



PARENT GUIDE FOR HORSE SHOWS

Before your first show:

- Make sure your rider is signed up for all the required memberships.
 - United States Equestrian Federation usef.org
 - Pacific Coast Horse Shows Association PCHA www.pchorseshows.org
 - California Professional Horseman's Association CPHA cpha.org
 - Northern California Hunter Jumper Association NorCal
www.norcalhunterjumpers.com
- If you own your own horse, the horse should also be registered with USEF, PCHA and NorCal (check with Jan if all apply to your horse)

Clothing:

- The staff at Carousel Saddlery in Portola Valley is very experienced in outfitting riders for shows on all kinds of budgets
- For 12 & older:
 - Tall boots
 - Ariat offers an affordable option in addition to the top of the line “Monaco”
 - [Parlanti](#) makes very high quality tall boots that will last a lifetime. You can purchase or custom order at Carousel Saddlery.
 - Tan knee-patch Breeches with side zip (Not Full Seat!)
 - Best (and most expensive): [Pikeur](#)
 - Mid-high price: [Tailored Sportsman](#)
 - Mid price (best value): [Ariat](#)
 - White show shirt (Essex is a popular brand) and navy blue jacket (RJ Classics is a popular brand)
 - Additional colors allowed for hunters and jumpers but best to begin with white and navy (the most traditional)
 - Helmet
 - GPA and Charles Owen are the two best brands
- For 11 & younger:
 - Paddock boots
 - Jodhpurs

- [Tailored Sportsman](#)
- Jodhpur garter straps
- White show shirt and navy blue jacket
 - Additional colors allowed for hunters and jumpers
- Helmet
 - GPA and Charles Owen are the two best brands
- Local sources are Carousel Saddlery (Portola Valley). Blue Horse Saddlery (Los Altos), and (Redwood City)
- Online sources: Dover Saddlery, Beval Saddlery, State Line Tack, Smart Pak.

Tack Trunk:

- Pack the tack trunk (with the help of grooms) before the horses go to the show
 - Saddle, bridle, boots
- Use the trunk throughout the show to store your crop, helmet, spurs, etc.
- If you do not yet own your own trunk, talk to Jan ahead of packing to see which trunks are available to use on loan

At the show:

- Expect to ride at the show on Thursday afternoon
 - Schedule with Jan ahead to secure a schooling time with her
- Ask Jan when you need to be there for your classes
 - Sometimes it's important to be there much earlier than the class time in order to school the horse.
 - Jan likes to communicate via text, so most of us find it helpful to text her to ask this. Texting is very helpful at a horseshow.
- Your child never goes into the ring without a trainer. The people at the gate (the entrance to each ring) will know this. Just tell them that your trainer is busy in another ring, if necessary.
- Usually, the riders and horses are warmed up in a practice ring near the show ring. Your child will need to "learn the course" before showing.
- If your child is in a more advanced "medal" class, she will "walk the course" with a trainer before the class starts.
- Make sure your child drinks enough fluids (there is usually water available near each ring) and eats something throughout the day. All the shows have food; some is better than others. Most are overpriced (for how it tastes).
- Try to keep the sitting area at the JP Training show tidy. Usually the areas are being judged.
- The numbers are assigned to the horse, not the rider. So it's important to keep the numbers with the horse (translation: always give it to the grooms before walking off site)
- If Jan tells you to add/scratch out of a class, fill out an add/scratch slip ahead of the start of the class to avoid being charged for the class (a scratch fee may apply).

Costs & Paying:

- Most horse shows ask for an "open check", an unfilled in check that you sign, at the beginning of the show (usually hand it to the horse show office on the Thursday, before/after you school your horse).
- On the last day of the show (after your very last class), "close out" the check in the office. Know the number of your horse(s) to speed up the process. And look over the print out -- mistakes are known to happen.
- Credit cards are usually accepted although often with a surcharge.
- Expect to pay plus or minus \$1000 at the office, depending on how many classes you have to pay for.
- Bring a checkbook to pay the braider.
 - The braider puts up a list of everyone's amount owed on Saturday, posted in the changing room. You need to put a **check for the braids into the envelope by Saturday evening.**
 - Braiding is required for hunters and equitation and for medal classes. Expect to pay \$100-\$300 for the entire show.
- Bring cash on Sunday (or last day of showing) for the groom's tip. At our barn, most people tip \$25 per day per horse or \$100 per show. You might add more if your horse took some special care. Give it to the head groom who will distribute it.
- After the show, you will receive a bill from Jan with charges for hauling, grooming, show training, etc. Please see our [price list](#) for more information on costs.

Photography:

- There is always a professional photographer on site. The photographer tries to capture all riders but will keep more of an eye out for you if you sign up with your show number at the booth.

Essentials:

- Sunscreen, a hat, reading material
- Water and snacks
- Emergency kit with shout wipes, hair ties, hair nets
- Cookies, carrots, apples for the horses
- Checkbook

Books:

- [*The Horse Show Mom's Survival Guide*](#) by Susan Daniels
- Jan recommends [*The Complete Guide to Hunter Seat Training, Showing, and Judging*](#) by Anna Jane White-Mullin