



Baileys Horse Feeds/BEF Futurity 2010

Factsheet 7

How to present your horse

Please see Factsheet 3 for what to wear for you, your assistant and your horse.

Evaluators will follow the guidelines in this Factsheet when assessing horses so that they are asking to see what the handler has prepared their horse to do. There will be a panel of up to four evaluators at any venue, one of whom may be an apprentice who will be part of our evaluator training process.

Entering the arena

The horse is walked energetically on a straight line. The handler walks at the horse's left shoulder carrying the rein(s) in the right hand and whip in the left hand if required. The handler's assistant should be a short way behind, encouraging the horse forward. In the case of foals, one handler each for mare and for foal, will be needed.

Presentation for assessment of overall conformation and structure

The horse is walked to the evaluators at the point of the (approx) 20m x 20m x 20m triangle where the evaluators will check your name and number and ask you to walk on the triangle.

Presentation at walk

When the evaluators say, the handler moves back to the left shoulder and the horse is walked off using the triangle as a guideline. There is no need to stop and turn at each angle of the triangle, the idea is to maintain rhythm and forward motions so use the triangle as a guide only and go wide enabling your horse's pace to be fluid and rhythmical. Your assistant may walk slightly behind your horse, with a whip if required, to encourage your horse to move forward but must not block the line of sight of the evaluators. Please walk foals to the inside or behind the dam.

Presentation at trot

When presenting the horse at trot the handler should gather the rein(s) into the right hand so that they can run freely with the horse just on a contact but without hanging on to the reins, as this will bend the horse to the outside, shorten its stride and disturb its natural movement. The handler should run in line with the horse's shoulder, concentrating solely on the horse. The horse should move freely and energetically into the bridle, and willingly obey the voice aid. Again, just use the triangle as a guide and ensure that your horse moves forward and shows itself to the best of its ability. Use your assistant if you need to, to encourage the horse forward. If you cannot run to match your horse's ability, you can ask someone else to trot your horse for you.

In the case of foals they will be loose at this point to follow their dams who will be led as above.

Why not practice this at home and have someone video you? Then you can have a discussion session to see what you need to do to improve your horse's presentation. Be self critical, watch others present horses in hand on YouTube www.youtube.com and BEF Futurity which is available to view from a link on the Futurity homepage at www.nedonline.co.uk. There is also a short lesson on <http://www.horsehero.com/buying-and-breeding/28273/4610>. Please focus on the degree of athleticism shown by a horse which is run out well and that of a horse which is restricted by its handler. Make sure the latter is not you!

Conformation assessment

Because the horses will stand still more easily after walking and trotting we have moved the assessment for conformation to here. After halting, the handler stands in front of the horse with a rein in each hand if in a snaffle bridle and the reins should be held about 20 cm from the rings of the bit and the ends should be gathered up neatly. In the case of a single rein, it should be held so that the horse stands still. The horse should be presented to the evaluators with the left fore slightly in front and the left hind slightly behind. The body weight should be evenly placed. The head is held in a natural position and the handler's attention should be solely on the horse, seeking to keep the horse standing still for fair evaluation. Please practice this at home. All horses will stand still if taught. In the case of foals, they should stand still next to their dams.

If the evaluators move to examine the horse from in front, the handler should move to the side so that the front legs can be seen. The evaluators may ask for the horse to step forward or back up one step so that it is standing completely square. Evaluators may ask you to turn the horse around to see the other side. Please practice at home.

Loose assessment

The evaluators will let you know when they would like you to turn your horse loose and what they would like to see in horses of each age group. They would like to see some trot and canter, as well as gallop in eventers. In the case of foals, this may involve catching the foal, trotting the dam away and

then releasing the foal to follow its dam so that its movement can be fully assessed.

Loose jumping

Three year old show jumpers and eventers will also be loose jumped down a lane of three fences as will sports ponies destined for a showjumping or eventing career. During this stage they may wear **front boots only**, so please bring them with you into the arena but do not put them on until the loose jumping phase. Horses must have been prepared for this phase. Please enlist the help of a knowledgeable person to help you introduce your horse to a jumping lane. Please use the information in Factsheet 3 to prepare.

Please remember:

- boots are allowed on forelimbs **but not on hindlimbs**
- both you and your helper must wear helmets of BSEN 1384, EN 1384, PAS 015 or ASTM F1163 standard for loose jumping.
- Three year old mares with foals at foot may not loose jump.
- Factsheet 3 must be read in conjunction with Factsheet 7 and should answer any remaining questions.

FURTHER INFORMATION

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