



SHOWING TIPS Show Preparation

Preparation at Home -

Preparing your horse for showing is a fun job, but it is time consuming and requires a large amount elbow grease! That said a few moments each day to keep on top of grooming and trimming, plus with a little help from www.smartgrooming.co.uk you can achieve an immaculate appearance.

Let's look at the jobs on the lists:

At Home:

- Clipping and trimming
- Pulling manes and tails
- Bathing and stain removal

Show Day:

- Plaiting
- Whitening
- Shine and Polish
- Quarter Marks
- Touch ups
- Minimal make-up

A smartly prepared show horse



At Home

Clipping and trimming ready for the show -

Clipping is more of a winter job when you would consider doing a full clip to continue showing. For this we will focus on showing in the much warmer summer months. Grooming every day will help achieve tone and a super shiny coat, trimming where appropriate will smarten that dazzling look. Areas to trim are -

- Fetlocks
- Stray hairs at the back of knees
- Bridle paths
- Ears
- Beards / Moustaches
- Whiskers – although correct this is subject to your opinion and welfare of your horse/pony.

The Showing REGISTER

Making Showing Affordable & Fun!



Different types of Trimming –

Show cob you will want to hog the mane, and to give the appearance of a pulled tail and take off all the feathers.

If clipping, hogging or trimming do this one to two weeks before the show. Then if a mistake happens it has time to grow. You can always do last minute stray hairs the day before.



Mountain & Moorland Breeds –

Manes, tails and feathers may be pulled/trimmed in some breeds, according to the breed society's specifications. Check each society's rule book before commencing any trimming.

Manes and tails -



Manes - If your showing class requires your horse to be plaited, i.e. Riding Horse, Show pony, then you will need to have a short and tidy mane that is one length.

Pulling a little each day after riding when the pores are open will help and help you keep on top of it. The Smart Mane is great for horses that do not like their mane pulled.

Visit www.smartgrooming.co.uk/blog for great tips.

Tails – a pulled, or plaited tail will look smart. If you do not want to 'pull' the tail, then using Smart Tails will create the same look and give the illusion of a shapelier and more muscular bottom. When trimming the bottom keep the tail level with the hocks.



Bathing & Stain Removal

Bathing your horse or pony before a show is important to achieve a shiny, polished look.

- A hose pipe is great for an all over soak, but always use hot water to lift dirt and get a 'deep clean'
- Use an enhancing colour shampoo such as [Smart Grooming Lavender Shampoo](#).
- Hard to shift stains and white areas may need something stronger or a few washes to sparkle. Try [Smart Grooming Deep Purple Shampoo](#).

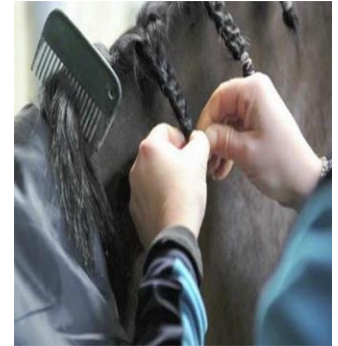


Show Day

Plaiting –

The day before or the morning of the show you will need to plait your horse/ pony if required. Plaiting is a skill most people need to practice to achieve perfection!

1. Have everything to hand – steps, plaiting bands, sewing thread and needles (more than one needle in case of loss/breaks), water and mane brush or plaiting spray (your preference)
2. Section the mane evenly using plaiting bands to give you equal size plaits.
3. Ready to start plaiting – everyone develops their own way, some people plait first, secure with bands then roll up and sew in, others one at a time. You will have your own way too.
4. Remove plaits with a thread picker or scissors.



*****EXTRA TIP*****

More plaits can make a short neck look longer. A weak neck can be enhanced by sitting the plaits higher for the appearance of more crest

Whitening -

This can be a never-ending task if you have a coloured or grey horse/ pony. Fortunately, in addition to the chalk block there are now products galore to help you maintain an immaculate equine. Watch the blog at www.smartgrooming.co.uk for useful tips on how to apply whitening powder.

*****EXTRA TIP*****

Use glove to apply any whitening products.

It is advisable to change into your showing wear after you have touched up.

Shine & Polish –

An amazing shiny coat certainly catches the eye. There are several sprays and serums available to use on the horse's coat for a professional finishing touch. No matter which spray you use you will find it useful as a grooming aid. It should:

- Provide a high gloss finish,
- Enhance muscle definition,
- Help to control mane and tails,
- Aid setting quarter marks,
- Help maintain coat condition.



The Showing REGISTER

Making Showing Affordable & Fun!



Quarter Marks –

Quarter marks are another great way to show off your horse's hindquarters. There are specific patterns you would use for a show horse / hack or hunter class, so ensure you pick the right one for your showing class.

- ❖ A check pattern is used for show ponies, show horse or hack.
- ❖ Blocks and sharks' teeth are used for a cob or hunter type.
- ❖ You will need – a comb, body brush with reasonably stiff bristles and water.



*****Mountain & Moorland ponies do not have quarter marks*****

Minimal make-up -

Many judges will discourage the use of excessive make-up. Whilst it is useful to cover blemishes and white hairs use any make-up sparingly:

- Use an enhancing gloss to define areas.
- Spray cover any blemishes or to make white socks stand out.
- Hoof oil is a must to add that final finishing touch!



Last minute touch ups -

Be ready for any last-minute touch-ups. A quick polish here or a wipe there. Carrying a small basket of handy items and grooming equipment easily transports this to the ring. A few suggestions are:

- Cloths and grooming mitt,
- Several sponges – one wet to wipe of salvia, etc.
- Baby wipes
- Selected sprays – such a coat gloss and a last-minute whitener
- Hoof oil



The finished product!



If you have any questions, please contact us
Email: info@theshowingregister.co.uk. Telephone: 0844 8707392
Facebook www.facebook.com/TheShowingRegister