

RANCH HORSE PLEASURE CRITERIA FOR THE TACOMA UNIT SCHOOLING SHOW

This class is intended as a rail class but individuals working off the rail will not be penalized. This class will be ran as a regular pleasure/rail class. The class is designed for Ranch type horses that do not move like a typical western pleasure horse. Ranch horses typically have more forward movement than a "Western Pleasure" horse and may be asked for extended gaits during the class.

The ranch rail pleasure class measures the ability of the horse to be a pleasure to ride while being used as a means of conveyance from one ranch task to another and should reflect the versatility, attitude, and movement of a working horse. The horse should be well-broke, relaxed, quiet, soft and cadenced at all gaits. The horse should be ridden on a relatively loose rein with light contact and without requiring undue restraint. The horse should be responsive to the rider and make timely transitions in a smooth and correct manner. The horse should be soft in the bridle and yield to contact maintaining a natural head carriage at each gait.

In all gaits, movement of the ranch rail pleasure horse should simulate a horse needing to cover long distances, softly and quietly, like that of a working ranch horse. This class should show the horse's ability to work at a forward, working speed while under control by the rider. Light contact should be rewarded and horse shall not be shown on a full drape of reins. The overall manners and responsiveness of the horse while performing the maneuver requirements and the horse's quality of movement are the primary considerations.

The following terminology shall apply:

Walk – The walk is a natural, at footed, four-beat gait. The gait is rhythmic and groundcovering. As in all gaits, the horse should display a level, or slightly above level topline with a bright, attentive expression.

Jog/Trot – The trot is a natural two-beat gait demonstrating more forward motion than the western jog.

Extended Trot – The extended trot is an obvious lengthening of the stride with a definite increase in pace. The horse should be moving in a manner as if it were covering a large area on a ranch with an above level topline.

Canter/Lope – The lope is a three-beat gait. The lope should be relaxed and smooth with a natural, forward moving stride.

Extended Canter/Lope – The extended lope is not a run or a race but should be an obvious lengthening of the stride, demonstrating a forward, working speed. The horse should display an above level topline with a bright, attentive expression.

Part of the evaluation of this class is on smoothness of transitions. A horse may be collected from the extended trot as the horse moves into the lope. The transition from the extended lope down to the trot is a transition to the seated trot not the extended trot. Therefore, an extra cue to achieve this gait is expected. Horses that complete this total transition within three strides calmly and obediently should be rewarded. Horses that attempt to stop or do stop prior to trotting will be penalized. Judges expect to see horses that have been trained to respond to cues. To see these cues applied discretely and the horse responding correctly could be a credit earning situation.

Ranch Rail Pleasure Penalties. A contestant shall be penalized each time the following occur:

a. Too slow/per gait

- b. Over-bridled
- c. Out of frame
- d. Break of gait
- e. Wrong lead, out of lead or cross cantering
- f. Draped reins
- g. Trotting more than three strides when taking lead
- h. Blatant disobedience

The following shall be cause for disqualification:

- a. Major disobedience or schooling
- b. Willful abuse