



MOJAVE RIVER VALLEY HORSEMEN'S ASSOCIATION 2025 CLASS DESCRIPTIONS

HALTER - All halter classes will be judged on conformation first, (**except** for the Color and Performance Halter classes). **Halter Color** is a fun class for horses that represent color breeds such as **Paint, Pinto, Appaloosa,**

Palomino, and Buckskin and horses are judged 80% on color and 20% on conformation per the judge's discretion.

Color shall be divided into two classes. Color Pinto/Paint – must have color pattern / characteristics as defined in registry, no solids with or without registry or breeding stock. E.g. Tobiano or Overo. Color Non-Pinto/Paint – Buckskin, Appaloosa, and Palomino. Horses **without** these color breed characteristics, including breeding stock horses, shall enter the “**noncolor**” halter classes. Minis/Ponies may not enter the Stock type class.

In **Performance Halter** the judge primarily evaluates the movement and way of going of the horse, with regards to type, English or Western, and conformation is secondary. All halter horses will be examined at the walk and jog as each one is led directly to and away from the judge and additionally the jog from a direct side angle. After trotting, horses will be lined up head to tail for individual inspection by the judge. The judge shall inspect each horse from both sides, front, and rear. May be shown in English attire with a plain leather halter or bridle, or in Western attire with a leather halter (silver optional) and a chain may be used under the chin or hanging from the halter. If English or Western is not specified in the class title you may dress in either style depending on your preference or what might be characteristic for your horse's breed. When your halter class is held after your riding class (or midday after you have been riding), no points will be deducted for sweat marks; however, it is expected that reasonable re-grooming be done prior to the class.

MINIATURE HORSE / PONY HALTER - **Judge** will view the ideal **Miniature Horse or Pony** as a, small, well-balanced horse that if all reference to size were eliminated, would have the same conformational proportions of other full sized light breeds. The general impression is to be a balanced individual regardless of size with symmetry, strength, agility, and alertness. For **Miniature Horses**, the mature animal **should not exceed 39 inches tall, and Ponies shall not exceed 43 inches tall**. Horses to be exhibited the same as **Halter** (above).

SHOWMANSHIP – (Pattern) – Showmanship classes shall be judged strictly on the exhibitor's ability to fit and show a horse at halter, not on the horse's conformation. The ideal showmanship performance consists of a poised, confident, neatly attired exhibitor leading a well-groomed and conditioned horse that quickly and efficiently performs the requested pattern with promptness,

smoothness, and precision. When showmanship classes are held after riding classes (or midday after you have been riding), no points will be deducted for sweat marks; however, it is expected that reasonable re-grooming be done prior to the class.

TWO & UNDER LUNGELINE

The purpose of a lungeline class is to demonstrate that the horse has the movement, manners/expression/attitude, and conformation to become competitive under saddle. Therefore, the purpose of this class is to reward; A. Quality of movement; B. Manners/Expression/Attitude; C. Conformation suitable to future performance; D. The horse should be judged by its suitability as a future performer under saddle in mind. This class should define what it means to be a “western pleasure prospect” or “hunter under saddle prospect.” No chains permitted in the Two & Under lungeline class.

The class will consist of two parts: A). A conformation inspection and; B). A lunging demonstration lasting one and one-half minutes (90 seconds). Time will not begin until the horse reaches this perimeter. When the “begin” signal is given, the exhibitor will be allowed 1 and ½ minutes (90 seconds) to present the horse at all three gaits in both directions. At the end of 1 ½ minutes, the signal will be given to signify the end of the demonstration. Show management has the option of adding a “half-way” signal if they choose.

ENGLISH PLEASURE – The judge evaluates a horse’s movement and way of going as a hunter type. Rein contact is required, and horses should move with impulsion. The gaits are flat, smooth and very efficient, with nice reach at the trot. Extended trot, hand gallop, and lead changes may be required, and horses may be asked to back. (This class is also known as “hunter under saddle”).

ENGLISH EQUITATION – The judge evaluates the rider’s equitation and riding position. Shown at walk, trot, and canter, with extension of one or more gaits. Lead changes may be required and both sitting and posting trot may be included. Riders may be required to back and/or pivot.

ENGLISH COUNTRY PLEASURE – Similar to English Pleasure, the judge looks for horses that appear to be smooth, responsive and a pleasure to ride. Limited to walk and “favorite gait” of the rider’s choice, may be required to back.

WESTERN PLEASURE – The western pleasure horse should be a pleasure to ride with free, natural movement and should appear calm and relaxed. Horses will be shown at the walk, jog and lope on a reasonable loose rein, without undue restraint. The Judge may ask for extension of the walk, jog and/or lope (rider should sit the extended jog) and horses may be asked to back. Horses moving with inadequate forward motion, at a four-beat lope or with the tip of the ears sustained below the level of the withers shall be penalized.

WESTERN COUNTRY PLEASURE – Similar to Western Pleasure, the judge looks for horses that appear to be smooth, responsive, and a pleasure to ride. Limited to walk and “favorite gait” of the rider’s choice (rider should sit the extended jog), may be required to back.

OBEDIENCE – Ridden English or Western. Riders are on the rail. May include walk, trot/jog, canter/lope, extension of all gaits, pivots, side pass, backing with or without reins, halt, counter canter/lope, lead changes, gait transitions, and other elements which may be requested at the discretion of the judge.

TRAIL (Pattern) – All trail classes are judged on the performance of the horse and rider/exhibitor (with emphasis on manners, response to rider, and quality of movement) as they negotiate several obstacles within a specific pattern. Obstacles include, but are not limited to, walk overs, trot or jog overs, canter or lope overs, step overs, side pass, square, gate, back through, bridge, mailbox, serpentine, jog around, jog through, and pivots. May be shown in English attire or Western attire depending on the class.

IN-HAND TRAIL (Pattern) This class is designed to provide exhibitors an opportunity to showcase horses too young to show under saddle, such as 2 & under. The Obstacles should be the same as in **Trail** (above) without lope/ canter overs. May be shown in leather halter (silver optional) and a chain may be used under the chin or hanging from the halter.

MINIATURE/PONY IN-HAND TRAIL (Pattern) – This class is for the **Miniatures and Ponies**. Obstacles should be the same as in **Trail** (above) without lope/ canter. Also, may include a jump (maximum of 12 inches high). May be shown in leather halter (silver optional) and a chain may be used under the chin or hanging from the halter.

MINIATURE HORSE HUNTER/JUMPING CLASS – There will be a minimum of four fences and a maximum of six fences. A minimum of six to be jumped and a maximum of 8. Course shall be set with jumps at minimum of 20 feet apart. In and out jumps are counted as two jumps and must have 10 feet between. A start gate of two cones at least 4 feet apart will be set at least 15 feet from first and last jump. Failure to start and finish at the designated start “gate” shall be a Disqualification. Hunters are judged on a consistent even gait, manners and willingness, as well as number of faults. The course will be posted at a minimum of two hours before the class. The fences can range in height from twelve to twenty-four inches in the jump-off this will change to a minimum of twelve to a maximum of thirty inches. Jumpers are judged on accumulated faults only, unless there is a tie, in which case there will be a jump-off. Ties in a Jumper class must be jumped- off. The jump-off will be held over the original course. The height of the jumps shall be increased to not less than one inch and not more than six inches in height. The jump-off will be

timed by a stopwatch and the horse who has the fastest time and the fewest faults in the jump off round will be declared the winner.

PLEASURE DRIVING – Pleasure driving is a horse show class, which features horses, ponies, and miniature horses hitched to a two or four wheeled show cart. Horses are driven at a walk and two speeds of trot, generally designated as a regular trot or “park” gait and an extended “strong” trot or “road” gait. Horses are expected to demonstrate required gaits in each direction, as well as back readily, and stand quietly. All gaits should be performed in a smooth, relaxed, balanced manner, consistent with the conformation type of animal. To be judged on manners, quality, performance, conformation, and suitability.

REINSMANSHIP OR DRIVING EQUITATION – Entries are judged on the ability and skill of the driver. Judging consists of 75% on handling of reins and whip, control, posture, and overall appearance of the driver. 25% on the condition of the harness and vehicle and neatness of attire. All drivers may be worked at any gait requested by the judge and may be asked to execute a simple figure eight. If additional work is required, beyond a simple figure eight, the pattern must be posted. They are required to back. To be shown at walk, slow trot, working trot and strong trot.

RANCH HORSE TRAIL (Pattern) – Same as **Trail** (above) except the obstacles may also include more challenging elements such as throw a rope, walk over or through brush, side pass over a log, drag a log (dally once or no dally is acceptable), carry an object from one location to another, dismount and pick up all 4 feet (if requested this would be at the end of the pattern), or any reasonable obstacle that one might encounter on a ranch. You may also be asked to visibly extend all three gaits (sitting, standing, or posting at the extended jog is acceptable). Transitions should be precise and immediate. Horses should receive credit for showing attentiveness to the obstacles and the capability of picking their own way through the course when obstacles warrant it, and willingly responding to the rider’s cues on more difficult obstacles. Execution of obstacles should demonstrate a confident team of horse and rider acting as partners in a calm, yet purposeful way. The rider must show in proper Ranch Horse attire (see below for details). Horses of all ages may be shown in a snaffle, bosal, or curb bit.

RANCH PLEASURE – The purpose of the ranch ~~rail~~ pleasure class is to demonstrate a well-trained, relaxed and soft horse that you wouldn’t mind sitting on for a full day’s ranch work. His expression should be bright and attentive, curious but not spooky or dull looking. Emphasis is on natural (natural tail set and head carriage that fits the horse) and forward movement at walk, jog, and the extended jog is acceptable. The horse can be ridden with light contact or on a relatively loose rein without requiring undue restraint but not shown on full drape of reins. The overall manners and responsiveness of the ranch pleasure horse to make timely transitions in a smooth and

correct manner, as well as the quality of the movement are of primary considerations. The rider must show in proper Ranch Horse attire. (See below for details).

RANCH RIDING – (Pattern) – The Ranch riding horse should reflect the versatility, attitude, and movement of a working horse. The horse’s performance should simulate a horse riding outside the confines of an arena and that of a working ranch horse. This class should show the horse’s ability to work at a forward, working speed while under control of the rider. Light contact should be rewarded, and the 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 of the judge. Required gait/elements may include walk, jog, and lope, visible extension of all three gaits (sitting, standing, or posting at the extended jog is acceptable), lead changes (simple or flying changes are acceptable), stop, back, change of direction, side pass, and walk, jog, or lope overs. The rider must show in proper Ranch Horse attire. (See below for details).

RANCH HORSE HALTER– Judged on conformation with **form to function as top priority**. Is this a horse that can perform ranch duties? The ideal standard in evaluating ranch horses in conformation should include but is not limited to soundness and correctness in conformation, particularly feet and legs with emphasis on correct manner of travel including athletic ability and the “appearance of “agility and durability. The horse should possess eye appeal and show balance and uniform muscling with enough athletic ability to perform different tasks on the ranch. **Horses should be clean and well-groomed yet should be shown as naturally as possible**. For example, trimming of fetlocks, excessive facial hair, and a bridle path are allowed, but trimming inside the ears is discouraged. Mane banding/braiding and tail extensions are discouraged. Halters should be plain leather, rope, or nylon. When your conformation class is held after your riding classes (or midday after you have been riding), no points will be deducted for sweat marks; however, it is expected that reasonable re-grooming be done prior to the class.

LEADLINE EQUITATION AND TRAIL – Leadline equitation and trail are for ages 8 and under. English or Western attire and saddle are required, and matching English or Western outfits of “rider” and “leader” are recommended but not required. Leadline halter exhibitors shall wear a Western hat or helmet. Leadline riders will be required to wear a helmet. A halter is required under the bridle for the “leader”. Leadline classes will be **WALK ONLY** classes and the judge may interact with the participants. Lead line equitation and Lead line Trail will be judged and placed 1st through 5th, and the pattern will be geared towards Leadline ability. It is optional as to whether or not the Leadliner or the “Leader” works the gate or mailbox. “Rider” participants in the Leadline class cannot enter any other “riding” classes.

RANCH ATTIRE – Western boots, cowboy hat, (or protective head gear/helmet), jeans, and a long sleeve shirt. Chaps or Chinks are suggested but not mandatory. Basically “Ranch” style is Western without “bling”. Think of what would serve a purpose on the ranch. Regarding your saddle and equipment, again, think of what would serve a purpose on the ranch. A properly fitted rear cinch and breast collar are not required. Protective boots or leg wraps, are allowed in all classes except HALTER. Optional equipment also includes rope or riata (coiled and attached to the saddle) and hobbles (attached to the saddle). Tie downs, nosebands, or any kind of training equipment (including mechanical hackamores) is **NOT** allowed (unless you are schooling). With a curb type bit, split reins or romal reins are equally acceptable. Of course, with curb type bit, you must ride with one hand whereas with snaffle or bosal, you must ride with two hands (unless you free a hand to open the gate or rope a calf). In the Ranch classes, it is acceptable for any horse of any age to be ridden two-handed in a bosal or snaffle. Free flowing mane and “natural” is desirable. Trimming of fetlocks, excessive facial hair, and a bridle path are allowed, but trimming inside the ears is discouraged.

***Please note – these descriptions include all gaits expected for all divisions; however, walk/trot/jog riders will be limited to walk/trot/jog/intermediate gaits only. All patterns will be available online at our website MRVHA.com, posted at the show grounds the day of the show and available in the show office.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:

Show Chairman: Lisa LaMere at MRVHA.info@gmail.com

President: Emily LaBelle 760/881-9100

Website: MRVHA.com

Facebook Page: Mojave River Valley Horsemen’s Association