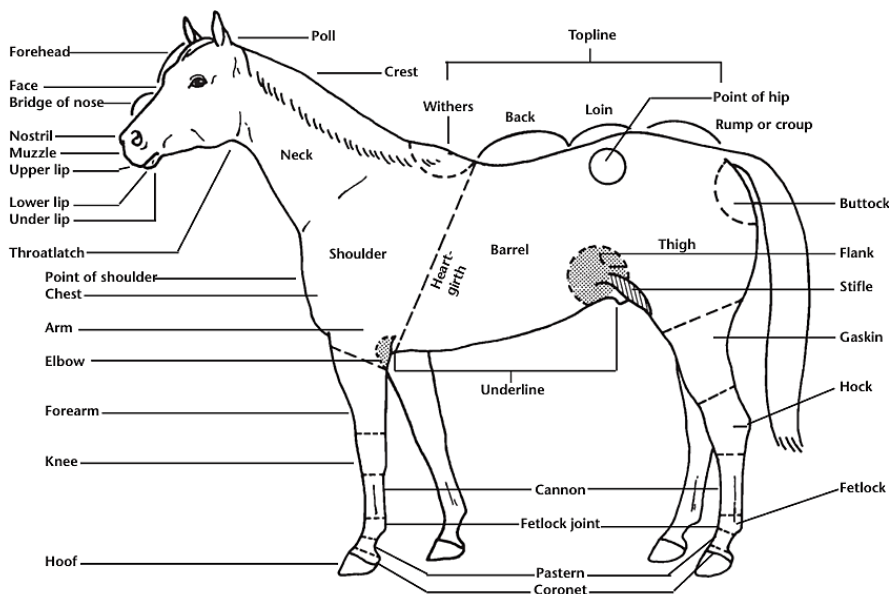
✦ Horses

What a Judge might look for in Horses:

- Good Conformation which includes all aspects of the horse's body: muscling and balance, structural smoothness, body proportions, each component part blends into other parts to give over-all balance, style, and beauty, ideal characteristics for sex and breed. Breed characteristics may include specific requirements of color and markings.
- The way an animal moves or its action is determined by its skeletal structure. If a horse stands straight, it will probably travel straight. If it stands crooked, it will travel crooked. The horse should move with snap and determination, as if he knows where he is going and is sure to get there.
- Depending on the breed, color may be of importance. Some breeds for which color is important are Paint, Pinto, Palomino, and Appaloosa.

What a Judge might look for in the show ring:

- Showmanship includes general appearance, how the rider sits in the saddle, how the rider controls its mount and how the horse responds to its rider's commands.
- In halter classes, the horse is judged on conformation depending on its breed's ideal characteristics.
- In performance classes, the horse and rider are judged. Some types of performance classes are based on different gaits the horse is put through. Some other performance classes are jumping, driving (with carts or buggies), trail, and cattle classes (team penning, cutting, etc.).
- Timed or running events are some of the more exciting classes in horse shows. In these classes the fastest entry wins. Some timed events are barrels, cones and pole bending.
- A good showman is polite and courteous to other exhibitors and pays attention to both the animals and to the judge.

Your Choice:	Judge's Decision:
1st _____	1st _____
2nd _____	2nd _____
3rd _____	3rd _____
4th _____	4th _____
5th _____	5th _____

Horse Terminology
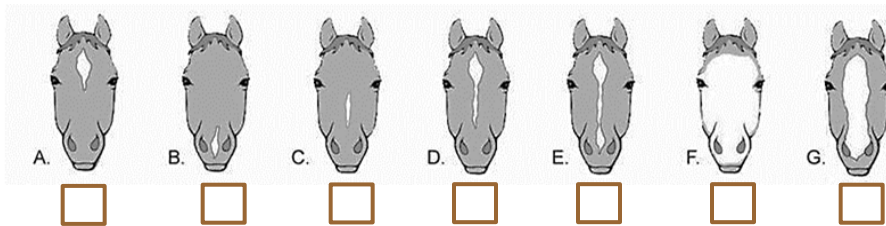
- **Sire**: dad
- **Dam**: mom
- **Stallion**: breeding male horse over 3 years old,
- **Mare:** female horse over 4 years old
- **Foal:** baby under 1 years old

- **Yearling:** 1 year old horse
- **Colt:** boy horse under 4 years old
- **Filly:** girl horse under 4 years old
- **Gelding**: a castrated male horse

Did You Know....

- Horses have a strong sense of hearing, able to pick up sounds in the 55–33,500 hertz range, so they can hear things that humans (who can hear between 20–20,000 hertz) miss.
- A horse should be 2 years old before ridden on by humans.
- You can generally tell the difference between male and female horses by their number of teeth. Males have 40 while Females have 36.
- A horse's heart typically weighs 4–4.5kg and is about the size of a basketball.
- Equinophobia is the fear of horses.
- A horse's height is measured in hands from their hooves to their shoulder. (One hand = 4 inches)
- The most common breeds include Quarter Horses, Tennessee Walkers, Paints, American Saddles and Appaloosas.

Test Your Knowledge

Face Mark Match up

| A. | B. | C. | D. | E. | F. | G. |

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

1. Blaze   2. Star, Stripe, and Snip   3. Bald Face   4. Snip   5. Star   6. Stripe   7. Star and Stripe

A-5, B-4, C-6, D-7, E-2, F-3, G-1

True or False

1. In equitation and horsemanship classes, the judging is focused primarily on the rider's form and ability to guide their horse effectively. **True or False**
2. The term 'grade' when describing a horse means the horse is registered. **True or False**
3. Horses can sleep in both lying down and standing up positions. **True or False**
4. The two popular ways of riding are English and German. **True or False**
5. A correct line of balance means that the shoulder, hip, and toe create a straight line. **True or False**
6. The three natural gaits of a horse are walking, trotting, and galloping. **True or False**
7. A Horse only breathes through its nostrils. **True or False**
8. Posting is the rising and descending of the rider with the rhythm of the trot. **True or False**
9. An exercised horse should be groomed before leaving the stable or saddling and again when returned to the stable or unsaddled. **True or False**
10. An exhibitor should always wear chaps during a showmanship class. **True or False**

1.T 2.F 3.T 4.F 5.F 6.T 7.T 8.T 9.T 10.F