

Tail Discussion Points

1. You can always start by talking about the Arabian horse's amazing history.
2. Arabians are the oldest breed of domesticated horse – most light breeds (non draft horses) trace to the Arabian. Arabian blood lines were introduced into other breeds for beauty, strong bones and feet and the desire to be with humans. Make use of the Origins of the Horse poster to make your point
3. Half Arabians qualify to be registered if one parent is a purebred—it doesn't matter if it is the sire or dam.
4. Anglo-Arabians are a combination of Arabians and Thoroughbreds – They can be half Arabian and half Thoroughbreds, one fourth Arabian and three fourths Thoroughbred or three quarters Arabian and one fourth Thoroughbred.

While you watch a class or two with your participants, it helps to give them a little knowledge so they better understand that it is not all about the prettiest horse and clothes/tack. You might want to point out the differences in tack and clothing from one class to the next. Following is a bit of information about the classes you might see:

Native Costume

Horses will walk, canter and hand gallop, must stand quietly and back readily. The ideal horse is an English Pl or Park horse as the gait definitions come from the English Pleasure division. So, the horse should have lofty gaits and be exciting to watch. Native Costume is judged 75% on performance and 25% on costume. You might want to encourage the kids to cheer as these horses are used to that.

English Pleasure

Horses will walk, normal trot and canter in amateur/youth and junior horse classes. In open classes they will also perform a strong trot and hand gallop. Horses may be asked to back. Open classes are judged on manners, performance, attitude, quality, and conformation. In Amateur/ Youth classes, suitability to rider is added. In Junior horses classes, the criteria changes to Quality, performance, attitude and manners.

Arabian Ladies Side Saddle

Horses will walk, jog/trot and lope/canter and may be asked to back in line. This class is judged 85% on performance and 15% on outfit. Horse should be a pleasure to ride!

Country English Pleasure

Horses will walk, normal trot and canter for Amateur/Youth and junior horse classes. In open classes, they will also perform a strong trot and hand gallop. Horses must halt on rail, stand quietly, back and walk off on a loose rein. Horses are judged on attitude, manners, performance, quality and conformation. In Amateur/Youth, suitability of horse to rider is added. In Junior Horse classes, the order is attitude, manners, quality and performance.

Western Pleasure

Horses will walk, jog and lope in Amateur/Youth and Junior Horse classes. In the open classes, they will be asked to hand gallop. The horses are judged on manners, performance, substance, quality and conformation. For the Youth/Amateur classes, suitability of horse to rider is added to the judging criteria. Junior horses are judged on substance, quality, performance and manners. They may be asked to back.

Hunter Pleasure

Horses will walk, trot, canter, hand gallop and back in all classes. The open and Amateur/Youth classes are judged on manners, performance, and suitability as a hunter, quality and conformation. The Junior Horse classes are judged on quality, performance suitability as a hunter, manners and conformation.

English Show Hack

Horses are shown at a walk, trot and canter with each gait divided into collected, normal and extended, plus a hand gallop and back. The horses are judged on manners, performance quality and conformation for all classes.

Equitation

In equitation classes, the rider is being judged and not the horse. Depending on the discipline, the riders will be asked to walk, jog/trot, lope/canter and may hand gallop. Most will be asked to back either in the line up or as part of a pattern if one is requested.