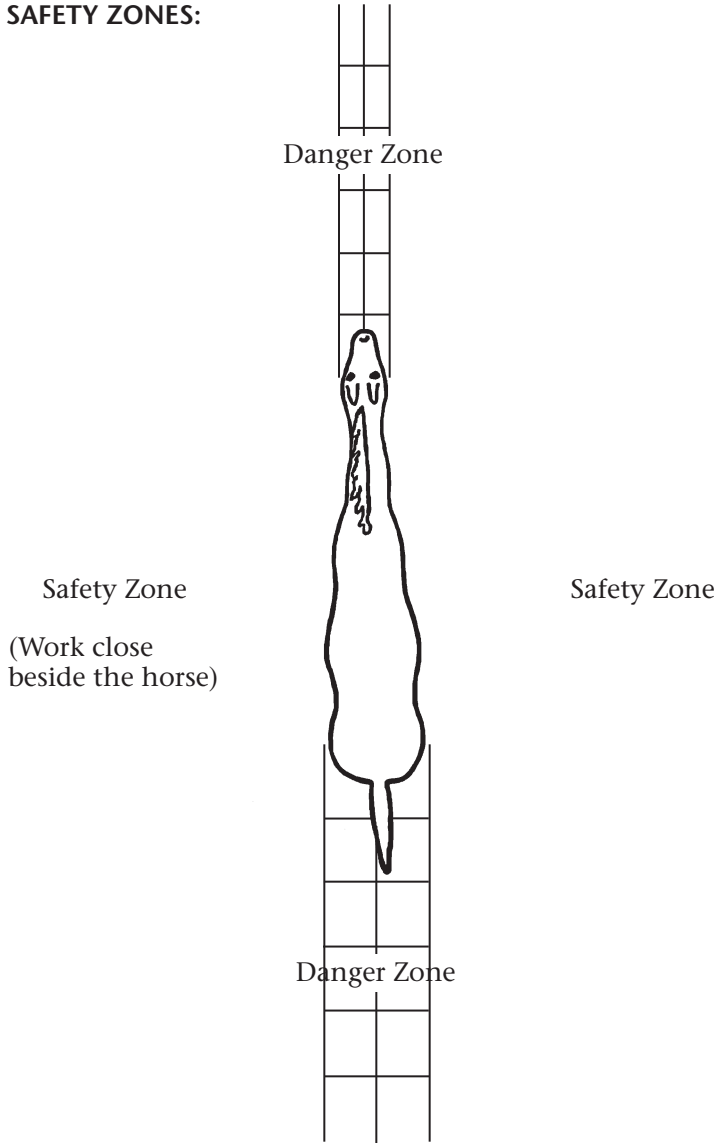
SAFETY ZONES:



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WASHINGTON STATE 4-H FAIR GROOM SQUAD CONTEST

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this contest is to provide 4-H youth an opportunity to demonstrate their ability to work together in a safe and humane manner to groom and prepare a horse for show.

ELIGIBILITY:

1. This contest is open to one team from each county.
2. The team will be composed of three senior county 4-H project members selected in any manner deemed appropriate at the county level.
3. Members of the county groom squad may participate in this event without being entered in other classes of the 4-H Horse Division at the State 4-H Fair.

GENERAL RULES:

1. Each team will be provided a horse, selected by lot. Horses will be sound.
2. Each team must furnish all grooming equipment and supplies.

Minimum Suggested:

- ✔ 4' x 4' tarp or pad to lay equipment on
- ✔ 2 Curry combs (rubber, plastic, or metal)
- ✔ 1 soft bristle brush
- ✔ 1 hard bristle brush
- ✔ Mane and tail comb or brush
- ✔ Groom rags—dry, with no grooming aids added
- ✔ Hoof pick
- ✔ Bucket—all water used must be contained in a bucket
- ✔ Shavings

Additional Allowed:

- ✔ Show halter and lead
- ✔ Bot block
- ✔ Shedding knife

Not Allowed:

- ✘ Electric equipment
- ✘ Commercial products (soap, hoof black, mane and tail whitener, show sheen, cornstarch, chalk, oil, etc.)
- ✘ Razor blades or any items containing any type of razor blade
- ✘ Scissors
- ✘ Bot knife
- ✘ Spray containers

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION
4-H Youth Development Program

PROCEDURE:

1. Register team. (At time of written quiz).
2. One team member will complete a written quiz prior to beginning of the arena event. Resources for questions will be all 4-H Equine Project publications listed in Publications and Projects catalog, EM2778, and the 4-H Horse Contest Guide, PNW574.
3. Thirty minutes will be allowed for grooming the horse. One team member will hold the horse. The holder may rotate. The holder may work on the horse as long as it is done in a safe manner. The horse must always be under control.
4. Following grooming, squad members will have 15 minutes to practice showing the horse. All members may assist, but only one will be selected by the team to do the final showing.
5. The selected member will do final showing.

BASIS OF JUDGING:

1. GROOMING: 10 points possible

Points awarded on the method the squad demonstrated to clean and "slick off" the horse for show.

Use tools correctly, and in correct sequence on the body:

1. *Hoof pick*—Use on hooves from heel to toe to remove dirt and rocks.
2. *Curry combs*—Use in a circular motion to lift dirt, flicking motion to remove dirt. Never use on ears, or on legs below knees or hocks, or on mane and tail.
3. *Hard brushes and Soft brushes*—Use short, brisk, flipping motion to remove dirt.
4. *Mane and tail comb or brush*—Start brushing at bottom of hair and work up towards roots. Never start at the top.
5. *Rags*—For use on head and finishing touches on coat.
6. *Hands*—Use for adding bloom to coat and removing excess hair.

2. TEAMWORK: 15 points possible

Based on how well the team is organized for each member to have his own task to perform, if all participate equally, and if total job is finished in the allotted time.

- Be well organized. Each team member should have his own tasks.
- Space out to work. Never cluster around one area.
- Be pleasant to fellow team members.
- Do not talk with friends or parents in audience or other teams. Excessive talking within a team may be marked down.

3. EQUIPMENT: 5 points possible

Team should have at least the minimum equipment suggested. There is no limit to amount of equipment allowed, but extra equipment will not necessarily receive more points. All equipment should be clean and in good useable condition. Do not borrow from or loan equipment to other teams. Prior to the contest, a groom squad official will check all equipment. All equipment points will be deducted if illegal equipment is found.

4. SAFETY: 35 points possible

Points awarded for properly following the rules of safety for working around a horse.

- All members of the team must wear boots.
- Never stand or work in the "Danger Zone" which is directly in front and directly behind the horse (see Safety Zones diagram).
- All team members will work on the same side of the horse.
- Never kneel or sit near the horse. When grooming legs, squat down so you can move quickly away if the horse moves. Never have all team members squatting at the same time.
- When crossing behind horse, either cross out of range of hind legs or pass close with a hand on the horse.
- Never cross under lead rope between handler and horse.
- Work quietly. Any abuse or harsh treatment of the horse will result in disqualification of the team.

5. WRITTEN QUESTIONS: 20 points possible

Resources for questions: See item 2—Procedures.
Examples of Groom Squad written questions are:

1. What is the distance of a "horse length"?
2. Name five important features of a stride of a horse.
3. Referring to conformation, what is meant by a "smooth" horse?
4. Define: Breed Character, Cold blooded, Get, Aids, Breed Type
5. What is the proper method of fitting the following breeds for halter? Quarter Horse, Arabian, Appaloosa

6. SHOWMANSHIP: 15 points possible

One squad member is judged on personal appearance and ability to present the horse his squad has groomed. Will be conducted as an actual 4-H showmanship class.

Awards will be made on the group system of judging. Each team member will receive the ribbons earned by the team.