

Planning, Preparation, and Live Show Tips

Finding Shows

- There are many places that model horse shows will advertise, most of them are on the internet. You can start by looking at the North American Model Horse Shows Association (NAMHSA) website and find out the contact info for your Region (part of the country). You can join the Yahoo group associated with that Region for the latest information. Many people will post their upcoming shows on these Regional lists. For example for the New England and New York area is Region 10, yahoo groups is NAMHSA Region 10 group. See more website links on the pages below.
- Check Facebook for NAMHSA groups and “Like” them for the latest info. For Region 10 check out Region 10 NAMSHA.
- Ask at your local tack shop or hobby shop if they are planning to host a model horse show.
- When you hear about a show be sure to request a show packet early and review all the information. If you have questions, contact the show holder as soon as possible. This can be done by email or by sending them a letter (and include a self-addressed stamped envelope for the show packet to be mailed back to you).

Getting Ready!!

- Be sure to let the show holder you plan to attend well in advance! Send in your entry fee and before the deadline.
- Decide on your show horses well before the date of the show. Don't bring all of them, just your best. You will have limited space and may be sharing a table with someone. Plan to only have 3 feet of space to use. This is on top of the table and below for storage. So plan only the horses you can fit into this space. 20 (or fewer) horses is often a good number to bring to your first show without overwhelming yourself.
- If you are showing in Region 10 you need to apply for a Region 10 Show Number at numbers@regionxnation.com. You'll want to do this as soon as you want to start showing so you're not doing this at the last minute. This number will be yours as long as you show. Once you have your Region 10 number be sure to enter your show models on the on-line program. More information can be found on the Region X Nation website on how this is done. If a show is using a different method that should be noted in the show packet. Be sure to follow their directions on what they require on the tags or business cards. Not all shows ask for the same information.
- Make two lists of the models you plan to show. One for you and one to provide to the show holder.
- Start doing your research about any odd breeds or colors you might be showing. Often times if you are showing a unique breed of horse or a color on a breed that may not be as common in all breeds you would want to document it. You will also want to document what your horse is doing in the performance classes. Model horses can be any breed as in the real world and can do anything that happens in the real horse world. Documenting what you say our model is doing will help your placing (because the judge will know what your horse is doing).

- Type up any description cards you may need, keep them simple. You shouldn't need more than an 8 x 11 sheet of paper max, including the pattern or any photos. If you're including photos of the breed or event it does not need to match your model exactly, these are only for reference purposes so the judge knows what to look for. See samples at the end.
 - If you are showing in performance classes, you will be required to provide documentation of what your horse is doing. For example, if you are showing in dressage, you should have a copy of the appropriate dressage test and make a note of which movement your horse is doing. You do not need to include the history of the class.
 - For halter classes you would want a photo and breed descriptions if your model is being shown as an unusual breed (such as a Florida Cracker horse) or if it is an unusual color (such as a Silver Dappled Morgan). If the class is being judged on collectability you would want to list why the model is collectable, such as "Silverado – Breyer Connoisseur model – limited to 350 models."
- A few days before the show, wash your models with warm water and mild soap (like hand soap). Make sure all the dirt/dust is off the model and let them dry.
- Take your list of models you are going to show and mark off which class numbers each horse will be entered in. Here is an example of a horse list done in Excel listing the class number and columns to note the placing for Breed and collectability or workmanship winnings.

Number	Horses Name	Sex	Breed	Class #	Breed	Coll/work
187-014	Doc's Promise	S	Morgan	702		
187-077	OTW Cadence	S	Morgan	702		
187-083	OTW Engagement	S	Morgan	702		
187-138	OTW Mary Mary	M	Morgan	702		
			AO Division	501		
187-109	Cabela	G	appy	709		
187-125	OTW Lizabeth	f	Morgan	725		

- If you are showing in performance classes it may be helpful to also list which props and tack you will be using.
- Pack your models carefully. Have something sturdy to carry them in (such as a Rubbermaid tote). Place some type of padding (such as a towel or bubble wrap) on the bottom, then wrap each model carefully in something soft such as a towel, old tee shirt (clean ones!!), or a clean, clear plastic bag with bubble wrap around it. Be sure to protect those ear tips!! I suggest lying your models on their side, like they were sleeping, as you pack. You can then put more horses on top of them (heavy on the bottom, light on top). Then you can stack the models in the tote so that they fit snug, but still have a little movement. You don't want your model to bounce around on the trip to the show. Some people make and sell "Pony Pouches" to carry your models in for traveling to shows.

- Pack a sheet or table cloth on top for when you arrive at the show. You can place this on your table to help protect your model while you lay them down. Plan to pack this in a tote you will open first as you set up.
- Make sure you have clear directions to the show hall and they are handy for your drive in the early AM.

Show Day!!

- Arrive early in the AM so you are not hurried before the first class. The packet usually lets you know what time the show hall will open (often 8 am) and what time the first class will start (usually around 9am)
- Check in with the show host first thing. They will give you your packet with information, name tag, etc. They will also point you in the direction of your table, go find that first!!
- Bring in your first tote of models – the one with the table cloth in it! Unpack as neat as possible, your sharing space so be considerate of your tablemates. When you are done unpacking, bring your tote back to your car or place neatly under your table.
- Make sure all your models have the correct show tag placed on one of its legs that it on the ground. When placing it on the show table, be sure the number side is up.
- Listen for all announcements. They may include instructions for your class.
- As soon as the class is called, bring your horse to the table and start to set up. Find a well lit, open space to set your model. Do NOT move someone else's model even if you need more space.
- Place your model with its best side facing the edge of the table, about six inches from the edge if possible. You want the judge to have a good view of your model. If you have a "tipsy" model who doesn't like to stand, bring a small cloth (like a piece of felt) and lay the model down. You may want to add a note that the judge may pick the model up to look at the other side.
- Be considerate of others when you place your models on the table. Do not move another model to get a better spot. The judge will look at all of the models on the table. If the table is unusually crowded, the show holder, or judge, may choose to spill the class over onto another table. Be sure to keep your ears open for this call.
- When using props remember to keep it to just enough room that you need. Do not go over board and use the whole table. Your area should be approximately no more than 2 feet long by 1 ½ feet deep (half a typical table width). Sometimes more may be needed, but still be considerate of the others. Don't forget your documentation.
- Do not take excessive time setting up your props or cleaning your model. Models should be cleaned before they come to the show and you should know how to set up your props. If you need to, practice setting up at home to see what looks best.
- Halters are not required in "halter" classes. If they are used, be sure they are correct and appropriate for the breed. They will need to fit exactly. A halter that is too loose, small, or not correct for the breed may cause you not to place in the class or even be disqualified. If you are unsure, it's better to leave the halter off.

- Lead lines, shanks, or reins should be placed in an appropriate manner – either hanging in front of the horse, draped over its left shoulder. Horses that are running, rearing, etc. should not have a lead line attached to them.
- When your horses are all set, return to your seat – or even better, go check out others horses and talk to the other showers. This is a great time to make new friends and ask questions. But stay away from the judge while she works.
- As soon as the class is pinned and the judge announces it, go up and remove your horse, props and any awards you've won. Be sure to note how your horse placed for the Championship class. If you have any questions for the judge regarding that class, now is the time to ask.
- At the end of the division you will have Championship call backs. Any horse that placed first or second in any of the classes in that division will come back to the ring with all of their ribbons. If you have any that qualify, bring them up now.

Going home

- Carefully pack up all of your models, props, and any awards or raffle prizes. Be sure to leave your area as clean (if not cleaner) than when you arrived.
- Be sure to say thank-you to the judge and show holder for all their hard work
- Relax and enjoy your ribbons!!!

Remember, showing models is about having fun. Being a good sport during the day, even if your not doing as well as you would like, is a big part of it. Though you may disagree with the way the judge is pinning the classes, that is their opinion and you should respect that. The judge may have noticed something you did not. Radios, I-Pods, laptop computers playing music and other distractions are not allowed in most show halls. Neither is smoking, bad language, pets, or running. You are sharing space with many people and it is already often hard to hear the judge or announcer. So be sure to be considerate of others around you.

Above all, walk around and introduce yourself to new people and have fun! That's what model horse showing is really all about!!

Websites that may list show locations:

North American Model Horse Showers Association – www.namhsa.org – you can see all the NAMHSA approved model horse shows in the country or just your region.

Below are the regions and the name of the Yahoo Group to join. These are some of the best places to hear about upcoming shows and events and talk model with others in your area.

Region 1 (Washington, Alaska, Oregon, Idaho, Montana and Wyoming)	NAMHSA Region 1
Region 2 (California, Hawaii, Mexico and Nevada).....	NAMHSA Region 2
Region 3 (Utah, Arizona, Colorado and New Mexico).....	NAMHSA Region 3
Region 4 (Iowa, Wisconsin, Minnesota, N. Dakota, S. Dakota and Nebraska)	NAMHSA Region 4
Region 5 (Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas and Louisiana).....	NAMHSA Region 5
Region 6 (Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, N. and S. Carolina).....	NAMHSA Region 6
Region 7 (Ohio, Kentucky and Tennessee).....	NAMHSA Region 7
Region 8 (Michigan, Illinois, Indiana and Missouri).....	NAMHSA Region 8
Region 9 (West Virginia, Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, Washington D.C., Pennsylvania and New Jersey).....	NAMHSA Region 9
Region 10 (Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island and New York).....	NAMHSA Region 10
Region 11 (Canada - All Provinces).....	NAMHSA Region 11

Region 10 website – www.regionxnation.com – This is the official website for the NAMHSA Region 10 group for New England and New York area. All upcoming shows in these states are posted on this site.

Model Horse Blab - www.modelhorseblab.com – “An online community for model horse hobbyists. Blab is a fun and open-minded community for hobbyists and anyone wanting information on model horses. We discuss all mediums and types of model horses, as well as a few other topics. Beginners and experts, all are welcome!”

Breyer Horses - www.breyerhorses.com – Go to their “events” tab then click on the Event’s Calendar. This will list all sort of upcoming model horse events through out the country and world.

Examples of documentation - Halter

The “Azteca Horse” information is meant to be printed out on half of an 8” x 11” piece of paper. The “Buried Treasure” information is printed out and cut down and is about 3” x 3” in size. The one on the bottom for the Black Standing Morgan is designed to print out on a Business Card stationary.

Azteca Horse

The three foundation breeds of the Azteca are the Andalusian (defined by the Mexican registry as either Pura Raza Española or Lusitano), American Quarter Horse, and Mexican Criollo or *Criollo militar*. Azteca horses cannot have more than 75 percent of their parentage from any one of the foundation breeds (Andalusian, Quarter Horse and Mexican Criollo); Criollo blood may be no more than 50%, and only from unregistered mares within Mexico. They were chosen to produce a breed that combined athletic ability with a good temperament and certain physical characteristics. The ideal height is 14.3–15.1 hands. The facial profile of the breed is straight or convex and the neck slight and crooked.

Sample of Breed documentation

ancestry of the breed. The breed is found in all solid colors, although gray is most often seen. White markings are allowed on the face and lower legs by breed associations. The American Azteca registry also allows non-solid pinto coloration.



Buried Treasure – Lusitano

Buckskin Foundation Stallion #712074
Limited to 62 models



Breyer special run limited to 62 pieces. Only available to Collector Club members this model was “hidden” on the Breyer Website. Once word got out on Model Horse Blab about this model he was sold out very quickly. He was limited to one per Collector Club member.

Sample of Collectability documentation

#48 Black Standing Morgan
Made from 1964 – 1987
Chalky variation

Examples of documentation - Performance

The “Side Saddle” information is meant to be printed out on half of an 8” x 11” piece of paper. The others are designed to print out on a Business Card stationary.



Sample of Performance documentation



CLASS 11 SIDE SADDLE CHAMPAGNE CHALLENGE SPONSORED BY RICHARD WELCH TRANSPORT

Involves riding side saddle as a class, with a plastic glass filled with water. The winner will be the one with the most left in the glass!! Winner to receive a bottle of Champagne, a pair of champagne Flutes and The Area 12 Side Saddle Association Champagne Challenge perpetual trophy. All competitors receive a Area 12 Side Saddle Champagne Challenge Rosette.

Fourth Level Test #1,
Medium canter, left lead H-K

Samples of Performance documentation

Arena Trail Pattern #1, jogging toward, over, and past the bridge.

Standing quietly while a former competitor leaves the ring for losing their egg in the “Egg and Spoon” race. This is at a local riding school horse show, which is why it’s informal.

This would have the dressage test set next to it with an arrow (drawn or sticky) pointing to this spot on the test.

This would have the trail class layout set next to it with an arrow (drawn or sticky) pointing to this spot of the class.

You could have a photo of an “egg and spoon” class next to this. This is good for a standing model horse.

Model Horse Show Terms and Notes

“First Call” means that a class is being called up to the judging table(s). You should bring your entries to the table at this time and start to set up. Example “First Call for Novice Light Breeds in Ring One.” Often this will be followed by a second call.

“Last Call” means that the class is just about to start being judged. This is your last chance to bring your entries to the table or make any tack/prop adjustments.

“Class Closed” means that the class is now being judged. You can no longer touch your models on the table until the end of the class.

“Class has been pinned” means that the judge is now finished and the ribbons have been placed on the table. You may now pick up your entries and ribbons. This is also when you may ask the judge questions about how they placed the class or what you could do better.

“Clear the ring” means that there may be models left from the previous class and they need to be removed in order to start setting up for the next class.

“Class will be split” - Splitting Classes

Occasionally, a class will be so large or so diverse that a judge will decide to split up the entries. This is usually left to the discretion of the judge, and they may split it as they see fit. For example, an Arabian class maybe split by Breyer vs. Peter Stone models.

When the split is announced, you will need to listen to what the judge requests. Some times they ask for certain models to be removed and brought up later. Sometimes they are just moved to another table. You will want to do this as soon as possible; otherwise your horse may be disqualified.

“Pennying or Stinging Classes”

Some times during a large class or a particularly tough class a judge may place pennies, bingo chips, candy, or place a string over the back of the horses during the class. This helps the judge remember certain horses in a class. Each judge has their own way of doing this and it could be that they like the horse and may be considered in the placing or it could be that these are horses that they do not like. Some judges go back in forth through out the day so people can not anticipate her choice

Tips and Tricks for the Model Horse Hobby

1. Sticky Wax or Dental Wax – this becomes your best friend!! Helps keep those bits in the corner of the mouth, reins in the correct position, and “emergency” fixes. Found at hobby shops or at pharmacies like Brooks Drug Store (dental wax that is!). Make sure you take off all wax after the show though!!
2. Leather Cleaner – just like real tack, you want your model tack staying healthy and clean. Small sample size bottles work great, as you don’t need much to clean your saddle.
3. Do NOT “gloss” your models to give them that show day shine! This alters the finish of the model so it is no longer OF. Also, never use clear finger nail polish to shine hooves or eyes for the same reason.
4. Always bring glue, tweezers, needle nose pliers, and extra leather to the show. Just in case you break something along the way – or to help out a fellow shower.
5. Look around the house for items that will make great props. 6 oz. Tomato paste cans make great barrels for classic scale models, and 14-oz soup cans for Trads!! Just ask mom to save (and wash) them then give to you.
6. Dollhouse stores (or department in other stores) have great props such as animals (small ones like chipmunks), first aid kits, coffeepots, etc. Look over their wood supplies too – they can make great jump rails and props. Basswood holds up better than Balsa wood.
7. Attend real horse shows and take lots of photos. Visit farms if they are having open houses and ask questions about the breed and what events they do well in.
8. Read, read read!!! Books, magazines, the Internet, anything that has to do with horses. If you buy magazines, save the photo’s to show what is correct and to give you ideas for later.
9. Take photos of other people’s setup at model shows. Learn from the others and ask questions.
10. Take notes. Ask the judge why they pinned the class like they did or what you could do with your model to make it do better (even if you placed first). Be sure to do this after the class has been pinned and before you remove your horse. Not at the end of the day. Make notes and remember them for next time.
11. Watch TV equine events and movies. What a better way to learn (or spend a rainy Saturday afternoon) than learning about real horse events. Make notes on what is used for tack, jumps, colors, etc.
12. The “new” Ben and Brenda Breyer dolls are great for showing, but you can use others as well. Make sure the doll is in scale. About 8” high for Trads if a male and 7” if female. Watch yard sales for good dolls. Mego Brand is very nice and highly popular. So is “Hunter Dan” a new doll geared towards hunting, however he sits VERY nicely on a horse.
13. Props – keep everything in scale. Jump poles for Traditional models are 12” long and usually the 5/16th diameter rod. Traditional and classic scale horses look good against doll house scale (1:12”) props as well, although the dolls are often too small for traditional size horses.