



Protecting and Expanding Performance and Beauty

How to present my horse to the Judges

Every year we try to present our foals, mares and stallions to the FHS judges to the best of our ability. On judging day we sometimes realize we have not done enough to get the best results for our horses and so plan to do better the next year. Here are some tips:

The horse should be shown in a marked triangle, each side is at least 30 feet (10 meters) long. You could use some round posts or you could mark the corners to know where each side ends.

The first part of judging is to present the horse standing in front of the judges. The handler has to stay in front of the horse and bring it to a position where the judges can see all four legs at the same time if they are looking sideways at the horse. This part is very important in training, as sometimes it can take time for the judges to make their decision and the horse has to be very patient and stand quiet.

The older horses should be shown with a **black** bridle and foals should be led with a halter. A particular color is not required. The handlers should be dressed in white pants and white shirts.

The foals cannot be tied to the mare. Each horse needs a separate handler.

After the horse is judged on confirmation it should be walked in the triangle, so the judges can see the horse walking away, sideways and in front. It is very important to walk the horse at a steady pace. Most scores are given for the walk!

Next, The horses are presented at a trot, demonstrating the high knee movements that are typical of the Friesian Horses. Here it is desirable that both horses flow through the triangle corners in a continuously uniform movement.

Throughout the showing the foal/horse must always be visible to the judges so it can be scored. A helper can try to animate the foal to move faster with a whip, for example, if necessary.

I must say it is very important to let a good "Runner" with best condition and horse experience present the horses in walk and special in trot!

Finally the horses are untied and are left to run free in the arena. This is a great chance to show how powerful and elegant our horses can move!

You have to urge the horses to keep moving so that their best and most natural movements are displayed. The best way to do that is to have two persons standing, one on each end of a 20 x 40m riding arena, which keep the horses trotting or cantering with a big whip, for example. This keeps the horses trotting and cantering and helps the judges to score them best.

Mares and stallions will be measured after judging.

After presenting all horses the judges will explain the scores to the owners and breeders and ribbons will be awarded. At this point it is always nicer if the horses are arranged standing in a line and walking in a circle at the end of the judging show.

After the presentation your veterinarian will implant the microchips.

Good Luck with training your horses and I wish you all the best for the big day!!!!

The FHS Board of Directors