Rule Change Intent

The addition of Ranch Horse classes has proven to be very popular in the Arabian industry. The Ranch Horse grouping of classes has become very popular in the working western industry as a whole among the other breeds and there is a great interest for expansion of this division in the Arabian breed. It is in the best interest of our breed and the AHA to facilitate classes that increase participation and marketability of Arabian and Half-Arabian/Anglo-Arabian horses. AHA is proposing to add a new section AR225 Versatility Ranch Riding which will be located under AR-26 Subchapter and the remaining Subsections be renumbered accordingly.

Proponent Details

AHA

Contact Information

Nicole Zerbee
nzerbee@usef.org

Linked Rules

Committee Actions

Arabian

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 04/14/2021

Council - Natl Breed & Discipline

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 04/26/2021
AR228 Versatility Ranch Riding

1. General Information:
   a. A superior ranch riding horse has a free-flowing stride of reasonable length in keeping with his conformation and covering a reasonable amount of ground as if he was going across the pasture to do a task on the ranch in a timely fashion.
   
   b. Ideally, the horse should have a balanced, flowing motion, while exhibiting correct gaits with proper cadence and rhythm reflecting the versatility, attitude, and movement of a working ranch horse riding outside the confines of an arena. The ideal ranch horse will travel with forward movement and demonstrate an obvious lengthening of stride at extended gaits.
   
   c. 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.
   
   d. The overall manners and responsiveness of the Versatility Ranch Riding horse to make timely transitions in a smooth and correct manner, as well as the quality of the movement and consistency of the gaits are of major consideration.
   
   e. The ideal Versatility Ranch Riding horse should have a natural ranch horse appearance from head to tail in each maneuver.

2. CONDUCT: Horses will be shown individually at three gaits; walk, trot and lope in each direction of the arena. Horses will also be asked to reverse, stop and back. The selected pattern must ask for an extended trot and extended lope at least one direction of the ring. The pattern may be started either to the right or left direction. Show management has the option to set markers to designate gait changes. The pattern may be set outside or inside an arena. 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. One of the suggested patterns for Versatility Ranch Riding may be used from the current AQHA Handbook in the Versatility Ranch Horse (VRH) section or on the AHA website. The judge may utilize a different pattern as long as all required gaits and maneuvers are included.

3. CREDITS AND PENALTIES: Part of the evaluation of this class is on smoothness of transitions. A horse may be collected from the extended trot as the horse moves into the lope. The transition from the extended lope down to the trot is a transition to the seated trot not the extended trot. Therefore, 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 to trotting will be penalized. Judges expect to see horses that have been trained to respond to cues. To see these cues applied discretely and the horse responding correctly could be a credit-earning situation. Penalties will be assessed as follows:
   
   a. One Point Penalties: Over-bridled (per maneuver); Out of frame (per maneuver); Too slow; Gaping mouth; Break of gait at walk or trot for two (2) strides or less.
   
   b. Three Point Penalties: Wrong lead or out of lead; Draped reins; Break of gait at lope; Break of gait at walk or trot for more than two (2) strides.
   
   c. Five Point Penalties: Spurring in front of cinch; Blatant disobedience; Use of either hand to instill fear/praise; Use of two hands per maneuver; 1st or 2nd cumulative refusal; More than one finger between split reins or any fingers between roman reins per maneuver.
   
   d. Ten Point Penalties: Unnatural ranch horse appearance (Horse’s tail is obviously and consistently carried in an unnatural manner in every maneuver) breaking pattern; Leaving working area before pattern is complete; Repeated disobedience.
   
   e. No Score: Lameness; Abuse, Prohibited equipment; Disrespect or misconduct; Improper western attire; Fall of horse/rider.
4. No horse may cross enter Western Pleasure and Versatility Ranch Riding at the same show regardless of the section (Open, Amateur or Youth). However, horses may cross-enter Versatility Ranch Riding and Ranch Horse Riding.

GR1124 Arabian and Half/Anglo Arabian Divisions {11-F AWARD SECTIONS}

6. Award Categories. National and Regional awards will be awarded in the following categories: Working Western Horse—including Trail, In-Hand Trail, Reining, Working Cowhorse, Cutting and Western Riding, all Ranch classes Horse Riding, one award category;