

# Animal Breeding and Training: Equines

## Category Rules

This category is for the breeding and training of animals in the horse family. The entrant should show knowledge of the breed/type of equine in their entry, how it relates to equines in period, how they would have been used in period, equipment needed to work and train equines, health concerns, and proper feeding. Period training techniques may range into the unacceptable and cruel. Knowledge of, rather than practice of, these techniques and acceptable substitutes should be stressed. The scoring under the Skill category should reflect the appropriate use and choice of animals for a given time or place.

A video of the performance must also be submitted either as a link to an online video or as an mp4 file. **If the video is longer than 10 minutes, it must be submitted as a mail-in entry**, sent (postmarked) to the KMOAS **by January 15**. No late entries will be accepted. **THE KMOAS RECOMMENDS THAT YOU EMAIL YOUR ENTRY**. Any updates or changes to this deadline will be published in the Middle Kingdom newsletter, *The Pale*. Post-mail entries are accepted, but will be scanned in and delivered via email to judges. This category is eligible for Regional Faires. If the video is under 10 minutes, the entrant will need to supply equipment to play the video without internet connection during judging.

## Research and Documentation (Score: 0-4 points)

- 0 No documentation provided with entry. Face-to-face judging adds very little information.
- 1 Minimal information is provided for time, place and style. Face-to-face judging adds some background information.
- 2 As in #1, generalized sources are given with no emphasis on primary and/or scholarly resources. In face-to-face judging, no further understanding of the resources is evident. Materials and methods of construction of the entry are described.
- 3 As in #2, there is a good balance of resources: primary and/or scholarly sources well supported by other resources. Documentation and/or face-to-face judging provides well developed discussion of research. Materials and methods of construction are described and the reasons for the choices made are discussed.
- 4 As in #3, in-depth and extensive documentation provides a good balance of resources, emphasizing primary (if available) and/or scholarly resources backed up with a significant selection of other resources. Documentation and/or face-to-face judging provide a good explanation of original research and experimentation related to the research. Face-to-face judging indicates a keen grasp of the research and the entrant can discuss it easily with active engagement. Appendices included in documentation (if any) help provide further pertinent information to subject and time period.

## Materials and Methods (Score: 0-4 points)

- 0 Entry is completely modern with no relationship to period elements or practices.
- 1 Use of modern materials and methods to produce an item that would not be accepted in period but either bears some relationship to an authentic work or might be useful within SCA culture.
- 2 Use of **both** modern materials and methods to produce a work that looks, feels, or tastes authentic to the intended time period or culture.
- 3 Use of **either** modern materials **or** methods to produce a work that looks, feels or tastes authentic to the intended time period or culture without explanation of any substituted materials.
- 4 Use of totally authentic materials and methods to produce a work that looks or feels authentic to the intended time period or culture. Any substitutions and the period materials/methods are thoroughly explained.

## Scope (Score: 0-6 points for each item)

Rank the ambition, not the success, of the entry for each of the following elements according to their rubrics.

Size and/or complexity of project: number of skills being taught to animal-leading, ground driving, driving with a cart, pulling a log, riding, advanced combat skills, in close maneuvers, dressage etc.

- 0 points: 0 skills being taught
- 1 point: One skill being taught to a single animal
- 2 points: Two skills being taught to a single animal
- 3 points: Multiple skills being taught to a single animal
- 4 points: One skill being taught to multiple animals
- 5 points: Two skills being taught to multiple animals
- 6 points: Multiple skills being taught to multiple animals

Type of training (work, training).

- 0 points: No training attempted
- 1 point: Green broke, knows the basics but is unreliable, handled by advanced handler
- 2 points: Trained in a single skill and can be handled by advanced handler
- 3 points: Trained in multiple skills and can be handled by advanced handlers
- 4 points: Fully Trained in multiple skills and can be handled by advanced handlers
- 5 points: Fully trained and can be handled by beginning handlers for some skills
- 6 points: Fully trained to be handled by a beginner and to be used with training beginner handlers

Intricacy of training (work, entertainment, produce).

- 0 points: Equine is fully trained for skill being showcased and is being exhibited by another handler.
- 1 point: Began with fully trained equine
- 2 points: Began with green broke equine
- 3 points: Began with an equine with that has groundwork established
- 4 points: Began with a captive equine that is familiar with people, has had good experiences
- 5 points: Began with a captive equine that is familiar with people, has had bad experiences
- 6 points: Began with an untamed equine

Type of animal used

- 1 point: Tame horse (already handled)
- 2 points: Captive horse (has seen people, been fed by people, but not handled much)
- 3 points: Wild horse
- 4 points: Pony
- 5 points: Mule
- 6 points: Donkey
- [+2 points (up to 6 total) for multiple animals or breeds]

### **Skill** (Score: 0-6 points for each item)

Rank the success of the entry for each of the following elements according to their rubrics. The entrant should provide photographs or video of the animal(s) being used/handled if the animal(s) cannot be scored in person.

Appropriateness of breed: Draft/heavy horses used to plow, cart horse for driving, light riding horses for riding

- 0 points: equine is completely inappropriate for the project (Arabian horse for plowing)
- 1 point: horse is not a good match and has some difficulty with the task
- 2 points: horse is not a good match but capable of doing the job
- 3 points: horse is a good match but not perfect, but still capable of doing the job
- 4 points: horse is a very good match and capable of doing the job
- 5 points: modern breed of horse exhibiting a historical skill (ex: Percheron for plowing)
- 6 points: historical type trained to do a historical skill (Andalusian for mounted combat)

How the animal is used (hunter, entertainment, work, produce, etc.).

- 0 points: Pet
- 1 point: Already trained equine used for driving
- 2 points: Already trained equine used for riding
- 3 points: Train equine for driving
- 4 points: Train equine for riding
- 5 points: Raise equine to be trained professionally and used for riding or driving
- 6 points: Raise and train equine to be used for riding or driving

Application of husbandry techniques. Please provide photos or video of the animals in their living space. To assess the proper living conditions and husbandry of the animals, **give one point for each** of the following:

- Safe fencing: electric braid, wood planks, coated wire, wire weave/ three or more strands or four feet tall/taunt, adequate posts to keep fence tight vs. barbed wire, high tensile fencing/ one or two strands/ loose, inadequate posts/sagging, loose fencing
- Shelter: Simple but protects from rain, wind break of some kind. (pine trees are adequate quite often because they protect from the rain and wind if they are the appropriate size and trimmed correctly. Deciduous trees are not adequate)
- Clean hay (not moldy or dusty)
- Fresh water (clean and clear, at least 5 gallons per equine)
- Shiny coat
- Ideal weight: not over or under weight (using the Henneke Scoring System 1-9, 5 is ideal)

#### Henneke Scoring System

- 1 Poor - Bone structure easily noticeable. Ribs protruding prominently Spinous processes projecting prominently. Tailhead, pinbones, and hook bones projecting prominently.
- 2 Very Thin - Bone structure faintly discernible. Ribs prominent. Slight fat covering over base of spinous processes. Transverse processes of lumbar vertebrae feel rounded. Spinous processes are prominent. Tailhead prominent.
- 3 Thin - Neck accentuated. Withers accentuated. Shoulder accentuated. Slight fat over ribs. Ribs easily discernible. Fat buildup halfway on spinous processes, but easily discernible. Traverse processes cannot be felt. Tailhead prominent but individual vertebrae cannot be visually identified. Hook bones appear rounded, but are still easily discernible. Pin bones not distinguishable
- 4 Thin - Neck accentuated withers accentuated. Shoulder accentuated. Slight fat over ribs. Ribs easily discernible. Fat buildup halfway on spinous processes, but easily discernible. Traverse processes cannot be felt. Tailhead prominent but individual vertebrae cannot be visually identified. Hook bones appear rounded, but are still easily discernible. Pin bones not distinguishable
- 5 Moderate (Ideal Weight) - Neck blends smoothly into body. Withers rounded over spinous processes. Shoulder blends smoothly into body. Ribs cannot be visually distinguished, but can be easily felt. Back is level. Fat around tailhead beginning to feel soft.
- 6 Moderately Fleshy - Fat beginning to be deposited. Fat over ribs feels spongy. May have a slight positive crease (a groove) down back. Fat around tailhead feels soft
- 7 Fleshy - Fat deposited along neck. Fat deposited along withers. Fat deposited behind shoulder. Individual ribs can be felt with pressure, but noticeable fat filling between ribs. May have a positive crease down the back Fat around tailhead is soft.
- 8 Fat - Noticeable thickening of neck area along withers filled with fat; area behind shoulder filled in flush with barrel. Difficult to feel ribs. Positive crease down the back. Fat around tailhead very soft.
- 9 Extremely Fat - Bulging fat. Patchy fat appearing over ribs. Obvious crease down the back. Bulging fat around tailhead.

Handling of animal. Photos or video of animals being handled should be referred to in order to score this section. To assess the proper handling of the animals, **give one point for each** of the following:

- Equine can be caught with minimal effort and without bribes
- Equine is easily lead
- Equine stands tied
- Hooves can be picked up with minimal effort
- Equine can be saddle/harnessed with minimal effort
- Equine can be bridled with minimal effort

Application of training techniques. What training level was achieved? Quality of training is a reflection of using proper rearing and animal handling techniques.

- 0 points: No training, or training unsuccessful
- 1 point: Green broke, knows the basics but is unreliable, handled by advanced handler
- 2 points: Trained in a single skill and can be handled by advanced handler
- 3 points: Trained in multiple skills and can be handled by advanced handlers
- 4 points: Fully trained in multiple skills and can be handled by advanced handlers
- 5 points: Fully trained and can be handled by beginning handlers for some skills

- 6 points: Fully trained to be handled by a beginning handler

**Ingenuity** (Score: 0-4 points)

Judge the ingenuity of the entry. Was the entrant resourceful and inventive in the approach to creating their entry? Does the entry reflect the entrant's vision of period context? Is original thought, contemplation, interpretation, and vision evident according to the entrant's period?

**Judge's Observation** (Score: 0-6 points)

Rank the entry as a whole. How well do all the separately judged parts fit together? The entry's overall effect is judged in this section. This is the only section of the criteria where the judges may allow their personality, private opinions, and personal preferences to influence scoring.