

OkSHA / AQHA VRH Ranch Riding

STOCK HORSE PLEASURE CLASS

The purpose of the stock horse pleasure class is to measure the ability of the horse to be a pleasure to ride while being used as a means of conveyance from performing one ranch task to another. The horse should reflect the versatility, attitude and movement of a working ranch horse riding outside the confines of an arena. The horse should be well-trained, relaxed, quiet, soft and cadenced at all gaits. The ideal ranch horse will travel with forward movement and demonstrate an obvious lengthening of stride at extended gaits. The horse can be ridden with light contact or on a relatively loose rein without requiring undue restraint, but not shown on a full drape of reins. The overall manners and responsiveness of the ranch riding horse to make timely transitions in a smooth and correct manner, as well as the quality of the movement are of primary considerations. The ideal stock horse pleasure horse should have a natural head carriage at each gait.

Gaits

- Ordinary Walk – The stock horse ordinary walk is straight, square, flatfooted, relaxed. The horse moves freely with no anticipation to move to the next gait.
- Extended Walk – The stock horse extended walk is straight, square, and flatfooted, relaxed, and moves out freely with the horse looking ahead. The extended walk shows more length of stride than the ordinary walk.
- Trot – The stock horse trot is a square two-beat diagonal trot and is steady, soft, and slow enough for riding long distances. The rider is seated at this gait.
- Extended Trot – The stock horse extended trot shows lengthening of stride from the regular trot with the same cadence that will cause an increase in speed. This gait is level, flat, and steady with the appearance that the horse would hold this gait for long distances. The rider may be seated, posting, or standing.
- Lope – The stock horse lope is a 3beat gait that is cadenced, straight and steady and is comfortable to ride over long distances.
- Extended Lope – The stock horse extended lope shows lengthening of stride from the regular lope with the same cadence that will cause an increase in speed. The horse holds the steady gait and increased speed while being under control.
- Stop – From both the lope and the trot, the horse should be in the correct stopping position (i.e., both hocks engaged and stopping on the hindquarters). All four feet stop moving before the next maneuver is attempted.
- Reverse – The horse turns briskly and flat with front feet on the ground and holding an inside rear pivot foot. The reverse may be performed in either direction.

Horses shall be shown individually and the Class may be conducted inside or outside of an arena. The pattern may be started either to the right or left direction. Markers shall be set up to designate gait changes. If the Class is held inside an arena, the course shall be set up to make approximately one pass of the arena in each direction. Markers shall be set up to designate gait changes. When establishing the course, the following distances between markers are recommended. These distances will make for a fluid class and facilitate judging. Order of maneuvers may be varied per Judge's discretion but the Stop should not follow the Extended Lope. Judges are encouraged to walk the course prior to judging.

PLEASURE PATTERN #1

- Extended Walk - 75 feet
- Trot - 120 feet
- Extended Trot - 240 feet
- Lope - 150 feet
- Stop and Reverse
- Ordinary Walk - 30 feet
- Lope - 150 feet
- Extended Lope - 200 feet
- Trot - 90 feet
- Stop and Back

PLEASURE PATTERN #2

- Ordinary Walk - 30 feet
- Lope - 150 feet
- Extended Lope - 200 feet
- Trot - 120 feet
- Stop and Reverse
- Extended Walk - 75 feet
- Trot - 90 feet
- Extended Trot - 240 feet
- Lope - 150 feet
- Stop and Back

PLEASURE PATTERN #3

- Ordinary Walk - 30 feet
- Lope - 150 feet
- Extended Trot - 240 feet
- Trot - 120 feet
- Stop and Reverse
- Trot - 90 feet
- Lope - 150 feet
- Extended Lope - 200 feet
- Extended Walk - 75 feet
- Stop and Back

PLEASURE PATTERN #4

- Trot - 90 feet
- Extended Walk - 75 feet
- Lope - 150 feet
- Extended Trot - 240 feet 48 49
- Stop and Reverse
- Lope - 150 feet
- Extended Lope - 200 feet
- Ordinary Walk - 30 feet
- Trot - 90 feet
- Stop and Back

PLEASURE PATTERN #5

- Lope - 150 feet
- Extended Lope - 200 feet
- Ordinary Walk - 30 feet
- Trot - 120 feet
- Stop and Reverse
- Extended Trot - 240 feet
- Trot - 90 feet
- Extended Walk - 75 feet
- Lope - 150 feet
- Stop and Back

Credits and Penalties

Part of the evaluation of this Class is on smoothness of transitions. A horse may be collected a bit from the extended trot or walk as the horse moves into the lope. During the transition from the extended lope down to the trot, walk or extended walk 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 the specified gait will be penalized. Judges expect to see horses that have been trained to respond to cues. To see these cues applied discreetly and the horse responding correctly could be a credit-earning situation. All runs begin upon entering the pen; any infractions (such as two hands on the reins, using either hand to instill fear or praise, etc.) are subject to penalty at that time. Penalties will be assessed as follows:

- 1 Point Penalties: Over-bridled; Out of frame; Too slow; Gaping mouth; Break of gait at Walk or Trot for two (2) strides or less.
- 3 Point Penalties: Wrong lead; Draped reins; Break of gait at Lope; Break of gait at Walk or Trot for more than two (2) strides
- 5 Point Penalties: Spurring in front of cinch; Blatant disobedience; Use of either hand to instill fear/praise;
- Off-Pattern (OP): Breaking pattern; Repeated disobedience; Use of two hands (except in snaffle bit or hackamore); More than one finger between split reins or any fingers between romal reins (except two rein); cannot place above others who complete pattern correctly.
- Disqualification (DQ): Lameness; Abuse; Illegal equipment; Disrespect or misconduct; Leaving working area before pattern is complete; Fall of horse/ rider (run ends; scores will be given for work done but the horse/rider team will be disqualified and will not be placed), Improper western attire. Disqualified entries are counted as an entry in the class but cannot receive points or credits for that class toward the all around.