

# INTRODUCTION TO CONNECTICUT 4-H MODEL HORSE SHOWS



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## WHAT IS A MODEL HORSE SHOW?

A Model Horse Show is a great way for 4-Her's of all ages to take part in a "horse/pony" project even if you don't have a live horse to show. It is a great way to participate, learn, and have fun exploring horse safety and horse shows! It allows you to demonstrate your equine knowledge and skill as you make your display as realistic as you can.

The model horse show class captures a moment in the life of a real or imaginary horse. Model horses, such as a Breyer, Peter Stone or Hartland, are displayed in classes, such as fitting and showmanship, pleasure, trail or even barn settings. Tack and other accessories are included to create a realistic image of the class. A description of the display is written on a 3" x 5" card.

Emphasis should be that the 4-H'er does their own work, just like in a real horse show, including their own writing/explanations. Expensive store bought items for the model horse are not necessary to participate and will not be judged with higher scores. In fact, 4-Her's are encouraged to hand make lots of their own things!! Size and type of the model horse/pony does not matter as long as the class is to scale.

## HOW DOES IT WORK?

Exhibitors must pre-register for the classes they want to enter. They are given an exhibitor number on the day of the show. This number is to be included with your 3"x 5" description card to identify your entry or entries. Prior to judging, exhibitors place their display on the table marked for their class. The classes are set up all day for exhibition. You may enter as many classes as you would like. You may also enter more than one display in a particular class. Since the classes are set up all day, horses and props cannot be used for additional classes. If you are doing more than one class, you will need enough horses and accessories for each class. The classes will be judged, and you can pick up your display at the end of the exhibition.

## WHAT IS THE JUDGE LOOKING FOR?

Each judge has his or her own personal preferences, but in general, model horse show judges look for the same things as they would in a live horse show class. For example, a western fitting & showmanship horse would be shown with a halter whereas an english horse would be shown with a bridle. A written description on a 3" x 5" card must be included and should tell the judge what he or she is seeing in your class. Entries will be divided by explorer, junior and senior levels.

- **Condition of your horse is important.** Model horses should be presented as clean and neat. A scratch can be acknowledged as a blemish or unsoundness in your write-up.
- **Choose Model Horses in Suitable Poses or Gaits.** The first criteria are to match the horse model to the class you are entering. Walking, trotting, cantering poses, even standing models offer performance options because you can explain what the horse is doing in the write-up.
- **Check How the Tack Fits the Model Horse.** Judges will take points away for loose girths, saddles that don't fit, or bridles hanging limply from the horse's head.
- **Position the Rider or Handler Doll Carefully.** Most performance classes can omit the doll, so if you do choose to use a rider doll, the doll must be properly attired for the class, and positioned well too.
- **Choose Accessories, Props and Jumps for Model Horses Carefully.** Accessories should be proportional to the display. Keep it simple and natural. Accessories do not have to be store bought. Hand-made accessories are encouraged. Model putty can be used to help position horses and accessories.

## RULES – Example

- The show is open to all registered 4-Hers. Contestants do not need to have a horse project to enter.
- The New England 4-H rule book may be used as a resource.
- Set up is just prior to the show. Classes must be set up by the 4-Her, not parents or leaders. Older 4-H members may assist younger 4-Hers if help is needed.
- No one may touch anyone else's models at any time after set-up.

- Pre-registration is required to plan for table spacing, ribbons, etc.
- Set-up time will be prior to judging on the day of the show. Displays may be picked up after all classes have been judged and ribbons have been awarded.
- Exhibitor number will be handed out at registration and should be put with your display.
- Explorer (5 & 6 years old) aged entries will receive feedback and a participation ribbon. Junior and Senior entries will be judged and receive Danish ribbons.
- Classes will be judged on age, realism, relevance to the class, scale, correct fitting tack for discipline, detail, neatness and workmanship as well as condition of the model.
- Exhibitor does not need to be present during judging.
- Displays should be no larger than 18" x 24" – a separate display is required for each class entered. The whole display should be to scale.
- Displays must include a description of the class written on a 3" x 5" index card. On the back of the card, please include name and age of exhibitor, 4-H level, and name of class entered.
- Riders are optional – points will not be taken off for lack of rider figures - figures if used, should be appropriate size.
- When the term "horse" is used, this refers to any equine species.
- Store bought items are not necessary, items created by 4-Her's welcome!

### **MODEL HORSE SHOW CLASS LIST – EXAMPLE**

Classes should follow the same rules and judging criteria as a live horse show.

- **4-H Fitting & Showmanship** – Horse should have a halter/lead or bridle to reflect show discipline. Rider (if used) should be properly attired for the discipline. Accessories may be used to show a pattern.
- **Around the Barn** - Does not have to include a barn but does have to include a horse. Display might include a paddock, arena, grooming, or tack area or anything else found around a barn. Accessories should be appropriate for what is being shown.
- **Western Pleasure Class** - Judged like a real pleasure class –include description such as tracking left or right, which gait, show less contact, etc.

- **English Pleasure Class** - Judged like a real pleasure class –include description such as tracking left or right, which gait, show less contact, etc.
- **Trail Class with 1 Obstacle** -Include description of what horse is doing at the obstacle, and name of obstacle
- **Hunter/Jumper** - Must include a jump & written name of jump and description of what the horse is doing
- **Famous Horse** - Include explanation of why this horse is famous
- **Schooling/Lesson Time** - Include description of what is being displayed
- **Costume** - Include description of costume/theme – higher points may be awarded for home-made costumes
- **Miscellaneous** -Any horse show class that is not mentioned above. Examples: lunging, driving, dressage, reining, gymkhana, breed, minis. Include name and description of class and what horse is doing.

**For more information, you may contact:**

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**NEW IN 2017**

**CONNECTICUT 4-H STATE MODEL HORSE SHOW**

**Saturday, July 15, 2017**

**Tolland Agricultural Center**

24 Hyde Avenue  
Vernon, CT 06066