



## Equine Showmanship

The showmanship patterns to be used each year for 4-H PEI Achievement Days and Exhibition Classes will be available on the 4-H PEI website in May.

[WWW.PEI4H.CA](http://WWW.PEI4H.CA)



### Dress Code

**The recommended dress code for equine classes is:**

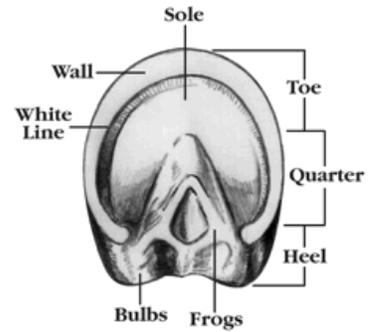
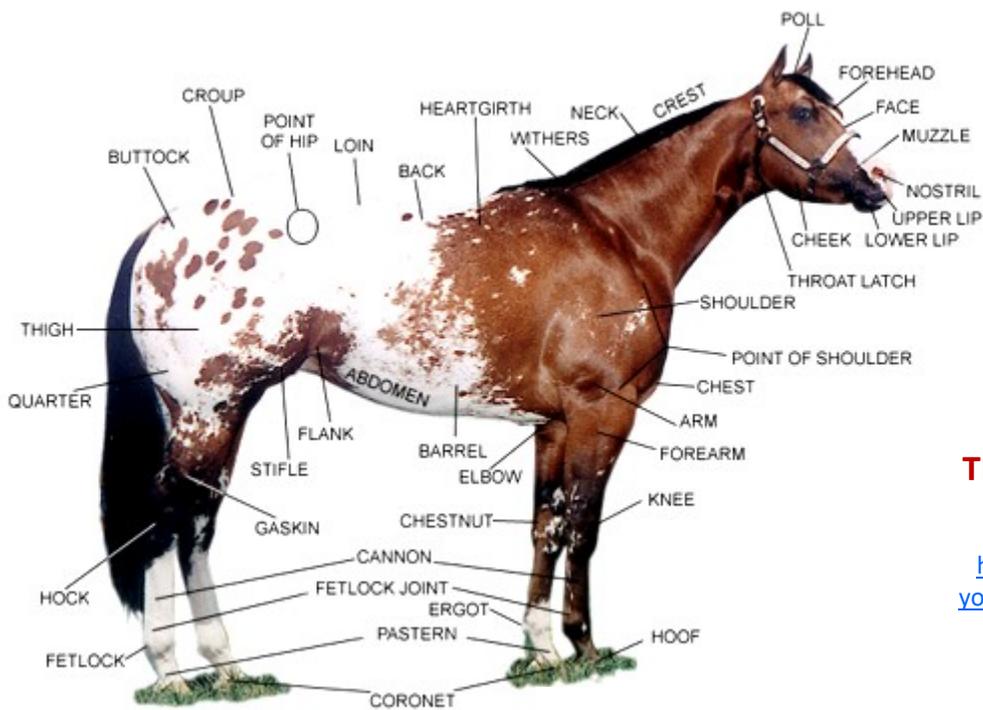
- ⇒ **Shirt** - Must have a collar and be tucked in. Shirts can be short sleeved, but not sleeveless. Show jackets, vests, ties, and scarves are optional.
- ⇒ **Jewelry** - Is optional, but if worn should be conservative and safe.
- ⇒ **Pants** - Full length pants, breeches or jodhpurs.
- ⇒ **Footwear** - Hard soled footwear are required for member's safety.
- ⇒ **Helmets** - Are recommended for showmanship classes but not mandatory.
- ⇒ **Belt & Gloves** - Are encouraged.
- ⇒ **Appearance** - Should be neat with long hair tied back.
- ⇒ **Halters/Bridles** - Halters and bridles should be clean, well fitted to the animal, and in good repair. Ideally Western horses will be shown in a leather halter (silver accents optional) with a leather lead (with or without chain). English horses are ideally shown in either a full bridle with reins, or a plain leather halter with leather lead (with or without chain). Nylon, biothane, or cotton halters, bridles, and/or leads are also acceptable but best to keep them to conservative colours such as black, brown, navy, dark green, etc. *\*NOTE: Although gloves are optional it is highly recommended that they be worn if members is using a nylon lead to prevent rope burn on the hands in the event the animal were to pull the lead through the members hands.*

**Remember >** Your attire should not upstage your animal. The purpose of showmanship is to test your ability to present your animal to its best. Your attire should not be so distracting as to pull focus from your beautiful animal, and it is a good idea to consider your animal's colour when selecting the colours of your own outfit. For helpful tips see > **Horse Showing Tip: Matching Your Outfit to Your Horse**  
<https://www.aqha.com/-/horse-showing-tip-matching-your-outfit-to-your-hor-1>

**ACTIVITY:** Create a wardrobe plan for your horse and yourself based on your horse's coat colour or your dream horse's coat colour. Display this on a page (or two) to be included in your Equine Project binder. Include a picture of your horse (or dream horse) as well as photos or sketches of your wardrobe choices.



In a showmanship class be prepared for the judge to ask you questions about your animal (i.e. age, sex, breed, etc.), and/or to identify parts of an equine.



**TEST YOURSELF WITH THIS FUN ONLINE QUIZ:**

<https://ihearshorses.com/quiz-can-you-identify-these-parts-of-the-horse/>

## Videos & Articles To Review

### Showmanship Tips

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JuUp-UnDA8g>

### A Judge's Perspective

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B8RUmn5axl0>

### Raising Your Showmanship Score: Common Mistakes in Showmanship

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O\\_7ns9LisaA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O_7ns9LisaA)

### Showmanship Tune-Up

<https://horseandrider.com/how-to/horse-showmanship-tuneup>

### Train Your Horse for Showmanship

<https://horseandrider.com/video/train-your-horse-for-showmanship-13167>

### Showmanship Series Part 2!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cphMVnS2X84>

### Showmanship Series Pt. 3, The Pivot!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-9TuteyFHRy>

### Showmanship: The Pivot

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kRRTVsXHtRI>

### Quartering System for Horse Showmanship

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XFZBdvnbeKY>

### **BONUS MATERIAL** > 11 Showmanship Patterns for Practice

<https://www.aqha.com/-/11-showmanship-patterns-for-practice>



# Showmanship - The Quarter System

An easy way to remember the quarter system is to understand that it is based on two aims:

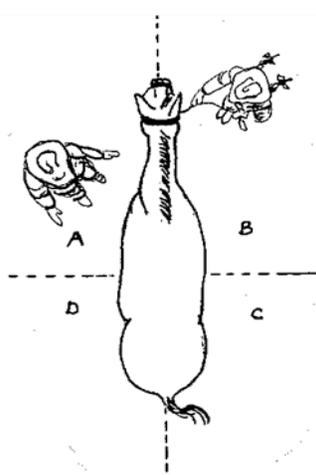
- ⇒ For the handler to never block the judges view of the animal.
- ⇒ For the handler to be able to keep eye contact with the judge.

The quarter system of showmanship is easy to remember:

- ⇒ When the judge is viewing the front half of the horse, the exhibitor should be on the opposite side.
- ⇒ When the judge is viewing the rear half, the exhibitor should be on the same side.
- ⇒ Divide the horse into four. A, B, C and D.

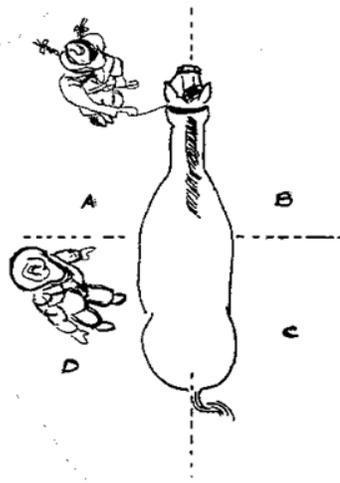
**Diagram #1**

When the judge is viewing the front of the horse in section A or B, the exhibitor should be on the opposite side. This gives the judge a clear view of the horse.



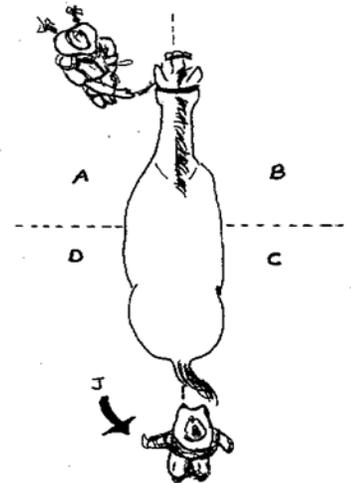
**Diagram #2**

The judge is now viewing the rear of the horse, section D. The exhibitor moves to the same side as the judge.



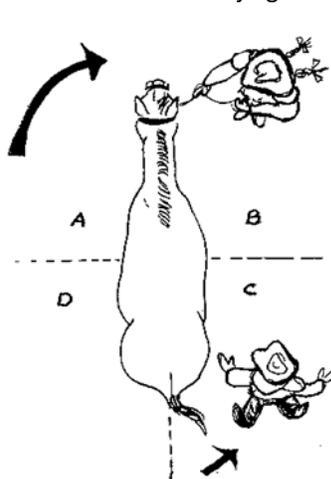
**Diagram #3**

While the judge is viewing the horse from the direct rear, the exhibitor maintains his position.



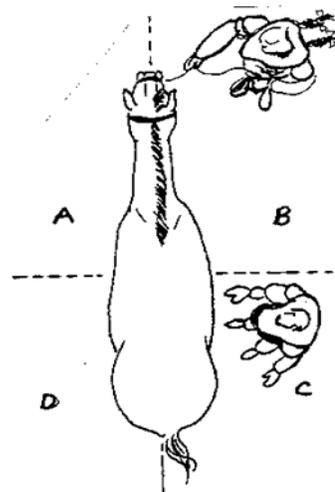
**Diagram #4**

When the judge moves into section C, crossing over the imaginary line directly behind the horse, the exhibitor moves to the same side of the horse as the judge.



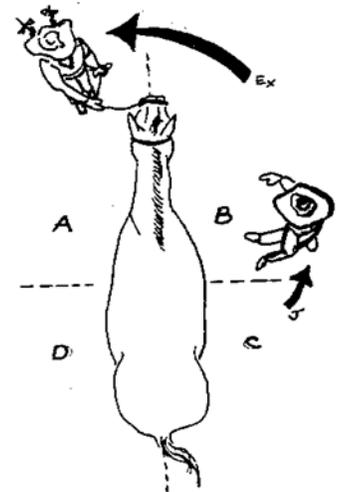
**Diagram #5**

Until the judge crosses over the imaginary line, the exhibitor remains on the same side of the horse as the judge.



**Diagram #6**

As the judge move into section B, the exhibitor moves to the opposite side to avoid obstructing the view of the judge.



**Note:** Miniature Horses do not use the four quarter system of showmanship because of their small size. The handler simply has to be on the opposite side of the horse as the judge.