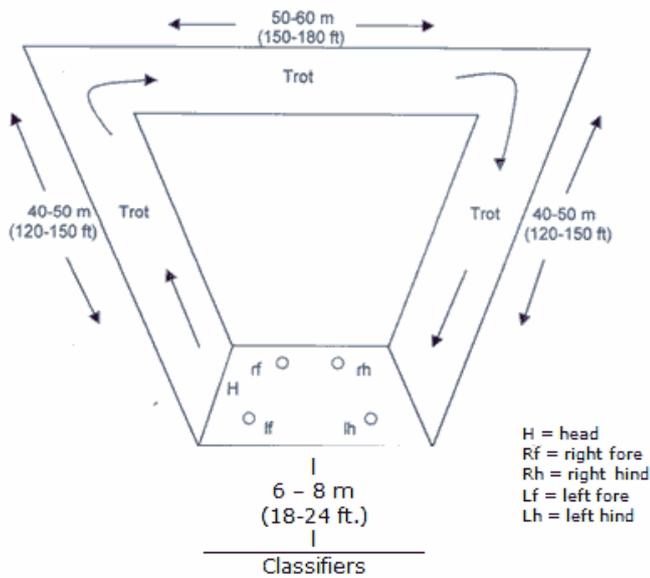




Annual National Tour

Mare Classification – *How to present your mare*



To ensure your mare has the best opportunity to score well during her inspection, there are certain steps you can take that will be to her advantage.

Step One - It is necessary that the mare be trained in presentation and handling in the walk and trot. Regular riding and/or lunging (if not currently under saddle) for the weeks leading up to the classification day will be an advantage in presenting the mare fit, well and in good condition. Ensure your mare is well groomed with a shiny coat, clean hooves and preferably plaited.

Step Two - The Mare Classification always takes place on a triangular course. The first step is the individual inspection. You place the mare at a distance of about 4–5 metres in front of the classifiers, in the so-called open position (see image above). At this time, the Classifiers give the individual marks for conformation.

Step Three - You are then asked to trot one lap with the mare. The Classifiers remain in the same place and, because of the triangular nature of the course, they are able to inspect the mare first from behind (moving away from them), then from the side, and finally from the front (moving towards them). For this to work, however, it is necessary to follow exactly the triangular form of the course. At the trot, the mare should be given the chance to move as freely as possible. This requires that the exhibitor should be someone who is athletic enough themselves to give the mare the best opportunity.

Step Four - After the trotting lap, the mare is turned once again and presented to the Classifiers standing with the right side facing them. At some point, the Classifiers will want to assess the correctness of the gait at the walk and will ask that the mare be led directly away from them and then directly back towards them, usually on a path that bisects the triangle. The mare must be allowed to move as freely as possible whilst being in-hand. A number of mares may then be presented walking in a large circle to evaluate the ground covering quality, rhythm and swing of the group at the walk.