



## Turnout Guide for Horse and Rider in Showing Classes

### **The Rider**

Remember this is a form of beauty contest for you and your horse so you need to look as good as the horse does! Showing attire takes its lead from the traditional hunting clothing that is conservative. If you are looking to purchase new, buy the best quality that you can afford. Cheap options do not always last. Second hand is always available on selling sites. You would be better to buy a well-made, second hand jacket than a cheap new one. These clothes can last a lifetime!

*TOP TIP: Make sure that your clothes fit as well as possible and above all that they are clean. Wear jogging bottoms over your breeches prior to mounting.*

Hat: Any well-fitting hat up to current safety standards is acceptable. However, a velvet hat in blue for ladies and black for gentlemen with a flesh coloured strap is best for the show ring.

Hair: Ladies. No bad hair day please. Hairnets that have tight elastic are required. The nicest are the small mesh ones. If your hair is long, secure into a bun first or make tidy by plaiting prior to putting on your hairnet. Brightly coloured scrunchies are not good. If you have to use one, try a blue velvet scrunchie.

Hair: Gentlemen. Short and tidy so a hairnet is not required!

*TOP TIP: Some safety harness' do not allow for a bun so please check in advance. If you wish to have a bun and your hair is short, make a false bun and attach it to your harness.*

Make up: Ladies you are not going to a nightclub! Subtle make up please! Gentlemen need not wear make up!

*TOP TIP: On a hot day a bit of powder will help stop a shiny face appearing. Gentlemen please beware of gel hair products as when you are hot, they trickle down from under your hat and into your eyes causing great discomfort!*

Gloves: Gloves where possible should always be worn. They should be plain brown and made of leather or have a leather look. Black or white gloves are incorrect etiquette!

Shirt: Plain shirt in either cream, lemon or blue. White is not technically correct. Try and match the colour to your jacket if you are wearing tweed. A small subtle stripe is allowed but no crazy patterns!

*TOP TIP: Always make sure that your collar fits neatly. If you have a small neck then either put a dart in the back of the collar or buy in the school boy's section at a department store.*

Tie: Your tie should have a small knot and the knot should sit up into the collar. Patterned ties are approved but be sensible! Stocks are not acceptable unless worn with a blue/black jacket in an evening performance.

*TOP TIP: Charity shops are the best place to look for ties.*

Waistcoat: If you have a cutaway coat, Ladies only, a waistcoat is necessary. If you do wish to wear a waistcoat a plain colour is sensible that matches your tie and jacket.

*TOP TIP: If you wish to wear a waistcoat through the summer months, false back ones can be purchased. Much cooler on a hot day!*

Jackets: Ladies should wear blue, gentlemen black. Historically ladies should not wear black unless in mourning! Dressage jackets with bling are not acceptable. If you are wearing a black/blue jacket, a coloured shirt and matching tie are correct. A tweed or ratcatcher jacket is appropriate for most categories. Please see below for further help with this.

*TOP TIP Your jacket should fit! This will make for a far better overall appearance. If you need some alterations look on line locally for a seamstress. This can be much cheaper than buying again.*

Breeches/ Jodhpur's: A plain light colour is necessary. Beige, yellow or canary. Canary is best suited to children. White dressage breeches and dark colours are not acceptable! To help with a bit more "grip" in the saddle, seated breeches are well advised!

*TOP TIP: Gentlemen try to find front pleated breeches. They are so much more flattering and take away "the ballet dancer" look! Ladies look for a thick enough material that does not accentuate any lumps and bumps we would rather not show!*

Boots: Short jodhpur boots in brown if wearing tweed and in black if wearing blue/black jackets for children. Adults should wear the same colour combination but should have long boots or short boots with leather gaiters not suede.

*TOP TIP: If you are buying long boots always sit on a saddle to see that they are the correct length. Always wear them prior to going into the show ring as they are more comfortable when worn in.*

Spurs: Spurs may not be worn by children under 16 years. Spurs may only be worn by adults who are able to control their leg movements. If worn the spur straps must be correctly fitted and the same colour as the boots worn. They must be small and discreet with no bling or colour on them.

*TOP TIP: If your horse does not need spurs dummy spur bands may be used.*

Stick/ Whip: A showing stick or cane should be used. Schooling whips and shorter jumping sticks are not allowed.

*TOP TIP: These are often sold second hand.*

### **The Lead Rein Assistant**

Leaders must wear a hat to current standards. Everything should be the same as the rider in terms of turnout however plain dark trousers may be worn instead of breeches. Cleanliness is very important

*FINAL TOP TIP: JACKETS MADE EASIER!*

All riders may wear tweed on any horse or pony.

### **The Horse**

This is what the judge has come to see! Preparation for showing cannot occur the day of the show! If you have a grey or skewbald it is highly recommended that you remove stable stains on a daily basis or they do as the name says; stain! There are so many products on the market now that will aid you with having your horse squeaky clean!

Cobs:

Cobs should have hogged manes and forelocks. Their jaw line should be trimmed and they should have neat ears. Hogged cobs should have a pulled tail and have it cut short so when ridden the tail comes to the point of the hock.

Traditional cobs/the hairy ones! These should have a full mane, tail and feathers are shown untrimmed.

Riding Horses, Show Hacks and Hunter types:

These are traditionally shown with plaited mane and forelock, a pulled and short tail. They should be fully trimmed with no feathers and a tidy jaw line and ears.

Ponies of a Show Type:

These ponies are shown with the same turnout as the above horses.

*TOP TIP: Plaiting is an art! Not all of us are in the hairdressing trade! Practice is the key to this. Stitching plaits with cotton is the professional way to do this and holds the plaits much better. Rubber bands may be used but you have to be very good at this to make the plaits look really nice and to sustain the day.*

Mountain and Moorland types:

These are shown with the tail and mane unplaited and the mane not too short. The jaw may be trimmed but not the legs.

*TOP TIP: Trimming should be done prior to the day. Whiskers are traditionally removed for the show ring on plaited horses, hogged cobs and ponies of a show type. However, there are many changing thoughts on this. If your preference is to leave whiskers, do so! I have never heard of a horse losing class because it had whiskers!*

*GENERAL TOP TIP: Smiling is infectious, try to infect the judge! Enjoy!*