



LLOC & DISTRICT RIDING CLUB SHOW

Ring Craft: Guidance for Best Turned Out

Best Turned Out is open to any horse or pony. As the name suggests, the emphasis is on the appearance and tidiness of the horse and rider, not on conformation or type. It's a useful class to take a young show horse into if they are not sufficiently schooled yet to do a breed or type class, to give them ring experience with less pressure.

- Clean the underside of saddle flaps, girth straps and girth guards.
- Girth guards must be worn.
- Holes in straps - poke the saddle soap out with a matchstick so holes are clear and clean.
- Underside of rider's boots - clean after mounting.
- Underside of bridle - noseband and browband; and inside of reins.
- Under the horse's tail, and make sure the tail is clean and tangle free.
- Don't use a lot of baby oil, as the judge will stroke the horse; run hands down its legs and possibly through the tail, so you don't want her coming away with an oily hand. Likewise, be careful with using chalk on white legs.
- Rider's hair must be in a hairnet if it's long enough and very tidy.
- Sheath or udders must be cleaned.
- Hooves oiled and picked out. If your horse has white legs, be very careful not to get oil on the hair. Oil inside the feet as well.
- Plaits should be sewn rather than banded.
- Numnahs, if used, must be non-hairy and clean. No numnah is preferable, but if used it must be as discreet as possible. This is more important than for a 'performance' class.
- Shoes must have been recently done - no risen clenches or slipped shoes.
- Children wear jodhpur boots with clips, adults must wear long boots with spurs if appropriate for the type of horse. Garter straps on long boots are a must if they don't have zips.
- No jewellery.
- Show cane is essential.
- Makeup or boot polish can be used on chestnuts to make them blend in with the leg colour.
- Eyes, ears and nostrils must be clean - do this last minute before entering the ring, at the same time as cleaning the rider's boots and picking out the feet.
- Ensure the string or elastic attaching your number is the same colour as your jacket, and round off the corners of the number so it's oval rather than rectangular.
- Make sure your tie pin is attached to your shirt.
- All straps on the bridle must be in their keepers, and the keepers the same length away from the end of the strap.