
The Inspection Process

Horses should be presented well groomed and clean. Braiding is not necessary and excessive shaving and use of cosmetics is discouraged. Shagyas are usually shown in full natural mane and tail. However, manes may be pulled. If your horse is of riding age it may be presented in a bridle with bit or halter. Arabian style halters are not encouraged. It's best to carry a whip of dressage length. Young stallions should be shown in either a bit or a halter with Stud chain.

Handlers should wear shoes and clothes they can run in. It is preferable that handlers be dressed in white or cream long pants with a white or light colored shirt. Keep it simple!

Inspection sites should have access to an arena for the presentation of horses. Indoor arenas are suggested in case of inclement weather. It may also be advisable to have a designated area for measuring and photographing horses. Access to stalls and/or pens for attending horses as well as suitable parking for vehicles is suggested. Contact the inspection hosts for specific site information (i.e. liability forms, Coggins, etc.) before the inspection date.

Please familiarize your horse with the inspection process before inspection day. Practice the triangle, liberty, and measuring procedures.

Each horse will be shown in hand at the walk and trot on the Triangle (See Example A) by a handler. Additionally if conditions permit the horse will be turned loose and encouraged to show its gaits at liberty, including the canter and gallop.

Owners have the option of presenting their horses of age three years or older at the jumping chute. This is not mandatory. The jumping chute consists of three jumps. The horse's marks will not include any judgments about the free jumping. However, as part of the educational process, judges will comment on the horse's jumping abilities as shown by this exercise. If you wish to present your horse through the free jump chute you should familiarize your horse with this process in advance of inspection day.

Additionally, verify beforehand with the inspection host if this process will be available at the inspection site of your choice.

Jumping Chute: The horse will be lead to the jump chute by his handler. The horse will then be turned loose and driven from behind by the assistant and encouraged to proceed forward through the jumping chute over the three obstacles.

The first obstacle will be a simple cross-rail with a ground pole in front. The ends of the cross rails will be placed at 30 inches (2 1/2 feet). 24 feet beyond that will be the second obstacle, a simple cross-rail with a horizontal rail behind at 30 inches. The final obstacle (place at 36 feet beyond the second jump) is an oxer, with the front top rail at 30 inches and the second hori-

zontal rail at 33 inches. (See Exhibit B).

Give yourself plenty of time to prepare, preferably several weeks prior to the inspection, and enlist the assistance of a professional trainer if needed. Owners unfamiliar with free jumping may wish to use a professional handler familiar with this process at the actual inspection.

Horses should first be introduced to the cavaletti (ground poles) before attempting any jump. Once the horse is comfortable with proceeding over a series of poles in a straight line, the handler should raise the level of learning by arranging four poles in a circle, with each pole at a ninety degree angle to the next.

The horse should be able to navigate the poles in both directions at a walk and trot, and eventually at a canter.

Once the horse is going well over the poles one proceeds to the actual jump. First one needs to build the "chute" which is the corridor leading to the jump obstacles. The sides of the chute can be a mixture of standards, potted plants, poles, etc. designed to prevent the horse from "running out" before reaching the end of the jump run. Using an arena fence on the far side is helpful, the long side allowing for the most room.

Within the chute you will need to build one or two jump elements. Start with one simple cross-rail, and increase the difficulty as the horse progresses. When you add the second jump, it should be placed 18 feet past the first jump if the horse is trotting and 24 feet if the horse is cantering. Once the cross-rail jumps have been mastered, the second jumps should have a horizontal rail added directly behind the crossed poles at 20 inches (2 1/2 feet).

The third jump, an oxer, should eventually be added, placed 34—36 feet past the second jump. This will require two sets of standards and horizontal rails at 30 inches and 33 inches, each set of standards separated by 24 inches, and a ground pole placed in front of the obstacle.

Safety Note: Be sure to build your chute so that if a horse jumps one obstacle and stops before the next obstacle, you have the ability to get into the chute and walk the horse out. Many people use poles and standards to create the chute wall since poles are easily collapsible, in case of an emergency. Another option would be to use pipe panels, that you can swing open if need be. Also, be sure to adequately protect your horse as needed.

Judging Shagya Arabians

by Dr. Ekkehard Frielinghaus

The judging of Shagya Arabians is a judging of breeding stock. As opposed to the judging of utility horses and those used for sport, all assessed criteria must, due to their inheritability, be given equal weight. Utility and competition horses may have exterior faults which are not detrimental to the performance expected of

them and which are often more than compensated for by exceptional performance features. The breeding horse must fulfill all possible demands as regards to conformation, character and the three gaits which are placed upon its offspring. At breeding shows for Shagya-Arabs the judge must assess the horses presented according to the breeding goal set for this race.

The Shagya Arab

The Shagya-Arab is the continuation of the "Arab-bred" horse of the Hungarian and Austrian studs of Bábolna and Radautz on an international basis which means that the studbooks of national associations are closed. In spite of a large genetic proportion of purebred Arab, the Shagya should differ from the racial norm in being larger, firmer and having plenty of bone. Therefore, there should be no more than nine out of sixteen breeding stock. The breeding goal is for a large framed Arab suitable for everyone as a noble saddle or carriage horse.

The Shagya Arab should be good-looking and harmonious with an expressive face, well proportioned riding-horse neck, clearly defined topline, long croup and well carried tail as well as strong clean legs. Ground consuming, elastic and correct movement at all three gaits is very important. A height of 14.3 to 15.3 hands and a cannon-bone of no less than 7 inches are to be aimed for.

The Shagya Arab should fulfill all demands regarding looks and temperament as a noble and willing family and leisure horse, as a competition, hunting, and carriage horse as well as a long distance horse.

Judging

The assessment of the horses comprises up to eight partial criteria, which also serve the breeder as a guideline to achieving the breeding goal.

1. For the Shagya-Arab a 10-point system is used:

10	Outstanding
9	Very Good
8	Good
7	Pretty Good
6	Satisfactory
5	Sufficient
4	Insufficient
3	Rather Bad
2	Bad
1	Very Bad

2. Judging is according to seven criteria:

TYPE	Race and sex expression, general impression.
HEAD	Race characteristics, size, expression, eyes.
NECK	Sufficient length, riding-horse qualities.
BODY	Top-line including withers and tail carriage,

- length of body, depth and width of girth.
- LEGS Bone circumference, joints, hooves, correctness.
- WALK Ground coverage, carriage, 4 beat, correctness.
- TROT Ground coverage, swing, elasticity, 2 beat, correctness.

In so far that it is possible to judge the horses at canter—whether running free or when ridden—this gait should be judged and taken into consideration for the final score.

- CANTER Ground coverage, carriage, swing, elasticity, 3 beat, correctness.

The final score is calculated by adding the points allocated to the partial criteria and dividing by seven or eight.

Assessment and Judging in Detail

ad 1.) Racial Expression: The Shagya-Arab should display typical Arab features regarding smallness of head, facial expression, size and brilliance of eyes, shape of nostrils and ears, form of croup, cleanness of legs, and silkiness of coat. It should not, however, approach the extreme desert bred type of Arab, but should be noticeably larger, framier, more muscular, and heavier boned.

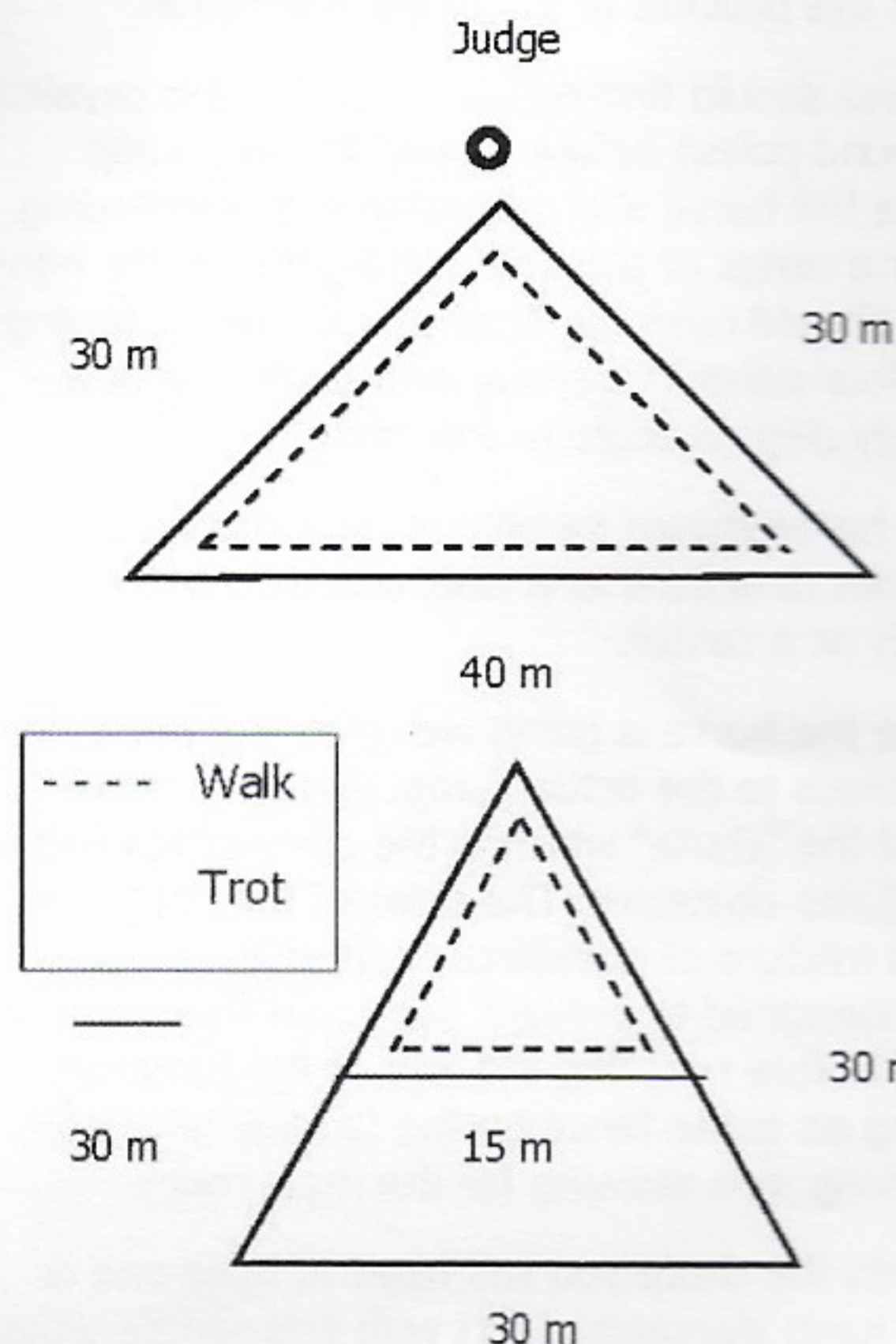
ad 1.) Sex Expression: A stallion must be obviously masculine in presence and behavior, a mare feminine. Intermediate types are seldom satisfactory in their genetic transmission.

ad 2.) Head: The Head should reflect the personality of the horse and show Arab features. It should not appear large and heavy. The profile may be slightly dished or straight. Roman noses are not welcome. Be careful that the teeth meet normally! (Not over- or under-shot).

ad 3.) Neck: A long, noble, arched, riding-horse neck, with a slender throat is one of the most pleasing points of the horse. Harmony and rideability of all horses are diminished by a heavy neck, short thick throat, ewe-neck, or by a neck set on too low. Points awarded in such cases cannot exceed "sufficient".

ad 4.) Body: The correct judgment of a horse's frame, i.e. the relationship of height to length of body is an important prerequisite for points awarded here. The frame of a horse is represented by two horizontal lines over the withers and the ground and two perpendicular lines along the point of buttocks and point of shoulder. Height is height of withers as measured with a yardstick. Length is the distance from point of buttocks to point of shoulder. Shagya Arabs between 14.3 and 15 hands are considered small, between 15 and 15.2 hands medium,

EXHIBIT A



The Judging Triangle

Triangle corners should be well defined.

Footing must be firm.

1st—Walk to apex of triangle, stand horse squarely and wait for judge's request for movement. Note: Some Judge's prefer to judge conformation before movements. Either sequence is acceptable.

2nd—Walk the triangle taking the triangle to the left side (Clockwise).

3rd— trot the triangle in the same direction, then stand horse squarely at origination apex for conformation judging.

The walk and trot are judged at a triangle chosen by the inspection management. Either triangle is acceptable.

Inspection management may choose the triangle best suited to the inspection site conditions as circumstances indicate.

and between 15.2 and 16 hands and more as large. The frame should always be longer than tall (i.e. a rectangle). The square frame (as long as tall) is not welcome; it is mostly combined with a stiff back and reduces ability at the walk and canter. If a horse is too long in the back this impedes carriage, balance, and drive from hind legs. The large framed Shagya is preferred by the market. This means at least medium height combined with a rectangular frame. Depth of barrel and girth should harmonize with the frame. From the front the chest should be deep and broad. Muscle is ideal if from this point of view the elbow joints are further apart than the shoulder joints. A similar yardstick may be applied to the musculature of the hindquarters. The "britches" should broaden, as viewed from behind, from the point of the hip towards the stifle. The musculature of the inner and second thigh from stifle to hock is also important for drive from the hindquarters.

ad 4.) Topline: Extends from the ears to the tip of the tail. Should have the shape and length required of both riding and carriage horses at their best. High carriage and good length of lightly arched neck, withers long and sufficiently high, long croup (no goose rump), tail carried high and gaily—the pennant of the prophet!

ad 5.) Legs: cannon-bone must bear relation to the substance of the horse. The joints and their extensions—elbows, back of knee, and point of hock—must be well defined and strong. The legs must not be tied-in below the knee or under the hock. The hock must neither be too short or too narrow. He forelegs should not be X-legged as

seen from the front nor standing over or back a the knee when viewed from the side. Forearm and gaskin should be long, the cannon and shannons short and stout. Medium length pasterns are important for elasticity of gait. Minimal conformation faults should not be overrated if they do not interfere in anyway with movement. Definite faults mean subtraction of points. Very often insufficient attention is paid to the regularity and healthiness of hooves. Boxey hooves or contracted heels are relatively frequent defects. Minimal irregularities in action or lameness can be penalized by subtraction of points. If lameness is obvious and painful; the horse must be disqualified.

ad 6.) Walk: The most used and important gait of the horse. Good ground coverage with the hind legs place actively under the body—the hind hooves should be placed in or better still in front of the imprints of the forefeet—natural, clear 4 beat and straight correct movement are the main criteria. A good walk combines graceful carriage, energy and composure. Some breeding stock passes on unclear pacing or ambling gait. The judge must discourage this by subtracting points. Unfortunately some Shagyas have at most a "satisfactory" walk. All the more important therefore to reward a better walk with points.

ad 7.) Trot: the trot is a floating gait which often inspires riders, drivers and spectators. Ground coverage is most important here—the action must not be too stepping nor too daisy cutting and again hind hooves must be placed well under the body. (continued on page 7)

Jump Obstacles

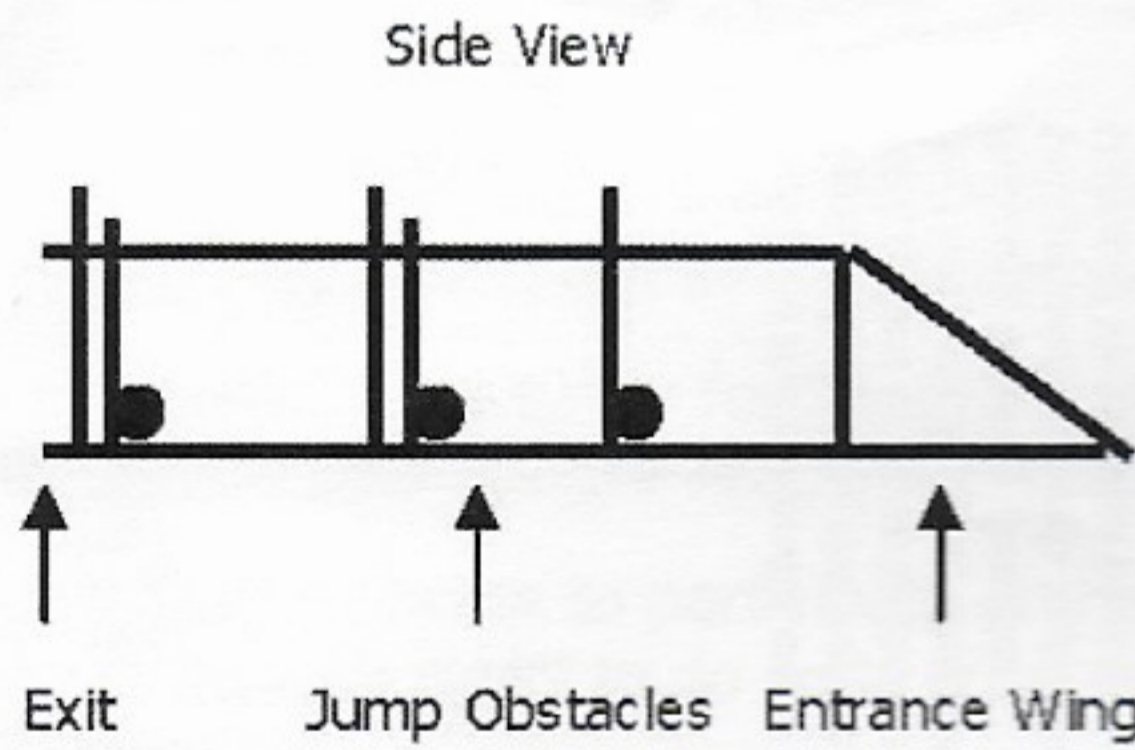
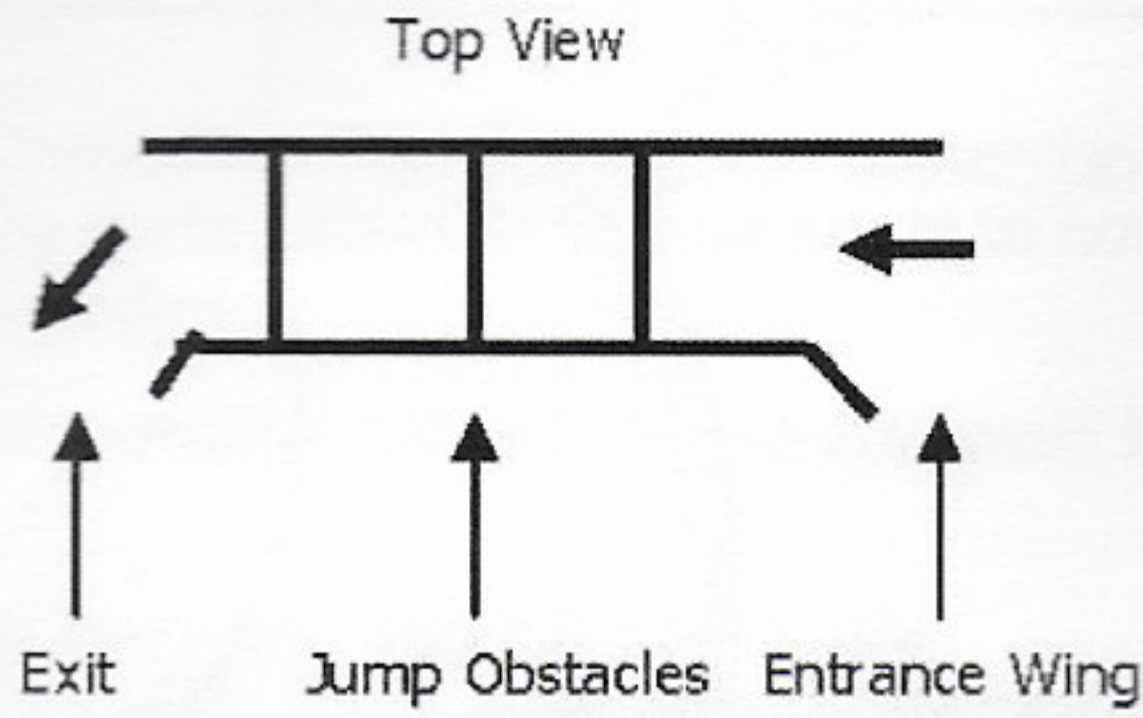
EXHIBIT B

The Chute:

The entrance is a sloping wing. The sides are higher than the actual jumps (not the standards) to prevent a horse from running out.

Side View:

Here you see the sloping nature of the entrance wing. Once the horse has been directed to the entrance he is let loose to proceed down the chute and over the obstacle.

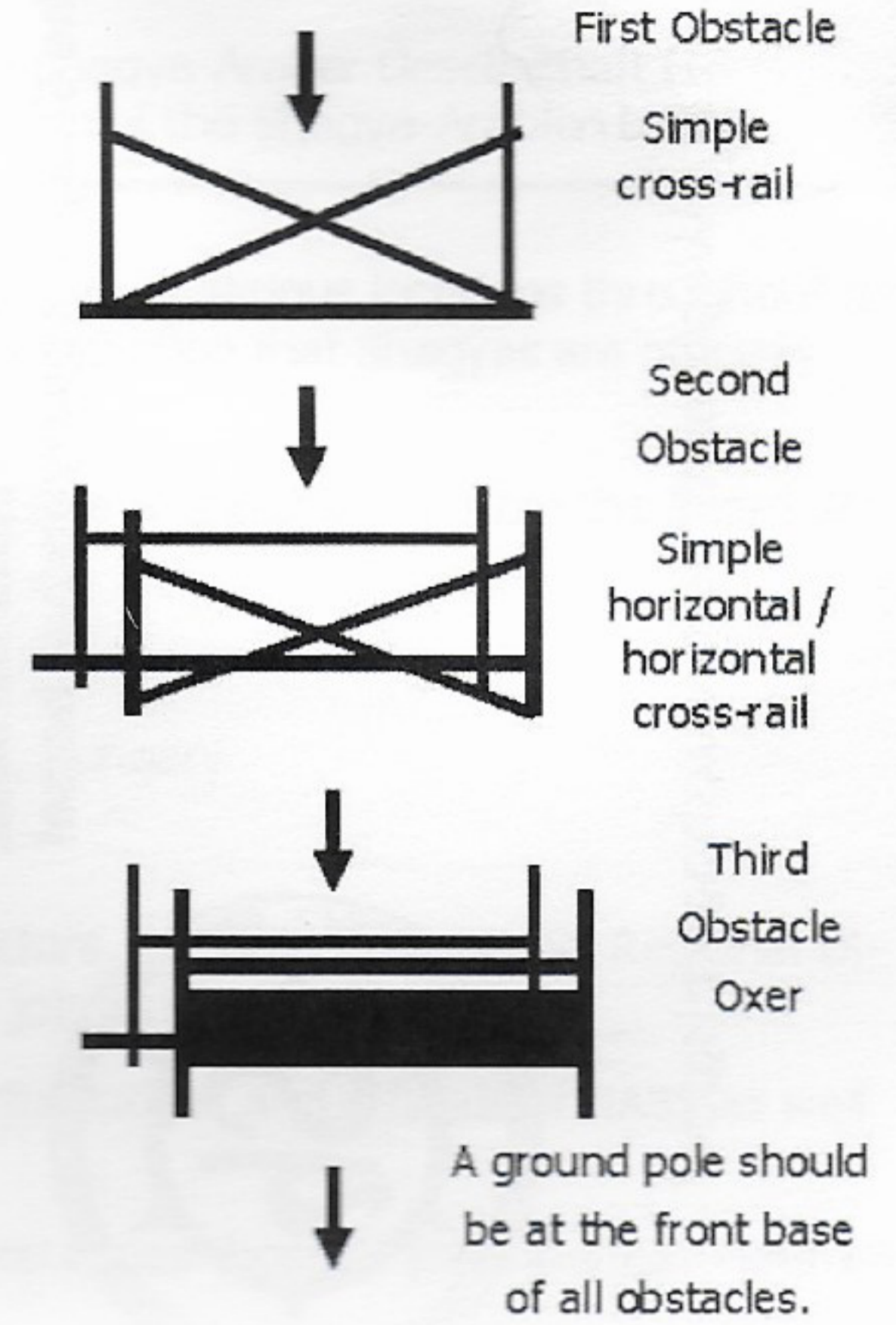


Entrance:

The handler is to lead the horse through the entrance at a trot and should continue forward after releasing the horse to prevent the horse from stopping.

The Exit:

The Exit is open to encourage the horse to proceed forward. The sides have been constructed of jumps and standards or of pipe panels. The entrance wing is made of jump poles and a standard.



For a good trot the whole shoulder must be moved, the hind quarters must do the propelling, the back must be loose and supple and the beat clear. An extreme show trot with the horse getting its toes out holding its back stiff does not deserve the highest marks.

ad 8.) Canter: this is the most valuable gait of the horse and is subdivided by most riders into collected canter, extended canter and gallop. They find this gait the nicest. The features to be judges here are; free forward shoulder movement, propulsion from the hindquarters, elasticity, smoothness, and straight correct movement in 3 beat.
