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## In Hand Trail

Posted by markrm - 2006/04/30 22:59

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Watched the In Hand Trail class at QH2000 show at Grantham today. Thought it was a good idea to introduce young horses to showing - What does everyone else think?

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## Re: In Hand Trail

Posted by zenithqhorses - 2007/03/07 16:52

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What actually happens in this class? Im keen for my youngster to have a go this year. I think it's a really good idea of AQHA to introduce these classes as they are good fo rthe youngsters education and it gives people who dont want to ride something intersting to participate in.

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## Re: In Hand Trail

Posted by markrm - 2007/03/07 22:34

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Hi ZenithQH - found this article which explains what it's all about (in the US at least):

[http://horsecity.com/stories/040903/tra\\_inhand\\_BB.shtml](http://horsecity.com/stories/040903/tra_inhand_BB.shtml)

Not sure what classes if any are planned for in hand trail at shows here this year - can anyone out there organising shows post any information?

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## Re: In Hand Trail

Posted by zenithqhorses - 2007/03/30 22:39

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Thanks Markrm. I think we might have a go of that later this year when she loses her very woolly coat :)

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## Re: In Hand Trail

Posted by Shiny Mole - 2007/07/16 23:45

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There is, but the looks of it a "Handy/Trail Halter class for Yearlings and 2 year olds at the AQHA breed show at the end of September. I have emailed AQHAUK to ask if there is a pattern for it so if they reply I will post the info.

I would like to enter my two year old for it, as you say, it sounds like a good intro to showing..

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## Re: In Hand Trail

Posted by Shiny Mole - 2007/08/01 19:23

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Hello,  
Tracy at AQHA has kindly emailed me back so I am posting the info as promised.  
The Handy/Trail Halter 2 year old or yearling class at the Breed show in September is likely to be things like walking over a wooden bridge, backing up, poles to negotiate and maybe a gate to open and close. The pattern will be published in the show programme, which you can get once the show opens.  
Good luck to everyone, hoping to meet you there!  
Rachel

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## Re: In Hand Trail

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Posted by Belle - 2007/08/02 01:11

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There was in hand trail at this year's QH2000 spring show and there was actually quite a bit to it. They can pretty much give any of the normal trail obstacles. Usually it's pretty basic but the one at spring show included a 360 box and side passing a pole which threw a lot of us!! Just a heads up really if you're planning on entering so you can practise everything before hand!

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## Re: In Hand Trail

Posted by Shiny Mole - 2007/08/02 21:13

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oh blimey now I am worried - what is a side passing pole?!!!!

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## Re: In Hand Trail

Posted by Belle - 2007/08/02 23:38

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Don't panic!!!

Side pass is moving side ways without any forward movement (apologies if I'm telling you something you already know!). As with ridden trail there is a pole on the ground, horse's front feet on one side and back feet on the other, horse has to move along it - preferably without touching the pole! If you watch any normal, ridden trail class it will undoubtedly have a side pass obstacle in it. In general it's not the hardest manouver just that with in hand trail you are not supposed to actually touch the horse so you need to cue it from the halter.

Anyways I really didn't mean to scare anyone - all of the other in hand trail classes I've seen have been pretty basic, ie, a bridge, a gate, some walk or jog over poles, a straight backup maybe between 2 wide set poles and that's about it. It was just the class at spring show that was a touch more stretching - still more than do-able but maybe not without a bit of prior practise / training before hand!!!

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## Re: In Hand Trail

Posted by Shiny Mole - 2007/08/03 13:33

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Well that sounds do-able!

Brace yourself baby horse we are gonna be getting the poles out tonight!! He he!

Thank you very much for explaining what it is - I would have been really worried if it had come up and I hadnt even known what it meant!!

Do you know if it is ok to leave my youngsters mane long for the halter classes?

It can be awkward but with some brushing and a bit of hair gel it will all go one side and stay put, and its very pretty.. I was told I could band it for the halter classes, but that would mean cutting about 30 cms of mane off and I dont know if I can do it!!

I love arabian running plaits and can do them well, but I cant do that for western so I am in two minds..

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## Re: In Hand Trail

Posted by Belle - 2007/08/03 15:57

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In theory there is nothing in the rules to stop you doing any of those options (ie banding / loose mane/ or even running plait) although with western halter classes the usual option is the banding - and it looks nice and smart. The theory behind why any of the western show horses have their manes banded and short is to show off a nice flat neck and lack of 'bounce' in classes such as the Pleasure / Horsemanship / Trail etc. I don't know what classes you may have

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watched but you'll notice that in the reining classes the horses aren't banded and often have long loose manes. So with this in mind if you watch a halter class that contains maybe a reining bred type horse with a lovely long mane it is acceptable that it is left loose. So in answer to your question I believe that either option is 'acceptable'. But think about whether you are entering to give your horse some ring experience or to seriously compete to win. As with all showing it's down to a judge's preferences but standard of turnout would play a part on what's more pleasing to the judge's eye especially in a tight class.  
Shall I stop waffling at this point?!?!?!?

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## Re: In Hand Trail

Posted by Shiny Mole - 2007/08/03 17:21

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I am sure you aren't waffling - it sounds like it is a wafflesome subject and I did ask!!

It would be nice to show off his neck, but on the other hand he is from a reining stallion and that's what I would like to do with him eventually...

I guess if I cut it now it has a few years to grow back before I start ridden competition with him!!

I am having trouble find some decent images of banded manes - have tried google image and some western sites - any ideas where I can get a good look at a range of banded manes? I am not sure how to do it or how it's supposed to look!

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## Re: In Hand Trail

Posted by amanda - 2007/08/04 09:31

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hi shiny mole - re banded manes, at a lot of the AQHA shows you will find youth riders offering banding services, they'll do it the night before your class and just pop a hood on overnight. It takes a bit of practice but once you've done it a few times you can get that nice flat look. Baileyboots (on this forum) used to do ours as I was so rubbish at it, but eventually managed to get almost as good as she is!!

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## Re: In Hand Trail

Posted by Shiny Mole - 2007/08/04 10:17

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The trouble is I am going up for the day on the Saturday as it's only an hour or so for me, so I don't know if I will have time to have it done before my classes..

That's something to bear in mind though - thanks for the info!

My husband just said "You on that horsey forum again?"

And I didn't reply

and then he said "is it because western horsey people are nicer than ordinary people?"

And I said "Yep!!!!"

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## Re: In Hand Trail

Posted by Gem - 2007/08/28 15:30

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We do it at the ApHC national show for under threes I think it is, I think it's a really good class I've done it with my youngster every year she has gone and has come second twice, she enjoys doing it gives her something to focus on and teaches her to be a little more careful and focused

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## Re: In Hand Trail

Posted by Shiny Mole - 2007/08/30 16:46

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Well if you are planning to come to the AQHA show on the 29th Sept come and say hello! My youngster is a sorrel with four white socks, a white blaze, and a roan blanket over his back and quarters - so you cant miss us!!

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