

Equus Survival Trust's
SANA DEFINITIONS & CLASS DESCRIPTIONS
Last updated March 1, 2024



Purebred Breed or Discipline Classes

Respective, appropriate classes open to any registered EST purebred (or eligible for registration) with any association that tracks purebreds by breed - domestic or foreign. Breed classes are divided by age and sex wherever scheduling allows.

North American-Bred

Entrants must be conceived and born in North America – Canada, Mexico, USA. These classes serve to recognize NA breeders who have bred good traditional examples of their respective breeds.

Youngstock Classes

Any entry less than 3 years calendar years old. The objective when judging youngstock is not to select the most mature individuals, but rather the best representatives for their age. Judge may freely ask the age of any entrant. Entries born in Oct, Nov, or Dec of the previous year may request special waivers to compete in their closest age group.

In-Hand (halter) Classes

Entries to be judged against respective breed standard, not against each other or other breeds. The judge will look for first virtues in traditional type and movement, and next for correct conformation. Judges may penalize any undesirable displays of temperament. Modern purebred "types" will not be considered desirable under SANA criteria. The objective is to recognize (and there by encourage the retention of) traditional breed traits to pass on to the next generation, or in the case of geldings recognize individuals that exemplify the standard as an ambassador.

Entries to be shown at a walk/trot in any well-fitting halter or bridle. Chin chains (but not nose chains) are permissible; stallion tack is encouraged where considered traditional. Entries are traveled before the judges so that lameness and quality of movement can be evaluated. Entries are judged on traditional breed type and movement, sex characteristics, balance, and structural correctness. Traditional breed type and movement are the most important.

The objective is to recognize (and there by encourage the retention of) traditional breed traits above all else to pass on to the next generation, or in the case of geldings recognize individuals that exemplify the standard as an ambassador. As long as a judge can see all gaits and view the entry for judging, minor manner infractions are not judged.

To enter at the walk and line up as instructed by the ring steward. Judged as a group and individually. Individuals will move at a walk/trot as instructed by ring steward usually on a triangle.

Ridden Breed classes

Entries will be judged on conformation and movement performing the required gaits - flat 4-beat walk, trot, 3 beat canter by group or individually, using the entrant's breed description as the standard. Judging will emphasize traditional breed type and traditional breed movement first, including smoothness of gait.

SANA's goal is to pin the horses/ponies most likely to pass on traditional traits to the next generation. The best-trained entry is not necessarily the winner, however the best type and movement entry must be able to perform well enough to be properly judged.

Enter the ring at a walk. Walk, trot, canter as instructed by ring steward. May be asked to back-up while in line. Any style tack and riding style – English or Western- is acceptable, including neck reining.

Driven Breed Classes

Driven Classes to be judged on the traditional type and movement of the horse as compared to its breed standard. To be judged 40% on performance & manners, 30% type, and 30% movement performance, and way of going as compared to respective breed standard; with bonus of 10% for ability to provide a drive consistent with its vehicle. Bonus of 5% for proper fit of harness. Style of cart, harness, or clothing (as long as it is safe and suitable in fit) isn't judged.

Open Discipline Classes (Obstacles, Dressage, Driving, and Over Fences)

The discipline judge will judge the HORSE/PONY performance ONLY; not tack or clothing as long as it is properly fitted and suitable/safe. Wherever judging allows, judge will take into consideration breed traits so exhibitors are not penalized for traditional movement or size.

OVER FENCES

Jump classes are a true test of the entry's athletic ability to perform over fences. Scores are based on time and penalty faults. Faults are assessed when a horse refuses to jump, knocks down an obstacle, or causes an obstacle to be knocked down. Entries completing the course without faults return to compete in a timed "jump-off" to determine final placements. No Breed Scores will be assessed for Jump classes.

DRIVING – any EST breed (see detailed SANA driving regulations)

Cones/ Timed Obstacles

Timed Obstacles - a series of 10 sets of numbered cones set to 12" wider than the vehicle's wheels to be driven at a trot and judged for time and accuracy. Knocking over a marker or a break to the canter will result in a 5 second penalty per occurrence. American Driving Society rules for timed competitions will be used as guidelines.

Recreational

Judged on suitability of horse for driving, gaits, and disposition (the goal is a pleasant nature for a recreational drive), along with suitability of carriage for horse/pony. Horse should have a free, ground-covering walk, a good working trot/gait, and the capability and willingness to back easily. Any suitable, well-fitting vehicle and turn out is acceptable as they will not be judged.

Dressage

Test of choice judged primarily according to USDF regulations as it applies to performance of horse or pony. Dress, tack and rider will not be judged.

BEST FOOT

Purpose of the class is to reward the genetic retention of good feet in a breed. Ponies must be unshod. Horses and Drafts can enter shod or unshod classes. Judge is looking for natural good feet, not necessarily the best trim job. Shod horses will be judged on the quality and soundness of the foot as well as the farrier work.

Historical Costume

Any EST purebred. Any portrayal of use from WWII prior. Entries will be grouped (1) by breed and (2) chronologically within the breed to give the spectator a feel for the evolution of the breed & uses, be it war horse, pack pony, or farm work. Both exhibitor and horse must be in costume. Costumes for equines & humans will be judged as both individual entries and by best overall breed group, a group consisting of at least 3 of the same breed. This class is judged by multiple judges who are instructed to converse and make joint decisions for breed & class placements. Narratives describing the entry must be submitted to SANA Event Coordinator 2 weeks prior to the Festivale. It will be great fun and very educational to see all the breeds historically decked out.