

Secrets From a Senior Inspector



by Eve Mainwaring

There you are - you have young stallion - you think he is so handsome and the best thing that ever happened to you - and you want to present him for inspection for his license.

You probably spoiled him some - you enjoy watching him cavort and play when he is turned out and he comes for his carrot when you call him.

Well, for presentation you have to work with a him little more than that - and I would suggest for at least 3 months. At that age their attention span is very short, you can only teach him one thing at a time. Not only does he have to KNOW what you want from him - he learns in one session - it has to be confirmed and become AUTOMATIC. That takes repetitions for 3 months.

1. He has to lead - with you walking beside his front legs in step with him (your right leg with his left leg). he must ACTIVELY walk and take you, not the other way around. There should be no head shaking, excessive jogging and fussing.

2. When you turn him you should WALK AROUND him - not swing him around you. You have to turn him to the right in other words. You can raise your left hand as a signal that you want him to turn - that works well!

3. He should halt when you say "Whoa" or "Prrr" - whatever your choice of signal may be. He should "walk on" when you say the word, and not when you start walking. He should obey and pay attention to voice signals.

You should carry a stick in your left hand and use it (reaching back) paired with your voice signal.

4. He should stand on command and let you move to his front without moving himself. He should be able to back up a step or two when you ask him from the front - if you have to position him properly so the judges can see all four legs.

5. He has to show his best forward, springy trot on the long side of the triangle - that needs PRACTICE! Ordinary trot on the first short side and then show off on the long side, followed by an ordinary trot back to the judges.

Keep in step with his trot or find someone with enough leg length and wind to do it.

6. Raise your left arm at the turns. Have someone with a whip help you get the most out of him - this also needs practice so he doesn't spook or run away .

If a stallion is thus prepared - not only will you get the BEST possible marks - he will be very easy to back and accept the under saddle training.

- The protocol for the licensing on the triangle is
1. walk him in and halt showing his near (left) side.
 2. walk away from the judges at right angles and walk around a marker - remember turn right at the marker!
 3. On the triangle jog the first short side,
 4. extend the long side
 5. jog back towards the judges and stand him up showing the opposite or off side.

At the end there is a group walk. Practice with other horses and show off his best, active and animated walk.

Inspectors are tolerant of small mistakes and may ask you to repeat the jog if it did not come off well the first time. But they DO appreciate proper preparation.

Good luck!

Trivia Question

What is the difference between a judge and an inspector?

Answer: A **judge** is a prestigious person, based on his/her knowledge and qualifications within the industry, who is hired by a show to place horses in order of his preference from 1st to sixth place.

An **inspector** is someone who examines and evaluates horses for a breed registry. Scores are awarded based on the requirements of the breed association, how closely do these horses replicate the ideal for that breed association?

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