

## Ranch Rail Pleasure Purpose and Class Information

The Ranch Rail Pleasure class measures the ability of the horse to be a pleasure to ride while being used as a means of conveyance from one ranch task to another and should reflect the versatility, attitude, and movement of a working horse. The horse should be well-trained, relaxed, quiet, soft and cadenced at all gaits. The ideal ranch horse will travel with forward movement and demonstrate an obvious lengthening of stride at extended gaits. 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. The overall manners and responsiveness of the horse to make timely transitions in a smooth and correct manner, as well as the quality of the movement are of primary considerations.

**Class Routine:** The class will work both directions on the rail and require at least 1 (one) extension of gait at the trot. This class is intended as a rail class but individuals working off the rail will not be penalized, and in fact, riders are encouraged to use adequate space given the extension of gaits required. Horses are required to back.

The ideal ranch rail horse should have a natural head carriage at each gait. In all gaits, movement of the ranch rail pleasure horse should simulate a horse needing to cover long distances, softly and quietly, like that of a working ranch horse. This class should show the horse's ability to work at a forward, working speed while under control by the rider. Light contact should be rewarded, and the horse shall not be shown on a full drape of reins. The overall manners and responsiveness of the horse while performing the maneuver requirements and the quality of the horse's movement are the primary considerations.

### **Gaits, the following terminology shall apply:**

1. Walk – The walk is a natural, flat footed, four-beat gait. The gait is rhythmic and ground-covering. As in all gaits, the horse should display a level, or slightly above level topline with a bright, attentive expression.
2. Trot – The trot is a natural two-beat gait demonstrating more forward motion than the western jog.
3. Extended Trot – The extended trot is an obvious lengthening of the stride with a definite increase in pace. The horse should be moving in a manner as if it were covering a large area on a ranch with an above level topline.
4. Lope – The lope is a three-beat gait. The lope should be relaxed and smooth with a natural, forward moving stride.

The horse should display an above level topline with a bright, attentive expression. Evaluating transitions and guiding part of the evaluation of this class is on smoothness of transitions. 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. To rein a horse is not only to guide him but also to control his every movement. The best reined horse should be willingly guided or controlled with little or no apparent resistance and dictated to completely. Any movement on its own must be considered a lack of control.

### **Ranch Class Apparel and Equipment:**

Attire and tack should be clean and presentable. Working tack is encouraged.

1. Hoof polish is discouraged.
2. Braided or banded manes and tail extensions are discouraged.
3. Trimming inside ears is discouraged.
4. Trimming bridle path, fetlocks or excessively long facial hair is allowed.
5. Grooming allowances will be made for horses exhibited in additional classes.
6. Equipment with silver should not count over a good working outfit. Silver bridles and saddles are discouraged.
7. Horses, of all ages, may be shown in a snaffle, bosal, or simple curb bit.

**Prohibited equipment includes tie downs, cavessons, gag bits, mechanical hackamores and running martingales.**