

Horse Show Handbook



What is a horse show?

A horse show is a competition where you and your horse are either judged or timed to win an event. Horse shows provide riders with the opportunity to gain experience, build their skills, connect with others in the riding community and to show off their hard work. Different riding disciplines have different show structures, we mostly show in the hunter/jumper discipline meaning the shows we regularly go to are judged or timed going over fences. Other disciplines include, western events and dressage. What classes and shows you chose to enter depend on what level you and your horse are at in riding.

Who can attend a horse show?

Anyone that has a horse can, this usually means you lease or own a horse. In the case of leases some limitation may apply like what kind of lease are you paying for would reflect on how many shows you can attend and where. Most quarter leases or pay per rides are allowed to attend one or two local shows depending on the owner. Half leases or full leases can attend two or three local or out of town shows also depending on the owner. If this is something you wish to do with your lease horse I encourage you to clarify your needs with the owner to make sure we can achieve your show goals. Owned horses are encouraged to do any shows, local or away offer a variety of class levels. Be sure to talk these goals over with your coach, did you want to do only local shows? Away shows? which include limited hauling options (unless you have your own trailer), stabling for the weekend and hotel rooms.

When are the horse shows?

Horse shows are usually June, July and August. There are a few shows earlier and later but not many. We do not encourage winter shows as travel is very risky in our area and we are likely to cancel.



Where are the horse shows?

We have a few usual stomping grounds we like to attend but this does not mean we are limited to these shows. Our local shows include Willowbend, Twisted tree and other local barn shows. Local shows are limited to how many you can do but they are usually one or two days, at home and trailering is always available. Our away shows take us to Calgary, these shows are usually at Paramount Equestrian or Rocky Mountain Show Jumping. Paramount is a great intro to Calgary shows, it is a weekend show two nights in Calgary with a very friendly open venue for all the ages and levels. We leave on a Friday late morning and arrive at Paramount to complete their Friday night schooling rounds where you get to cruise around the jumps you will be jumping all weekend. Saturday Sunday you ride you classes that we entered you in, they run one sand hunter ring, one sand jumper ring and one grass jumper ring at the same time all weekend. RMSJ is a week long show, that also has levels for everyone but is a longer commitment and a little stricter venue. We leave on Tuesday and have a hack in one of the warm up arenas that night and then we show in our classes wed, thurs, fri, sat, & sun. We usually ride in about the same amount of classes in each show, one is more spaced out. Both shows offer camping if this is an option for you as well. These away shows are more work but I do have to say they are fun! We are a team in at these shows and it's a blast.

Local show entries are usually found online on facebook, through your coach or at a barn.

<https://www.paramountequestriancentre.com/> - this entry form is located on this website you fill out

<https://rmsj.ca/tournament-info/> - this contains information for the tournaments

<https://rmsj.showgroundslive.com/> - you need to make an account here to register to RMSJ everything is done online for RMSJ

What is involved in showing?

There are lots of costs involved in showing:

- Coaching \$50.00 per day plus expenses, hotel, gas, food
- Trailering – see chart, these are subject to change due to gas prices
- Cost of show between \$300.00-\$1,000.00 depending on the show and length
- Accommodations – hotel or camping
- Alberta Equestrian membership (mandatory for all shows)

<https://www.albertaequestrian.com/>

- Equine Canada Membership- only at rated shows <https://www.equestrian.ca/>

Travel	1 Horse	2 Horses
Local	\$80.00	\$50.00
Lethbridge	\$300.00	\$200.00
Calgary	\$500.00	\$300.00

When we go to a show certain attire is to be worn by the rider and their horse

Hunters:

- Black/Blue/Green show coat (neutral colors)
- White/blue/pastel show shirt with a collar
- Black gloves
- Beige breeches
- Black belt
- Leather girth preferred
- Helmet (black for more advanced shows, higher level)
- Black crop
- White fitted saddle pad
- Simple bridle, leather reins, no bling brow bands, no bling reins, no flashes, approved hunter bit
- No colored stirrup irons
- No jump boots or polo wraps
- Hair pulled back in net or pony
- Horse's manes, tails and forelocks

Jumpers:

- Anything hunters is approved for jumpers
- belt
- Jump boots
- Colored saddle pads
- Bling brow bands
- Rubber reins or leather
- Hair pulled back in net or pony
- No braiding

Horse shows also require a lot of responsibilities:

- Feeding and watering your horse
- Early morning walks and feed before classes
- Night checks after dinner for walks and snacks
- Bandages legs for overnight shows
- Cleaning horses stalls/pens
- Tacking up your own horse
- Loading up all your own gear before and after the show

The show routine

Sometime leading up to the horse show these things need to be completed:

- Bath horses
 - Shampoo the horses body, mane, tail and legs. Scrub with a curry comb and brush to get up all the dirt and grim. Rinse thoroughly no bubbles left
 - Condition the horses body, tail and legs. Massage in and rinse very thoroughly. I do not condition manes if you are braiding them as it makes them too slick.
 - If soap is left on your horse their skin can become very itchy and irritated as well their coat will be slick meaning your saddle will fall off.
 - Put a cooler on your horse when they are drying if your inside. If your outside keep walking your horse or graze them until they are dry, do no put back in pen or grass pan they will roll!
- Clean tack
 - Pull apart bridle completely and saddle.
 - Use saddle soap and small amount of water on a sponge to scrub all areas of the leather, can use something like a toothbrush for the cracks
 - Use conditioner, neatsfoot oil or some kind of oil to condition the leather so its soft and shiny. Let dry and then put back together
 - Wash bit and stirrup irons in a sink with dishsoap and water, rinse super well
- Pack gear
 - Hay nets need to be filled
 - Enough hay for the duration of the show (2-3 flakes 2-3 times a day)
 - Buckets to drink from
 - I recommend using a Stanley truck of some kind to keep all your gear in

At the horse show – this is modified for home or one day shows but the same main things apply: horses need food and water at all times, and everything is to be kept clean and tidy.

○ Arriving at the show

- Once you arrive, find your stall before unloading horses! Make sure you have shavings in your stall (their should be)
- Unload the horses and put in the stalls
- Unload your hay and water, feed and water your horse first, when you unload hay communicate with the group so we don't have 4 open bales. We can unload more hay as we need it.
- Unloading all your gear is next, we set up our boxes in front of our stalls everything is to be kept clean and organized, the isle swept or raked
- Horses can be braided the morning before we leave or at the show, if this is a weekend show braiding Friday is great for the weekend. If this is a week long show you will need to take out and rebraid every second or third day. At the larger shows braiders are available for purchase they usually cost around \$60.00 they show up in the middle of the night like a fairy and poof your mane is magical.

○ Feed schedule

- Large horses get 2 flakes of hay per feeding, I like to feed breakfast (1-2 hours before riding no later than 8am) and dinner (around 5pm ish) two flakes. I toss hay on the ground, you do not need a hay net for stall feeding. Around lunch time and at night checks I feed one flake of hay for snacks. You are feeding more for entertainment than anything.
- Feed schedules can be worked out by the group, if someone rides early they can toss breakfast for everyone and if someone rides later they can toss dinner
- Water buckets should always be filled, and there must be 2. If water is dirty you need to dump the buckets outside and refill. I like to have a flavor of power aid to flavor one bucket this way if your horse does not like the water they might like the flavor. If you notice they never drink this then discard that plan.

○ Walk schedule

- horses need to be walked first thing in the morning as they have been standing still all night
- if your horses legs are wrapped this comes off before walking then a good walk around the grounds
- while walking the stall can be cleaned out all poop and wet shavings removed and more shavings added, water buckets refilled and hay placed in the stall for their return
- horses also need an afternoon walk depending on your classes, maybe even and afternoon hack

- night walks should be a good long walk maybe some grazing but this is the last time they are out until morning
- night is when we do our standing wraps as well, slinkies are put on and coolers depending on the temp
- while walking same as morning the stall picked, buckets filled, and feed
- extra
 - isle should always be clean
 - your tack and area should always be tidy
 - stalls maintained
 - walking your horses is important!
 - There is always somewhere for you to hose your horse off after every ride if it is hot out
 - Tack should be cleaned daily so it is always ready to show in
- Leaving the show
 - You are required to be there to load your horse
 - All your stuff needs to be loaded up
 - Stalls cleaned out entirely if the show requires it
 - Isles swept
 - All hay bales must be tied up and brought home with us
 - Braids can be pulled before we leave if you have time or when we get home (highly recommend doing it at the show)
 - All things you borrowed needs to go back there it belongs, like a horse trailer a persons locker not just dumped at the barn or left outside
 - Horses cannot go into the trailer wet so you may have to hose off at home if you're the last class
 - The next day horses need to be walked or taken for a hack to stretch out their sore muscles. If you have a lesson then it will be modified for light work



Horse Show Check List

Rider Gear

- Breeches – beige
- Riding boots
- Show shirt
- Show Jacket
- Gloves – Black
- Hair net
- Belt
- Helmet
- Spurs
- Crop
- Safety pins
- Hair elastics
- Bobby pins

Horse Tack

- Grooming brushes
- Braiding kit (elastics)
- cooler
- Show Halter
- Bridle
- Leather reins
- Girth
- Saddle
- White fitted pad
- Schooling pad
- Jumps boots
- Polos
- Standing wraps
- Lunge line
- Lunge whip
- Martingale
- Shampoo/conditioner
- Saddle soap
- Fly spray
- Show sheen
- Cloth/rag
- Scissors

Supplies

- 2 water Buckets and clips
- Hay nets
- Grain
- Vaccine records
- Additional blankets

Shared supplies

- Wheel barrow
- Broom
- Pitch fork
- Shovel
- Stool
- Hay