



Show Tips and Tricks

It's that time again...show season!! Whether you are a veteran parent and/or exhibitor, or this is your first time dipping your toes into the show ring, here is a great list of show tips and tricks to help make your showing experience go smoothly and more comfortably for both you and your horse! Please feel free to send any thoughts or suggestions to annabomar@hotmail.com for future show information!

Know what you need! – it's a good idea to make sure that you have tried on all show clothes on yourself and riding equipment on your horse BEFORE the show weekend. This will help avoid the stress of that last minute tack store run for that replacement show jacket! The first show is not the best time to try on that “new girth” or “new saddle pad”.

Time is important! – Make sure you have checked the ring start times and number of entries the morning of the start of the show – people add and scratch and this can change when your class starts. Also understand that horse show time is definitely run in a different dimension – the hurry up and wait and wait and hurry up is just a part of the scene!

Mental gymnastics – Have a mental image of everything you need to be properly attired...back number? Gloves? You don't want to have to rush back to the barn for anything you need last minute.

Ringside props – It's a great idea to have a backpack or grooming tote with water, sunblock (for horse and human!), hoof pick, brush, leather wipes for dirty boots and baby wipes for those dirty spots that happen in the warm up ring. Baby wipes are a necessity!

Weather happens – The show management can't control the weather so plan accordingly. Raincoats are a much better idea than umbrellas – horses can think that umbrellas are alien beings and react accordingly!

Learn your courses! – This is a great habit to develop as it saves time and stress at the in-gate when your trainer looks at you and you look back at them blankly because you don't know where you are going. Take a picture it will last longer!

Smile! – Remember to take a deep breath and have fun. The show ring is your time to shine and have a great time with your equine partner. Be a gracious winner and a gracious loser.