



Showmanship

Supplies:

[Video: Showmanship](#)

Showmanship worksheet and answer key

Showmanship pattern to practice with your horse

Age or Grade:

9 and up

Time:

45 minutes, plus additional practice time as needed

Background:

Showmanship is a class that was founded in 4-H and has been adopted by many Breed shows. Showmanship classes, while based on the performance of the exhibitor and not the conformation of the horse enable anyone to be successful with hard work. Showmanship is a great opportunity for someone learning to show horses.

Project Goal:

- Learn how showmanship is judged.
- Plan your attire for a Showmanship class.
- Identify the quarter that you should be in based upon the position of the judge.
- Practice a Showmanship pattern.
- Record and critique your pattern.

What to Do:

- Watch 4-H Horses at Home, Episode 6, Showmanship
- Answer questions on the worksheet.
- Practice sample pattern.
- Record and critique your pattern.

Reflect:

- Why is a Showmanship class important? What are you being judged on?
- How should you dress for a Showmanship class?
- What are three things that you should do to remain safe in a Showmanship class?
- What did you learn from practicing your maneuvers?
- What challenges did you discover in practicing the Quarter System?

Apply:

- Locate a show where you can show your horse in Showmanship.
- Find other showmanship patterns online to practice.
- Who can help observe and critique your techniques for improvement?

Notes for Parents or Helpers:

A parent or helper may want to serve as a judge to help the learner understand the Quarter System. It would be helpful for an adult to set up the practice pattern and assistance will be needed to record the practice pattern. An adult should always be present when youth are working with equines.



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Virginia 4-H Horse Project @ Home Activity

Showmanship Worksheet

Answer the following as true or false:

- _____ 1. You should lead your horse on its left side.
- _____ 2. Showmanship is based on the conformation of the horse.
- _____ 3. Showmanship is considered a ground class.
- _____ 4. In Showmanship, it is ok to touch your horse.
- _____ 5. You should hold both the lead shank and the end of the lead line in the right hand.

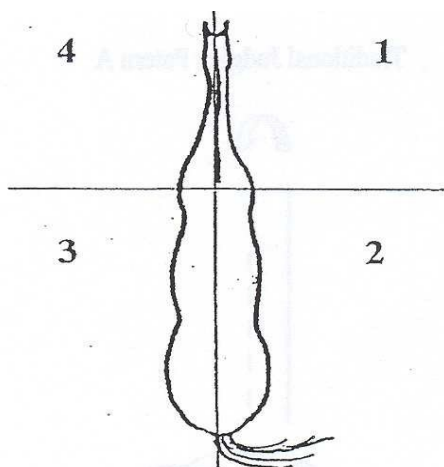
Multiple Choice:

- _____ 1. Choose the attire that would be best to wear in a Showmanship class.
 - A. Blue jeans, t-shirt, and tennis shoes
 - B. Shorts, tank top, and flip flops
 - C. A well-fit shirt, pants, boots, and a well-shaped hat.

List the 5 areas of the horse that should be clipped for Showmanship.

- 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____
- 4. _____ 5. _____

Describe your arm position during a Showmanship Class.



The Quarter System

Indicate the quarter that you should be in when the judge is in the following quarter:

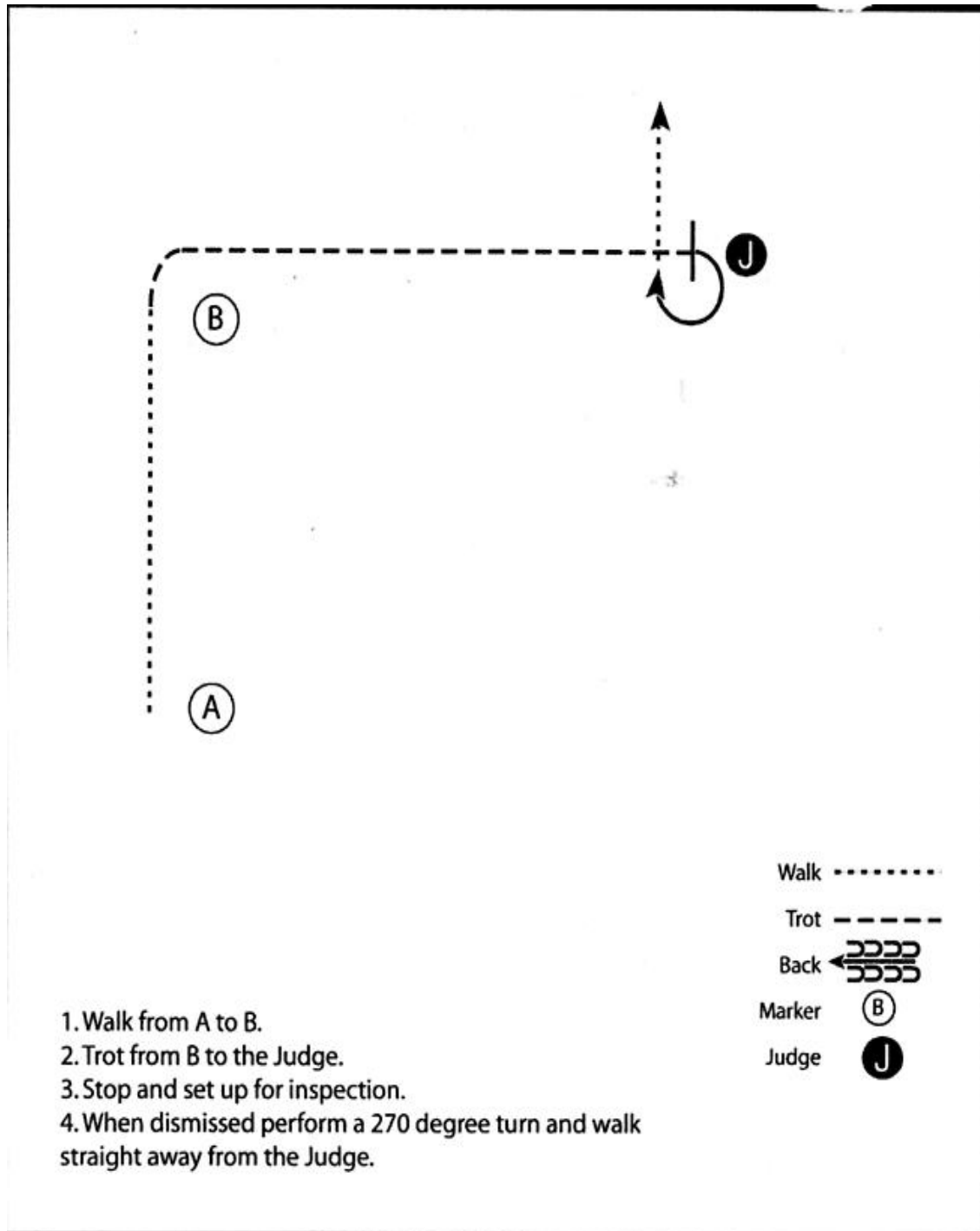
- _____ 1. The Judge is in Quarter 4
- _____ 2. The Judge is in Quarter 2
- _____ 3. The Judge is in Quarter 3
- _____ 4. The Judge is in Quarter 1





Virginia 4-H Horse Project @ Home Activity

Showmanship Patter – print to practice this with your horse





Virginia 4-H Horse Project @ Home Activity

Showmanship Key

Video - https://youtu.be/prqp08Un_I8

Showmanship Worksheet Answer Key

True/False

1. True
2. False
3. True
4. False
5. False

Multiple Choice

1. C

Five Areas that should be clipped

Muzzle, Ears, Legs, Bridle Path, and Under the Jaw

Description of Arm Position

Should hang naturally from shoulders, forming an “L”
Elbows against your sides, not rigid
Hands and wrists straight with thumbs on top.

The Quarter System

1. Showman should be in Quarter 1
2. Showman should be in Quarter 1
3. Showman should be in Quarter 4
4. Showman should be in Quarter 4

Additional Resources:

[Showmanship Basics - Free Guide from AQHA](#)

[Showmanship Patterns - Free ebook from AQHA with 40 practice patterns](#)

[Showmanship Best Practices](#)

[Judging Showmanship](#)

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