

BASIC SKILLS IN HAND CHALLENGE



Horse must be over 18 months.

Basic Skills demonstrates that the horse has been handled from both sides, and is respectful of the handler and is respectful of the handler's space. Any practice deemed unsafe or dangerous or abusive for either horse or handler/rider will result in disqualification. A horse that does not respect the handler's space will be disqualified.

In all tasks, perfection is not the goal. Safety for both horse and handler, respect and willingness are what is being judged. It is expected that some new circumstances may cause a horse to stop or refuse. It is not the stopping that matters, but how the situation is handled by horse or handler.

It is not the intent that the horse not react normally in some situations. It is to be expected that a horse will react to some stimuli, but the horse should also calm down and work through the situation.

TASK	Comments/ Clarification / what will be evaluated
Catch the horse <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stall • Paddock or Field 	
Halter the horse	Acceptance of restraint
Tie the Horse <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stands for 2 minutes • Handler asks the horse to move in both directions 	The horse stands quietly as it is being groomed. This does not imply the horse may not shift weight etc. No excessive pushing to move over.
Groom the horse demonstrating you can: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Touch the head and body everywhere including ears, under tail and udder or sheath • Lift all feet while horse is either tied or free standing • Wash the face (no soap required) 	Acceptance of touch on all parts of body. Horse gives foot easily and will hold up for 10 seconds.
Lead the horse with <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Horse Beside handler • Horse Behind handler • From the Off Side 	Judge will be looking for ease of following in all three cases. Any horse that does not respect handler's space will be disqualified.
Tasks while being led to simulate an obstacle course including the following in no particular order: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through an open gate • Through a closed gate – open and close • Up a slope • Down a slope • Through mud • Around mud • Through water • Around water • Around distractions • Around machinery or vehicles or bicycles (still, not running) • Noise distraction of some type • Around a minimum of at least one other animal (other horses, cattle, sheep, pigs, goats, cats, dogs, ducks, chickens etc.) • Over and around a safe piece of plywood or tarp • Over poles or logs with uneven spacing • Move 6 steps over to the left (light or no pressure) • Move 6 steps over to the right (light or no pressure) • Back a minimum of 6 steps 	(You may improvise for some elements. For example water could be running hose)
Doctoring <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hosing legs • Show Teeth 	Willing acceptance
Dressing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blanket (not necessarily a horse blanket) • Leg protection of some kind (Polo wraps, shipping boots splint boots, bell boots) • Fly mask, or slinky. 	Reaction to being handled Can improvise here and pull some fabric over the ears and down to the face.
Trailer Loading <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Going in • Coming off 	Pause OK. Limited refusal OK. Rearing, unreasonable time to load not OK Unload under control. Leap or panic not OK