

# The Horse Show Dictionary

*Created by The Showlife*



There is no life like showlife.

# B

## *to band*

This refers to styling the a horse's mane, creating many little bands that are not ► braided. The process of creating this hair style is called banding.



## *to black*

Usually, this refers to the process of applying hoof black on to the horses hooves. Hoof black is a sort of nail polish for horses that can make the overall impression look more harmonious.



## *to braid*

To create a hair style with the horse's mane that is typical for the hunt seat classes. Some might know a similar version from the Dressage shows. ► to band



## *broke*

This refers to whether a horse has reached a certain level of its training. Of course, it is always subjective to what people call “broke”, but usually it is if the horse has learned to move its feet correctly, respond to the cues of hand and leg and is well in the bridle. Some people call a horse broke if it knows how to perform well in the classes it is supposed to show in. The opposite of a broke horse would be a ► green horse, i.e. a horse that has only been started. To explain that a horse is somewhere in between, people sometimes use the term “green broke”, i.e. the horse knows the basics, but isn't able to perform on a high level yet.

# C

## *to canter*

When asked for a canter in a hunt seat class, riders should bring their horses to a more forward, freely moving gallop. In a Western Pleasure class, judges would ask for a ► lope.

## *to clip*

If someone talks about clipping, they usually mean that they are shortening the horse's hair around the ears, the coronet band and under the (lower) jaw. Some people – especially in the US – also trim the horse's whiskers. Please note that this is not allowed in Germany and some other European countries due to animal welfare.

# E

## *EM*

Short for Equipment Manager. A poor creature that has to help the rider get ready and manage everything else. Without those people, most superstar riders would be nothing.

# F

## *Figure Eight*

This refers to a part of a Reining pattern, namely the one where rider and horse have to perform lead changes after riding a circle and continue to perform a circle on the other hand. This manoeuvre looks like an eight, hence the name.

# G

## *green*

Calling a horse green refers to a horse that has only been started in training. It does not necessarily depend on the horse's age, it is a term that you can use to any horse that has just been started. There are classes such as AQHA L1 Trail – formerly called Green Trail, APHA still does that – that are specifically designed for those horses.

## *grooming bag*

A grooming bag is a little bag that contains all the things you need to give your horse a final touch-up right before the class, especially before Halter and Showmanship at Halter. To look up what you might want to pack into your grooming bag, check out our [TSL packing lists](#).

# J

## *Jog*

Jog is a gait in the Western Pleasure classes. It is a more cadenced version of a trot, while still maintaining the typical 2-beat-movement.

# L

## *Lope*

Contrary to the ► canter that is asked for in a hunt seat class, for Western Pleasure and the other all-round events, judges are looking for a more cadenced three-beat gallop called lope.

# M

## *Marker*

Usually, Reining riders are talking about a marker: This refers to the spots where you have to perform a certain manoeuvre in a ► pattern. Markers are usually cones that were either set on the ground on the side of the arena or a some point outside. In some arenas, dressage markers are used for Reining classes as well. In all-round classes, the marker is usually a cone that is on the ground. Sometimes, flower pots or anything more decorative is used.

# P

## *Paid Warm-Up*

At some shows, usually bigger ones, show management offers so-called paid warm-ups: This means that you can ride the course or ► pattern with your horse without being judged.

Usually the PWU – short for paid warm-up – takes place on the first days of the show or a few days prior. Sometimes, show management offers PWUs in the evening of the show days.

You can around 15 minutes to ride the course, but usually you have to share the time with a few other riders – ideally that’s your trainer. You can ► school your horse or just ride the course in order to remember it more easily. Show clothing is not mandatory.

## *Pattern*

This refers to the task you have to perform in classes such as Trail, Western Riding, Western Horsemanship, Showmanship, Hunt Seat Equitation, Hunter Hack, Ranch Riding and Reining – to name a few.

## *Pattern Book*

Since horse and riders usually have to perform different pattern at different shows, show management usually gives out a little booklet in which all the pattern are printed or – in case you are showing in Reining, Western Riding or sometimes Ranch Riding – the number of the respective pattern from the rule book is listed.



## *Out of pattern*

This is what happens if you go the wrong way in a pattern, leave out an element or add an element that wasn’t asked. It means that you are disqualified, but don’t worry: It happens to everybody. In order to remember pattern more easily, we have listed some strategies that might help.

## *Penalties*

In most classes, there is a set ► score of 70, this is the average, i.e. if you do each obstacle or manoeuvre correctly. If you do especially well on manoeuvres, you can get bonus points. If you

don't do it correctly, you might get minus points, so-called penalties. Read your rule book carefully in order to know how many penalties you might get per fault.

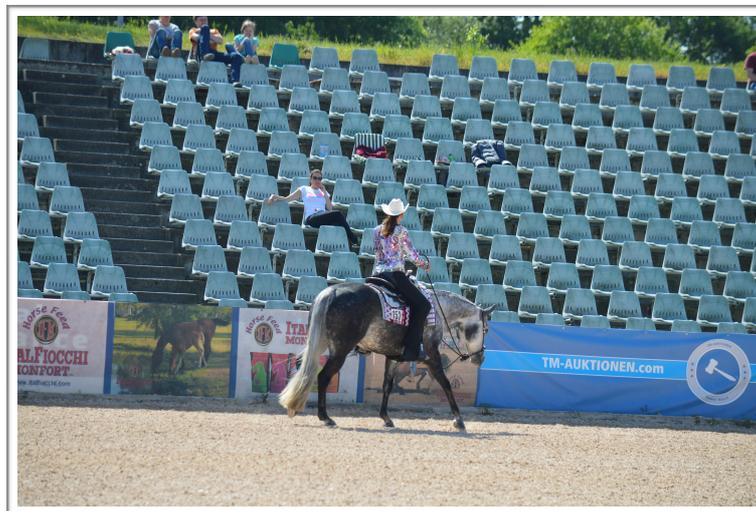
## *Piranha*

If people say that at a horse show, they are not referring to the fish, but to a brand of fly spray. Some people actually use the term piranha for any brand of fly spray, just like some people say Kleenex instead of tissue.

# R

## *Rail*

“On the rail...” – this is a phrase you might hear at the beginning of a Western Pleasure or Hunter under saddle class. It simply means that the exhibitors have to stay next to the rail, i.e. do not cross through the middle or anything the like. You can pass another horse, of course. Hunter under saddle and Western Pleasure are referred to as “rail classes” mainly, because you stay on the rail throughout the whole class.



## *Ringsteward*

A ringsteward is someone who helps the judge note down the score. Sometimes, they also show people where to go or represent the judge in the set-up of a Showmanship class. Each judge has its own ringsteward.

# S

## *schooling*

Sometimes, trainers go out of pattern in a class or repeat something in order to school the horse. Basically, it happens if a horse tends to show a certain behavior only when being shown. That way, the trainer wants to correct the horse. Example: If a horse continuously tends to change leads by itself in a Western Riding class, a trainer might do a part of the pattern at a counter canter in order to show the horse that it has to follow the trainer's instructions. Schooling will always get people disqualified, but if someone schools excessively, i.e. whipping or kicking the horse, it might have other consequences as well – depending on the rule book and the country's rules for animal welfare.

## *Score*

Whenever you show in a ► pattern class, the average score is 70. You can add bonus points by performing extremely well on certain manoeuvres or receive ► penalties for faults. In the end of the class, you will receive a personal score depending on how many bonus points or penalties you have collected.

## *Senior*

This is a term that confuses newcomers a lot. You might think it would refer to elderly horses, but it doesn't. Senior horses are those that have reached a certain age – usually six years old – in order to perform in a Senior class. Horses that show in Junior classes are 3-, 4- and 5-year-olds – at least in Europe. In the States, 2YOs can perform in the Junior classes well.

## *To shape*

Usually, cowboy hats have a unique form. In order to achieve that result, however, someone has to shape the hat. As those hats are natural products made out of beaver hair, they tend to wear out. That is why you should get your hat shaped on a regular basis. People can also determine how they want their hat to be shaped, since there are different styles. BTW: Many judges say that a nicely shaped, clean hat is a must-have at a show and that they would rather pay attention to this than to a sparkly outfit.



A nicely shaped hat is a crucial part of every outfit. Picture: Ekedie Showclothing

## *Show Sheen*

It is the same thing as with ► Piranha. Show sheen has become a synonym for any sort of spray that makes the horse's coat more shiny. There is an original show sheen by the brand Absorbine, but basically people tend to call anything Show sheen as long as it adds to that final touch-up.

## *Sliders*

This refers to the special shoes Reining horses wear, so that they can perform sliding stops more easily. People just usually call those shoes "sliders".

## *Spur Stop*

People who ride Reining or Ranch Riding are usually a little confused when hearing this, because they tend to move their legs off the horse's body in order to make them stop, while all-around riders add a little more pressure with their legs to the horse's body in order to make

them stop. You will especially see this in Western Horsemanship: The so-called spur stop adds to the fact that rider doesn't have to move much, which makes the overall impression of horse and rider more neat.

# T

## *Tack box/room*

At bigger shows, most people will use an empty stall or a room as their tack room where they store all the tack, outfits and maybe some snacks and drinks.

## *Tail Extension*

Your horse is wearing a toupee? Yes, in the all-round events, people usually put a fake tail or tail extension into their horses' natural tail. Those tail extensions add to the fact that the horse's tail looks more even and hence the whole impression is more neat and pretty to look at. You can get those fake tails in many different colors as they are made of natural horse hair. Putting a fake tail in is a crucial task: If you don't do it correctly, the horse might lose it in the class and hurt itself.



## *Trot*

Contrary to the ► jog that is asked for in Western Pleasure, a trot is a more forward motion, free flowing motion where the horse has to show long strides. You will get ask to show at a trot in any hunt seat class.

# W

## *Walk*

Show at a walk! This command is the same in the ► rail classes whether it is Western Pleasure or Hunter under Saddle.