

HIPPOLOGY CONTEST

I. Rules and Regulations

Hippology is an activity that can make learning fun for 4-H members by letting them exhibit their knowledge and understanding of equine science and husbandry in a friendly but competitive setting. The Hippology Contest has four (4) different phases:

- A. Examination Phase
- B. Station Phase
- C. Judging Phase
- D. Team Problem (Optional)

II. Contestants and Eligibility

- A. Counties competing in the Hippology Contest may enter two (2) teams of not more than four or less than three members. Teams of less than three members will compete as individuals only. On teams where there are four members, all will compete, but the member receiving the lowest overall score will be automatically declared the alternate. The scores of the alternate will not be included in any of the team totals, but will be considered in making all individual awards. Teams consisting of three members will have no alternate, and all members' scores will count in determining individual and team awards.
- B. Contestants must be enrolled in 4-H during the current year in the county they are representing.
- C. Contestants may not have participated in an official, post secondary Hippology, horse bowl, or horse judging contest nor have been in training in preparation for one of these contests.

III. Reference Material: All the information covered in this contest may be found in one or more of the following publications:

- Horses and Horsemanship and Horse Science - National 4-H Horse Program
- *Horses and Horsemanship* (6th Edition) - Ensminger - Interstate
- *The Horse* - Evans, Borton, Hintz and Van Vleck (2nd Edition) - Freeman
- *Horses* - Evans - Freeman
- Catalogs distributed by Libertyville Saddle Shop, 306 Peterson Road, P.O. Box M, Libertyville, IL 60048; and Eisers, Inc., North Broad Street, Hillside, NJ 07205.
- Grains, forages, and feed preparations used in this contest will be representatives of feed utilized in horse rations.

THE CONTEST

- I. Examination Phase - approximately 200 points. This phase of the contest will include:
 - A. A written Exam
 - B. Pictures or projected slides to be identified as to breed, color, color pattern, activity, proper appointments, etc.
 - C. Anatomy which may include external, skeletal internal organs, parts of gastrointestinal tract, male and female reproductive organs, detailed anatomy of the foot and detailed lower limbs.

- II. Station Phase - approximately 200 points. This phase will consist of a series of stations or tables where at each, all contestants will respond to the requirements of the station. Examples of stations which may be used includes identification of:
 - A. Various types of saddles (actual or pictured) and parts of saddles.
 - B. Tack, bits, bridles, horseshoes and parts of shoes.
 - C. Tools and equipment, and assembly of specific parts of various pieces of equipment.
 - D. Grains and forages used in equine rations including various forms of methods of preparation.
 - E. Internal and external parasites based on actual samples, pictures, life cycle charts and/or damage caused.
 - E. Blemishes and unsoundness.
 - G. Ages of equine based on teeth.
 1. Use of pulse rate, respiration rate, temperature, dehydration, anemia, etc. to assess horse health.
 2. Measurements such as, but not limited to, wither height, shoe size, girth, collar size, gullet width, seat length of saddle, etc. may be required.

- III. Judging Phase - 200 points. Contestants will be required to place at least four (4) classes consisting of two (2) halter or conformation classes and two (2) performance classes. Every effort will be made to use the same horses as are being used in the judging contest, with placing to be simultaneous with contestants in the judging contest, with the same official placings and cuts as apply to the judging contest. In extreme emergency, pictorial, video and/or classes may be used, in which case they would be especially prepared for the event.

IV. Team Problem - approximately 200 points. All teams will be presented with the same problem(s). Each team will have equal time to discuss among themselves the problem, immediately after which they will have to present an oral solution or series of suggested procedures relative to the problem. Each member of each team is encouraged to contribute to the oral presentation. Evaluation will be based on the understanding of the problem, completeness of the response, the probability of success of the solution or procedures and the logic used in making the oral response. The official may ask questions of any or all of the team members to clarify the presentation. Examples of the possible team problems might include:

- A. Balancing a horse's ration.
- B. Farm management recommendations for specific horse operations (i.e. breeding, training, boarding, nursery, lay-up, etc.).
- C. Considerations for the establishment of a new horse facility (stable to be used for a specific purpose).
- D. Recommendations for selecting, locating and purchasing horses for specific uses.
- E. Behavior problems - causes, management of and corrections.
- F. Training and conditioning programs - equipment, schedules, methods, nutrition, and problem avoidance.
- G. Breeding and/or leasing contracts - specific clauses for insurance, liability, payments, care, termination, transport, etc.
- H. Teaching lessons in horse management (specific subject to be announced) to a group of 9-11 year old beginner 4-Her's: where, how long, how much information, hands-on experiences, reinforcement, testing evaluation, will be considered.
- I. Explanation of use or assembly of specific equipment.
- J. Demonstrate skill or ability to use specific equipment.

Team problem scores will not be included in determining the rank of individuals in the contest, but will be added to the team scores of the other three phases to determine overall team standings.

V. Tie Breaking - All ties overall, individual and team, will be broken using the following sequence:

1. Examination scores
2. Station scores
3. Judging scores

Ties within any phase are to be broken using the overall score first, and then the same sequence as above. If further tie breaking is needed, the scores at each station in order may be used.

VI. Awards

First through fifth place team and individual ribbons will be awarded. Plaques will be awarded to the high point team and high point individual. Medals will be awarded to the high point team members.

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