

— THE —

EQUIMIST

— VIRTUAL HORSE SHOW —



COMPETE.
CONNECT.
CELEBRATE.

*From Anywhere.
For Everyone.*



The Equimist Virtual Horse Show

*****You do not need to submit your entry in advance. Please submit your entry after you have your videos ready. You do not need a back number. Please read this booklet all the way through. The answers you need are in here.**

Welcome

Welcome to the inaugural **Equimist Virtual Horse Show**.

This show was created with one simple belief:

Showing horses should be fun. Or at least that's what the horses have always said!

Whether you're showing a seasoned champion, a backyard best friend, a lesson horse, a young prospect, a retired partner, or simply the horse that makes your heart happy, this is for you.

Our goal is to create an experience that values education over perfection, thoughtful feedback over ribbons alone, and horsemanship over expensive facilities or fancy equipment.

This is a place where every discipline is welcome and growing from where you are matters.



A Note from Jenna Everwyn

In our household, living with adolescent boys you have two choices when you are playing games, competitive or cooperative. Sometimes your nervous system just needs a break from cut throat competition. (Cough and so does your horse, cough, cough...).

Through this, and reading many, many, many horses that are burned out, The Equimist Virtual Horse Show was born. You guys will not be ranked against each other. You will be given feedback to help you grow in the discipline you show, given great ribbons, and hear your horses entertaining, heart centered thoughts. Great choices will always be rewarded over speed.

SO, thank you for trusting us with your horses and your growth!

Whether you are entering to challenge yourself, celebrate a milestone, gain confidence, or simply have fun, we are honored to be a small part of your journey.

We hope this show inspires you to enjoy the horse you have today while continuing to pursue the horseman you hope to become tomorrow.

Good luck, enjoy the experience, and remember...

Do what makes you happy. And it should be fun!

— Jenna Everwyn
Founder, The Equimist



Our Mission

The Equimist Virtual Horse Show exists to:

- Encourage kind, educated horsemanship.
 - Celebrate the unique partnership between horse and rider.
 - Provide meaningful feedback that helps competitors grow.
 - Create an inclusive environment for riders of all ages, disciplines, and experience levels.
 - Make showing accessible regardless of location or resources.
-

What Makes This Show Different?

This is a cooperative horse show rather than competitive. All entries will exhibit to the best of their ability and hopefully help their barn mates along the way.

Rather than simply receiving a placing, competitors receive thoughtful judging and written or recorded feedback designed to help them continue improving. Plus a ribbon and bonus prizes in custom categories.

We believe the most valuable prize is leaving the show a better horseman than when you entered.



The Equimist Virtual Horse Show

Show Information

Important Dates

Event	Date
Entries Open	September 9, 2026
Entries Close	November 11, 2026
Judging Begins	November 12, 2026
Results Released	December 12-31, 2026 (depending on number of entries)

Who Can Enter?

The Equimist Virtual Horse Show welcomes:

- Riders of all ages
- Professionals and amateurs
- First-time exhibitors
- Backyard horses
- Lesson horses
- Retired horses
- Rescue horses
- Young horses
- Senior horses

If your horse brings you joy, you belong here.

Show Format

- Submit your video(s) during the entry period.
 - Judges review each ride independently.
 - Every competitor receives scores and written feedback from a professional horseman and your horse.
 - Awards are mailed after results are announced.
-

Judging Philosophy

We reward:

- Correct horsemanship and alignment
- Humane training
- Partnership
- Rider effectiveness
- Willingness of the horse
- Safety
- Presentation appropriate to the discipline
- Good choices

Our judges understand that every horse has a different story. While standards remain consistent, thoughtful horsemanship is always valued above perfection.

Awards

Competitors may receive:

- Custom Prizes and Awards
- Score Sheets
- Written or recorded Feedback
- Special Recognition Awards

Award Eligibility

To be eligible for awards, an entry must:

- Be submitted by the published deadline
- Meet the eligibility requirements of the entered class and division
- Follow the Video Submission Rules
- Comply with the rules and welfare standards of The Equimist Virtual Horse Show
- Have all required entry information and fees submitted

An entry that is disqualified may receive educational feedback at the discretion of show management but will not be eligible for a class placing or award.

Multiple Horses & Exhibitors

Awards are earned by the horse-and-exhibitor combination entered in the class unless otherwise specified.

When an exhibitor competes with multiple horses, each combination will be treated as a separate entry for class placing and award purposes.

Award Substitutions

Every reasonable effort will be made to provide awards as advertised. The Equimist reserves the right to substitute an award with one of comparable type or value if circumstances outside of show management's control make the original award unavailable.

Receiving Your Award

We hope you display your ribbon, hang it in your barn, put it on your horse, take the picture, and celebrate it.

Whether this is your first horse show, your hundredth horse show, your first blue ribbon, or simply the first time you were brave enough to submit the video, we believe accomplishments deserve to be acknowledged.

Awards are part of the fun.

The experience, education, and relationship you build with your horse along the way are the bigger wins.

DIVISIONS & ELIGIBILITY

Philosophy

The Equimist Virtual Horse Show is designed to provide a welcoming and educational environment for exhibitors of every age, discipline, breed, and experience level. Divisions are intended to group exhibitors and horses according to levels of training and experience while encouraging fairness, sportsmanship, and continual growth.

Exhibitors are expected to enter the division that most accurately reflects the current level of both horse and rider. If questions arise regarding eligibility, show management reserves the right to adjust entries to the most appropriate division.

Rider Divisions

A rider may compete in different seat disciplines (English, Western, Ranch, Dressage, etc.), but should remain in the same rider division throughout the show unless otherwise specified.

***Remember the rider division can change if you are on a separate horse. If doing walk only is best for the horse, that is fine. If you can walk, trot, canter on another, it will be viewed as two totally separate situations.

Lead Line

For exhibitors who require the assistance of a handler for safety and guidance. The handler may lead the horse throughout the class.



Walk

Designed for beginning riders who perform all required patterns and rail work exclusively at the walk.

Appropriate for:

- New riders
 - Riders rebuilding confidence
 - Therapeutic riders
 - Riders on young or rehabilitating horses
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Walk/Trot

For riders who comfortably demonstrate the walk and trot (or jog) but do not canter/lope as part of their class.

Suitable for exhibitors developing balance, confidence, and consistency.

Walk/Trot/Canter

For riders capable of safely and confidently performing all three gaits required by the class.

This division includes the majority of recreational and competitive riders.



Exhibitor Divisions

Whenever classes are split by exhibitor, the following divisions may be offered.

Youth

Exhibitors 18 years of age and under as of January 1 of the current show year.

Amateur

Adult exhibitors who do not receive compensation for riding, training, or instructing horses.

Open

Open to all exhibitors regardless of age or professional status.

Horse Divisions

Horse divisions recognize the current level of training and experience of the horse rather than age alone.

Green Horse

A horse in the early stages of training or beginning a new discipline.

Characteristics may include:

- Learning fundamentals
- Building confidence
- Developing consistency
- Limited show experience

Green status is based on training progression rather than chronological age.

Novice Horse

A horse with foundational training that is confidently performing required maneuvers but continuing to gain mileage and experience.

These horses typically demonstrate:

- Consistent basic performance
 - Understanding of cues
 - Developing polish
 - Limited - moderate show experience
-

Open Horse

Experienced horses demonstrating advanced training and consistency within their discipline.

Appropriate for horses capable of performing with confidence in a competitive environment.

Senior Horse

Available for horses 15 years of age and older.

This division celebrates experienced equine partners and recognizes that longevity is an accomplishment worthy of recognition.

Senior horses may also compete in Green, Novice, or Open divisions if more appropriate for their current level of work.



Breed Eligibility

The Equimist Virtual Horse Show welcomes:

- Registered horses of any breed
- Grade horses
- Ponies
- Miniature horses (where classes are appropriate)
- Mules
- Donkeys
- Draft horses
- Crossbred horses

No breed registration is required unless a sponsored award specifically states otherwise.

General Eligibility

- Horses and exhibitors may compete in multiple disciplines provided they meet the eligibility requirements for each class.
- Horses must be sound enough to safely perform the work required of the class entered.
- Humane training methods are expected at all times.
- Exhibitors should select the division that best represents their current level rather than the level they aspire to achieve.



THE EQUIMIST VIRTUAL HORSE SHOW

CLASS LIST

A complete guide to the virtual horse show

CLASS #	DIVISION	CLASS NAME
101	Halter	All Breed
102	Halter	Stock Breed
103	Halter	Hunter Type
104	Halter	Saddle Type
107	Halter	Color Breed Halter
109	Halter	Ranch Halter
110	Halter	Miniature Horse Halter
111	Halter	Draft Horse Halter
121	Showmanship	Showmanship at Halter
122	Showmanship	Western Showmanship
123	Showmanship	English Showmanship
201	English	English Pleasure
202	English	Hunter Pleasure
203	English	Hunt Seat Equitation
204	English	Hunter Under Saddle
300	Jumping	Hunter Hack
301	Jumping	Hunter Over Fences
302	Jumping	Equitation Over Fences
303	Jumping	Jumper
401	Western	Western Pleasure
402	Western	Western Horsemanship
403	Western	Western Riding
404	Western	Trail
501	Ranch	Ranch Riding
502	Ranch	Ranch Rail
503	Ranch	Ranch Trail
504	Ranch	Ranch Conformation
601	Trail	Trail
602	In-Hand	In-Hand Trail
603	In-Hand	Longe Line
605	In-Hand	Ground Driving

CLASS #	DIVISION	CLASS NAME
701	Dressage	Introductory Level
702	Dressage	Training Level
703	Dressage	First Level
704	Dressage	Second Level
705	Dressage	Musical Freestyle
711	Dressage	Western Dressage
801	Working Equitation	Working Equitation – Introductory
802	Working Equitation	Working Equitation – Intermediate
803	Working Equitation	Working Equitation – Advanced
901	Saddle Seat	Saddle Seat Equitation
902	Saddle Seat	Three-Gaited Pleasure
903	Saddle Seat	Five-Gaited Pleasure
904	Saddle Seat	Country Pleasure
905	Saddle Seat	Park Pleasure
1001	Driving	Pleasure Driving
1002	Driving	Country Pleasure Driving
1101	Liberty	Liberty
1201	Eventing	Eventing Dressage
1202	Eventing	Eventing Stadium
1203	Eventing	Cross-Country Simulation
1301	Specialty	Costume
1302	Specialty	Senior Horse Celebration
1303	Specialty	Young Horse Showcase
1304	Specialty	Rescue Horse Recognition
1305	Specialty	Family Class
1311	Specialty	Rehabilitation Journey Recognition
1312	Specialty	Best Turned Out
1313	Specialty	Horse & Hound
1314	Specialty	Best Partnership
1318	Specialty	Tiny Tot
1401	The Equimist	Do What Makes You Happy™

For Premium Book and Entries, please go to TheEquimist.com

SECTION 6: CLASS DESCRIPTIONS AND EXPECTATIONS

The Equimist Virtual Horse Show is designed to celebrate excellent horsemanship across all breeds, disciplines, and experience levels. **Unless otherwise noted, classes are judged in accordance with the generally accepted standards of the applicable discipline while placing additional emphasis on partnership, horse welfare, kindness, and effective communication.**

Exhibitors are encouraged to select classes that best reflect the current education, confidence, and conditioning of both horse and rider.

For PATTERN classes!!!! You may use whatever pattern suits your team best. They may be previous patterns you have used, found on the internet, or made up. **PLEASE** attach a photo of the pattern you find or write. There is a spot on the entry form you can attach the photos to. As long as they are legible they can be hand written then photographed.

Halter

Halter classes evaluate the horse's overall quality as an individual. Horses should demonstrate balance, structural correctness, breed or discipline type, muscling appropriate to their purpose, soundness, and overall condition.

Presentation, grooming, and handling are considered, but excessive conditioning or artificial presentation is discouraged. Judges will reward horses that appear healthy, athletic, and capable of performing the work for which they were bred or trained.

The Equimist encourages exhibitors to present horses in a natural, humane manner that reflects excellent daily care and management.

For the video: Ideally, the video should be taken from the judges perspective. The horse and handler should line up facing the judge. Walk to and past the judge, trotting when you get to the judge in a straight line followed by a left turn at the trot to examine soundness. Once the horse is set up, please video the horse from all sides as if you were the judges eyes.

Showmanship

Showmanship is a class for the exhibitor rather than the horse.

Judging emphasizes the handler's ability to present the horse with accuracy, confidence, and professionalism through inspection, leading, pivots, backing, and pattern execution.

The horse should appear attentive and willingly respond to subtle cues.

Judges reward precision, preparation, communication, and courtesy while recognizing that excellent showmanship reflects thoughtful practice rather than excessive force. Overall turnout will be considered for awards.

For the video: Please create a pattern that shows your best moves. It can incorporate walk, trot, setting up for inspection, turning on the haunches, and backing up. You may incorporate serpentine, square turns, whatever shows you and your horse off best. Expectations are based on the chosen level. You do not need cones for markers, any safe marker will do. Please include your intended pattern.

English Pleasure

English Pleasure is designed to showcase a horse that is enjoyable, willing, comfortable, and pleasant to ride. Horses should demonstrate appropriate manners, responsiveness, balance, and consistency while maintaining a natural way of going suitable to their breed, type, and level of training.

Entries will be shown at the walk, trot or jog, and canter or lope as appropriate to the division entered, in both directions when possible within the video format. Riders may also be asked to demonstrate a halt and back.

Judging will emphasize manners, willingness, quality and consistency of movement, responsiveness to the rider, appropriate pace, transitions, balance, and overall impression as a pleasurable riding horse. The horse should appear comfortable and confident in its work without excessive restraint, artificial positioning, or speed.

Different breeds naturally carry themselves and move differently. Horses will **not** be penalized simply for demonstrating a way of going characteristic of their breed or type when it is safe, comfortable, balanced, and appropriate for the class. The goal is not to create one universal picture of an English pleasure horse, but to evaluate how successfully each individual horse performs the job asked of them.

Light, clear communication and thoughtful horsemanship are encouraged. Evidence of excessive pressure, harsh handling, significant resistance, unsafe behavior, or obvious discomfort will negatively affect the score.

For the video: Please try to find the best view of the rail work you can get. Plan to ride a total of 3-5 minutes. If the horse improves the more you go, make it 6 minutes. It is encouraged that you do the transitions you are most comfortable with. Please back 4 steps at the end.

Hunter Under Saddle

Hunter Under Saddle showcases a horse suitable for long hours of comfortable, efficient work over varied terrain with the appearance that they could go over jumps easily.

Horses should demonstrate relaxed, forward movement with natural cadence, balanced transitions, and a willing disposition.

Judging emphasizes rhythm, quality of movement, manners, consistency, and suitability for the discipline.

For the video: Please try to find the best view of the rail work you can get. Plan to ride a total of 3-5 minutes. If the horse improves the more you go, make it 6 minutes. It is encouraged that you do the transitions you are most comfortable with. Please back 4 steps at the end.

Hunter Pleasure

Hunter Pleasure is designed for saddle-type horses shown in a forward, ground-covering hunter style while maintaining the animation, presence, and natural characteristics appropriate to the individual horse and its breed or type.

Horses should demonstrate a willing, responsive, and enjoyable way of going with an emphasis on manners, quality of movement, balance, consistency, responsiveness, and suitability as a hunter pleasure mount. The horse should move freely forward with purpose while remaining relaxed, manageable, and attentive to the rider.

Entries will be shown at the walk, trot, and canter, with appropriate modifications for Walk/Trot divisions. Horses should demonstrate smooth transitions, a consistent pace, and the ability to halt and stand quietly. A back may also be requested.

Judging will recognize that appropriate movement, carriage, and expression vary among breeds. Horses should be evaluated according to the qualities of a good Hunter Pleasure performance without requiring every horse to present the same silhouette, headset, or degree of animation.

Above all, the performance should present a horse that is forward, confident, responsive, mannerly, and pleasurable to ride, with clear harmony between horse and rider.

For the video: Please try to find the best view of the rail work you can get. Plan to ride a total of 3-5 minutes. If the horse improves the more you go, make it 6 minutes. It is encouraged that you do the transitions you are most comfortable with. Please back 4 steps at the end.

Hunt Seat Equitation

Hunt Seat Equitation evaluates the rider's effectiveness, position, balance, and use of aids.

A correct rider should demonstrate quiet hands, an independent seat, appropriate posture, and harmonious communication with the horse.

The horse serves as the vehicle through which the rider's ability is evaluated.

For the video: Please include a pattern you have found or of your own creation. Please include your intended pattern when you submit your video. You may also include 3-5 minutes of rail work at the gaits you have chosen.

Jumping

Jumping classes evaluate horse and rider according to the declared fence height.

For the video: Please work with what you have. Creativity for pattern work will be rewarded. Horsemanship and smoothness is rewarded over speed. Be safe everyone, and have fun. Remember you are being judged against yourself. Please pick the fence height, course type, and exercises you practice regularly.

Hunter Over Fences emphasizes style, rhythm, balance, and overall quality.

Jumper classes reward efficient completion of the course while considering faults, accuracy, and pace.

Equitation over fences will consider horsemanship, rhythm, timing, position, and choices.

Hunter Hack combines flat work with jumping to demonstrate versatility.

The Equimist believes excellent riding exists at every height. Judges evaluate performances according to the expectations appropriate for the declared level rather than comparing fence height alone.

Western Pleasure

Western Pleasure showcases a horse that is enjoyable and efficient to ride.

Horses should demonstrate a relaxed frame, forward movement, soft responsiveness, and smooth, cadenced gaits without sacrificing correctness or willingness.

Judges reward natural movement and functional self-carriage rather than exaggerated head carriage or artificial appearance.

For the video: Please take the best view of the rail work you can get. Plan to ride a total of 3-5 minutes. If the horse improves the more you go, make it 6 minutes. It is encouraged that you do the transitions you are most comfortable with. Please back 4 steps at the end.

Horsemanship

Horsemanship evaluates the rider's effectiveness, position, communication, and execution of patterns.

The ideal ride appears quiet, confident, and nearly effortless, demonstrating mutual understanding between horse and rider.

For the video: Please include a pattern you have found or of your own creation. Please include your intended pattern when you submit your video. You may also include 3-5 minutes of rail work at the gaits you have chosen.

Western Riding

Western Riding evaluates the horse's quality of movement, responsiveness, lead changes, cadence, and overall performance through a prescribed pattern.

Precision, consistency, and willingness are emphasized over speed.

This class may be competed in with the use of simple changes for green and novice horses, as well as youth and amateur riders.

For the video: Please include a pattern you have found or of your own creation. Please include your intended pattern when you submit your video. These patterns should reflect industry standards such as cross overs across the middle and serpentine.

Trail

Trail classes evaluate the horse's willingness, responsiveness, and ability to confidently negotiate obstacles.

Judging emphasizes correctness, accuracy, rhythm, softness, and safe obstacle negotiation.

Exhibitors should select the level that best reflects their horse's current education.

For the video: Please include a pattern you have found or of your own creation. Please include your intended pattern when you submit your video.

Ranch Riding

Ranch Riding demonstrates the performance of a horse suitable for everyday ranch work.

The ideal horse moves with purpose, willingly performs transitions, remains responsive, and appears capable of completing practical ranch tasks.

Judges reward forward movement, efficiency, realism, and functional correctness.

For the video: Please include a pattern you have found or of your own creation. Please include your intended pattern when you submit your video.

Ranch Rail

Ranch Rail evaluates the horse's movement and demeanor on the rail as a practical ranch horse.

The horse should exhibit forward, ground-covering gaits, responsiveness, and natural carriage while maintaining a calm and willing attitude.

For the video: Please provide the best view of the rail work you can get. Plan to ride a total of 3-5 minutes. If the horse improves the more you go, make it 6 minutes. It is encouraged that you do the transitions you are most comfortable with. Please back 4 steps at the end.

Ranch Trail

Ranch Trail evaluates the horse's ability to safely and efficiently negotiate practical ranch obstacles.

Judges reward thoughtful decision-making, accuracy, willingness, and partnership while encouraging practical horsemanship over perfection.

For the video: Please include a pattern you have found or of your own creation. Please include your intended pattern when you submit your video.

Ranch Conformation

Ranch Conformation evaluates the horse's balance, structural correctness, soundness, and functional suitability as a ranch horse. The ideal horse should present an overall picture of strength, durability, athleticism, and efficiency of movement appropriate for ranch work.

Horses should be presented in a natural, workmanlike manner. Excessive grooming, artificial enhancement, or presentation intended primarily to create a highly stylized halter appearance is discouraged. Breed and type differences should be respected, with emphasis placed on functional conformation rather than a single ideal silhouette.

Judging will consider overall balance, muscling, structural correctness, feet and legs, movement, and general condition. Horses are evaluated individually against the standard of a sound, useful ranch horse and are not compared against other entries.

For the video: The video should be taken from the judges perspective. The horse and handler should line up facing the judge. Walk to and past the judge, trotting when you get to the judge in a straight line followed by a left turn at the trot to examine soundness. Once the horse is set up, please video the horse from all sides as if you were the judges eyes.

Trail for Trail Riders

Trail for Trail Riders celebrates the safe, willing, dependable horse someone would genuinely enjoy taking down the trail. This class emphasizes practical partnership, confidence, responsiveness, and good decision-making rather than the precision or styling expected in a traditional judged trail class.

Entries should demonstrate their horse navigating a selection of natural or practical trail situations, which may include varied terrain, water, logs, gates, bridges, hills, standing quietly, passing objects, backing, maneuvering through tight spaces, or other obstacles commonly encountered on the trail. Obstacles should be appropriate and safe for the horse, rider, and environment.

Judging will emphasize willingness, safety, confidence, manners, responsiveness, thoughtful horsemanship, and the horse-and-rider partnership. Riders are encouraged to allow their horse time to assess an obstacle when needed. A thoughtful approach or safe correction should be valued over forcing an immediate response. The overall picture should be of a horse and rider capable of navigating the real world together with trust and good judgment.

For the video: Show us what you can. Displays of horsemanship and kindness are what we are looking for. Because this is new, advice is limited for filming.

In-Hand Trail

In-Hand Trail demonstrates the handler's ability to communicate effectively with the horse from the ground.

Judges evaluate precision, responsiveness, obstacle negotiation, confidence, and partnership while recognizing thoughtful groundwork as an important component of overall horsemanship.

For the video: Please include a pattern you have found or of your own creation. Please include your intended pattern when you submit your video.

Longe Line

Longe Line showcases the horse's movement, balance, manners, responsiveness, and quality of training from the ground. Horses should demonstrate a willing connection with the handler while maintaining an appropriate rhythm, shape, and way of going for their breed, age, and level of training.

Entries should demonstrate the walk, trot, and canter in both directions, with appropriate modifications for young horses or designated divisions. Transitions, changes of direction, and a halt should be included. The horse should remain attentive to the handler without excessive restraint, chasing, or pressure.

Judging will emphasize quality and correctness of movement, balance, responsiveness, transitions, manners, and overall harmony between horse and handler. Natural differences in breed, conformation, and stage of development should be respected. Safe, thoughtful handling and a willing horse should be rewarded.

For the video: Please include what your horse knows. Please try to keep the whole horse in the frame at all times.

Ground Driving

Ground Driving evaluates the horse's responsiveness, confidence, manners, and understanding of driving aids while being directed from the ground. The class is intended to demonstrate practical training, communication, and preparation for driving or other advanced work.

Entries should demonstrate the walk and trot, changes of direction, halt, back, and basic steering or maneuverability. Additional appropriate movements or obstacles may be included when safe. Horses should respond willingly to the handler's voice, lines, and aids while maintaining a controlled and confident way of going.

Judging will emphasize responsiveness, accuracy, transitions, steering, manners, confidence, safety, and communication between horse and handler. Perfection is not expected; thoughtful corrections and clear, humane handling should be rewarded over force or excessive restraint.

For the video: Please include what your horse knows. Please try to keep the whole horse in the frame at all times.

Dressage

Dressage evaluates the progressive development of the horse through rhythm, relaxation, suppleness, connection, impulsion, straightness, and balance.

Recognized dressage tests may be used, and movements should be performed according to the standards of the selected level.

Judges reward harmony, correctness, and the systematic development of the horse.

For the video: Please video from “C”. Please include your intended test when you submit your video.

Working Equitation

Working Equitation combines dressage, obstacle negotiation, and practical horsemanship.

Classes evaluate communication, precision, balance, confidence, and the horse’s willingness to perform a variety of practical tasks while maintaining harmony with the rider.

For the video: Please include a pattern you have found or of your own creation. Please include your intended pattern when you submit your video.

Saddle Seat

Saddle Seat classes showcase horses bred and trained for animated, balanced, and expressive performance while maintaining manners, quality of movement, and willing responsiveness.

For the video: Please find the best view of the rail work you can get. Plan to ride a total of 3-5 minutes. If the horse improves the more you go, make it 6 minutes. It is encouraged that you do the transitions you are most comfortable with. Please back 4 steps at the end.

Equitation classes evaluate the rider’s effectiveness, position, and communication according to accepted Saddle Seat standards.

For the video: Please include a pattern you have found or of your own creation. Please include your intended pattern when you submit your video.

Driving — Pleasure & Country Pleasure

This class welcomes horses shown in Pleasure Driving or Country Pleasure Driving, celebrating a willing, responsive, well-mannered driving horse with a way of going appropriate to its breed, type, and chosen division. Horses should present an overall picture of balance, confidence, quality, and enjoyment in harness.

Entries should demonstrate the walk, appropriate trot or intermediate gaits, and extended or stronger trot when suitable, along with transitions, changes of direction, a halt, and standing quietly. Pleasure Driving horses may demonstrate greater animation, brilliance, and collection,

while Country Pleasure horses should present a more relaxed, natural, and pleasurable way of going. Appropriate differences in breed and driving style will be respected.

Judging will emphasize manners, responsiveness, quality and consistency of movement, balance, transitions, suitability to the chosen driving style, and overall harmony between horse and driver. Horses will be evaluated against the expectations of their individual type and presentation rather than against one another. Safety, willing performance, and thoughtful driving should remain paramount.

For the video: A clear view showing your strengths. At least a long enough pass we can see you. Ideally 2-5 minutes. Safety first though.

Liberty

Liberty celebrates the relationship between horse and handler without physical restraint.

Judges evaluate communication, willingness, confidence, expression, relaxation, and the overall quality of the partnership.

Creativity is encouraged provided horse welfare and safety remain the highest priorities.

For the video: Please include an uninterrupted clear view of your session. Ideally 3-8 minutes.

Costume

Costume classes celebrate imagination, presentation, and the special bond between horse and rider.

Judging considers creativity, craftsmanship, safety, horsemanship, and the overall effectiveness of the presentation.

Costumes should never interfere with the horse's comfort, movement, vision, or welfare.

For the video: Please include an uninterrupted clear view of your session. Ideally 3-8 minutes.

Eventing Dressage

Eventing Dressage evaluates the horse and rider's rhythm, balance, responsiveness, accuracy, and harmony through a dressage performance appropriate to their level. The goal is to demonstrate the foundation of communication and adjustability needed for the other phases of eventing.

Entries should perform the designated test or pattern provided for the class. Judging will emphasize rhythm, accuracy, transitions, balance, responsiveness, rider effectiveness, and overall harmony. Horses should demonstrate a willing, forward performance appropriate to their individual level of training.

For the video: Please include your intended test when you submit your video.

Eventing Stadium

Eventing Stadium showcases the horse and rider's ability to navigate a course of fences with rhythm, control, confidence, and thoughtful decision-making. The emphasis is on a safe, effective jumping performance rather than simply completing the course without faults.

Judging will consider rhythm, balance, approach and departure, adjustability, rider position and effectiveness, confidence, and overall quality of the round. Rails, refusals, or other errors will affect the score, but the entire performance and quality of horsemanship will be considered.

For the video: Please show a round that best showcases you with what you have.

Cross-Country Simulation

Cross-Country Simulation allows exhibitors to demonstrate the skills, confidence, and partnership associated with cross-country riding in a format suitable for virtual competition. A full traditional cross-country course is not required.

Entries may demonstrate an appropriate combination of natural or simulated cross-country elements such as logs, banks, ditches, water, varied terrain, changes of pace, or other safe obstacles available to the exhibitor. Judging will emphasize confidence, rhythm, balance, adaptability, safe riding, and the horse-and-rider partnership.

For the video: You may showcase your horse at each fence individually. Sending several videos each with a single element. Combinations (if you can see them from one spot) should be filmed in one cohesive shot.

Senior Horse Celebration

Senior Horse Celebration honors the experience, longevity, and continued contribution of our older equine partners. This class is open to senior horses of any breed, discipline, or level of activity.

Entries may showcase the horse under saddle, in hand, at liberty, driving, performing a favorite activity, or simply being presented and celebrated. Judging will emphasize condition appropriate to age, comfort, partnership, personality, and the overall story and presentation of the senior horse.

For the video: Please submit 3-5 minutes of whatever celebrates you and your senior horse. Please no longer than 15 minutes.

Young Horse Showcase

The Young Horse Showcase celebrates horses at the beginning of their education and recognizes good foundations, confidence, curiosity, and thoughtful development rather than finished performance.

Entries may demonstrate age-appropriate groundwork, handling, liberty work, under-saddle skills, driving preparation, obstacles, or other suitable training. Judging will emphasize willingness, confidence, manners, quality of foundation, appropriate expectations, and thoughtful horsemanship.

For the video: Please submit 3-5 minutes of whatever showcases you and your young horse. Please no longer than 15 minutes.

Rescue Horse Recognition

Rescue Horse Recognition honors horses who have experienced rescue, rehoming, neglect, hardship, or significant life transition and the people who have helped them move forward.

Entries may showcase the horse in any safe manner that best represents their current life and accomplishments. Judging will emphasize the horse's well-being, progress, partnership, presentation, and individual journey rather than athletic achievement alone. A brief written description of the horse's story may accompany the entry.

For the video: Please tell and show us your story! Please keep it under 20 minutes.

Family Class

Family Class celebrates the ways horses bring families, generations, and chosen families together. Entries may include multiple family members participating with one or more horses in any safe and appropriate presentation.

Creativity is encouraged. Entries may ride, lead, drive, demonstrate groundwork, complete an activity together, or simply create a presentation that represents their shared relationship with horses. Judging will emphasize participation, teamwork, connection, creativity, and overall enjoyment.

For the video: Please tell and show us your story! Please keep it under 20 minutes.

Rehabilitation Journey Recognition

Rehabilitation Journey Recognition honors horses and humans navigating the process of recovery, rebuilding, retraining, or returning to activity. The emphasis is not on how far the horse has progressed, but on the quality and thoughtfulness of the journey.

Entries may demonstrate rehabilitation exercises, groundwork, riding, movement, confidence-building activities, or another meaningful milestone. Judging will emphasize appropriate expectations, patience, progress, horse welfare, partnership, and thoughtful horsemanship. A brief explanation of the rehabilitation journey may accompany the entry.

For the video: Please tell and show us your story! Please keep it under 20 minutes.

Best Turned Out

Best Turned Out recognizes excellent care, grooming, presentation, and attention to detail. Horses of every breed, discipline, coat color, and grooming tradition are welcome.

Judging will consider cleanliness, grooming, condition, tack or equipment presentation when applicable, attention to detail, and overall impression. Breed- and discipline-appropriate presentation is encouraged; excessive alteration or artificial presentation is not required.

For the video: Please show us a thorough inspection of your work. 1-5 minutes.

Horse & Hound

Horse & Hound celebrates the special combination of horses, dogs, and the people who love working with both. Entries should feature at least one horse and one dog participating together in a safe presentation.

Entries may include riding, leading, groundwork, trail activities, tricks, farm tasks, liberty, or another creative demonstration. Judging will emphasize safety, manners, teamwork, communication, creativity, and the overall relationship among horse, hound, and handler.

For the video: Please submit 3-5 minutes of whatever showcases you, your horse, and pup. Please no longer than 15 minutes.

Best Partnership

Best Partnership recognizes an exceptional connection, understanding, and communication between horse and human. Technical perfection is not required; this class is about the quality of the relationship visible within the performance.

Entries may showcase the partnership through riding, groundwork, liberty, driving, handling, or another activity meaningful to the pair. Judging will emphasize trust, communication, responsiveness, mutual confidence, thoughtful horsemanship, and overall harmony.

For the video: Please submit 3-5 minutes of whatever showcases you and your horse. Please no longer than 15 minutes.

Tiny Tot

Tiny Tot celebrates our youngest horse lovers and is designed to provide a safe, positive, and encouraging introduction to participating with horses. Assistance from an adult is welcomed and encouraged as appropriate.

Entries may include leadline riding, simple in-hand activities, grooming, basic horsemanship, or another age-appropriate interaction. Judging will emphasize safety, participation, kindness toward the horse, confidence, and enjoyment rather than technical perfection.

For the video: Please submit 3-5 minutes of whatever showcases you, your horse, and your tiny. Please no longer than 15 minutes.

Do What Makes You Happy Division

This signature class reflects the heart of The Equimist.

There are no required disciplines, patterns, or performance standards.

Instead, exhibitors are invited to share the activity that best represents the unique relationship they have with their horse.

Whether your horse excels in liberty, trail riding, ranch work, dressage, jumping, trick training, therapeutic riding, or simply enjoys quiet rides through the woods, this class exists to celebrate authentic partnership.

Judging emphasizes trust, communication, kindness, confidence, horse welfare, and the joy shared between horse and human.

At The Equimist, we believe every horse has something worth celebrating, and every partnership deserves to be seen.

For the video: Please tell and show us your story! Please keep it under 20 minutes.



VIDEO SUBMISSION RULES

The goal of video submission is simple: give the judge one clear, uninterrupted view of your class so your performance can be evaluated fairly.

You do **not** need professional equipment, fancy editing software, a videographer, or a new phone. A normal smartphone is perfectly acceptable.

If you can record a video and send a link, you can enter this horse show.

1. What You Need

You will need:

- A smartphone, tablet, camera, or other device capable of recording video
- A person to film, or a secure tripod/phone stand
- Enough storage space on your device to record the entire class
- Internet access to upload your video
- Your horse, your pattern or course, and a sense of humor if technology decides to test you

Professional-quality video is **not** expected.

The judge is evaluating your performance, not your camera equipment.

2. Before You Record

Before beginning your official video:

- Clean the camera lens.
- Make sure your phone or camera has enough battery.
- Confirm that you have enough storage space.
- Put your phone on **Do Not Disturb** or airplane mode if possible so calls and notifications do not interrupt the recording.
- Make sure the entire performance area can be seen.
- Review the class pattern, course, or requirements before recording.
- Confirm that all required cones, poles, jumps, obstacles, or markers are in place.
- Take a short practice video and watch it back before filming your official entry.

This practice video can save you from discovering afterward that half the arena was not visible.

3. How to Hold the Camera

Whenever possible, record your video **horizontally**, with the phone turned sideways.

This provides the judge with a wider view of the arena and makes it easier to see the horse's movement, pattern, obstacles, and overall performance.

The camera should remain as steady as reasonably possible.

A tripod is helpful but **not required**.

If another person is filming, they may slowly follow the horse as necessary to keep the entire horse and rider or handler visible.

Avoid:

- Rapid zooming
- Shaky camera movement
- Excessive panning
- Filming directly into bright sunlight when possible
- Standing so far away that the horse becomes difficult to see

4. Keep the Horse Visible

The horse and exhibitor should remain visible throughout the entire performance.

The judge must be able to clearly see:

- The horse's body
- The rider or handler
- Required movements
- Obstacles
- Transitions
- Jumping efforts, when applicable

For most classes, the entire horse should remain in the video frame whenever reasonably possible.

Briefly losing a hoof, tail, or edge of the horse from the frame will not automatically eliminate an entry. However, if the judge cannot see enough of the performance to fairly evaluate it, the entry may not be scored.

5. Start Recording Before the Class Begins

Begin recording several seconds **before** the official performance starts.

At the beginning of the video, the exhibitor or person filming should clearly state:

Class number and class name

Exhibitor name

Horse name

Declared level or jump height, when applicable

Example:

“Class 301, Hunter Over Fences. Jenna Everwyn riding Marvin. Two-foot to two-foot-nine division.”

After the identification is given, begin the performance.

You do not need to create a title screen or edit this information into the video.

Simply saying it aloud is sufficient.

6. One Continuous Video

The entire class must be recorded as **one continuous video** unless the class instructions specifically state otherwise.

Videos may not be:

- Cut
- Spliced
- Edited together
- Pieced together from multiple attempts
- Digitally altered to change the performance
- Speeded up or slowed down

If you make a mistake during your round, continue riding the class.

Mistakes happen at horse shows.

You may record another complete attempt and choose which complete video you submit, but the submitted video itself must represent **one complete performance from start to finish**.

In other words:

You may practice.

You may record multiple attempts.

You may submit your favorite attempt.

You may **not** combine the best parts of several attempts into one video.

7. When to Stop Recording

Continue recording for several seconds after completing the final required movement, obstacle, or portion of the class.

Do not stop the video the instant you cross the finish marker.

This helps ensure that the final movement is visible and gives the judge a clear conclusion to the performance.

8. Patterns

For pattern classes, the entire prescribed pattern must be visible.

Examples include:

- Showmanship
- Horsemanship
- Equitation
- Ranch Riding
- Western Riding
- In-Hand classes
- Working Equitation
- Trail patterns

Cones or markers should be clearly visible whenever possible. You do not need cones, any visible, safe marker will do.

Please submit a copy of the pattern you are doing. Hand written is totally ok.

If an exhibitor goes off-pattern, the judge will apply the appropriate penalty according to the class standards.

9. Rail Classes

Because exhibitors are competing individually rather than in a group, rail classes will use a prescribed video format.

The class instructions will specify the required:

- Gaits
- Direction changes
- Transitions
- Extensions
- Stops
- Backing
- Other required movements

The camera should be positioned where the judge can evaluate the horse from both directions whenever possible.

Examples of rail classes include:

- Hunter Under Saddle
- Western Pleasure
- Ranch Rail
- Saddle Seat Pleasure
- Certain Driving classes

10. Trail and Obstacle Classes

For Trail, Ranch Trail, In-Hand Trail, Working Equitation, and similar obstacle classes:

The judge must be able to clearly see each obstacle and the horse's approach, execution, and departure.

Do not position the camera directly behind an obstacle where the horse disappears from view.

If one camera position cannot reasonably capture the entire course, the person filming may move with the horse.

The video must still remain continuous.

Performances will be evaluated according to the expectations of the declared level.

11. Jumping Classes

Jumping exhibitors must declare their height.

The camera should be positioned so that the judge can see:

- Approach to each fence
- Takeoff

- Jump
- Landing
- Track between fences
- Overall rhythm and balance of the round

The person filming may move or pan the camera to follow the horse.

The Equimist does not reward exhibitors simply for jumping higher. The round is evaluated according to the expectations appropriate for the declared height.

12. Dressage

Dressage tests should be filmed from a position that allows the judge to evaluate the geometry and accuracy of the test.

Whenever practical, the preferred camera location is near **C**, similar to the judge's traditional position at a dressage competition.

The complete test must be recorded continuously.

The rider may use a caller where permitted by the test being ridden.

13. Liberty and Freestyle Classes

Liberty and approved freestyle classes must still be submitted as a continuous performance unless otherwise stated in the class instructions.

Music may be played during the performance when permitted.

Post-production editing, music overlays, cinematic cuts, slow-motion effects, or highlight reels are not permitted for judged portions of the class unless the class specifically allows creative editing.

We love a dramatic montage.

We simply cannot judge one fairly.

14. Video Quality

Videos do not need to be high-definition.

However, the judge must be able to clearly identify the horse and evaluate the performance.

Please avoid submitting videos that are:

- Extremely dark
- Heavily pixelated
- Filmed from an extreme distance
- Severely shaky
- Obstructed
- Rotated incorrectly
- Missing significant portions of the performance

Audio quality is generally not part of judging unless specifically relevant to the class.

15. Uploading Your Video

After recording your class, upload the video using the submission method listed on the official entry form.

Depending on the platform used, you may be asked to submit:

- A video file
- or
- A shareable video link

If submitting a link, please make sure the judge has permission to view it.

Before submitting your entry:

Open the link yourself and make sure it works.

Even better, send the link to a friend and ask them to open it.

If they can watch it without requesting permission, you are probably good to go.

16. If Using YouTube

If YouTube is offered as a submission option, you may upload the video as **Unlisted**.

An Unlisted video does not normally appear publicly on your YouTube channel or in search results, but anyone who has the link can view it.

Do **not** select Private.

Private videos generally cannot be viewed by the judge unless you individually grant access.

After uploading:

1. Select **Unlisted** visibility.

2. Copy the video link.
3. Open the link to confirm it works.
4. Paste the link into your entry form.

17. If Using Google Drive

If Google Drive is offered as a submission option:

1. Upload your video to Google Drive.
2. Select the video.
3. Choose **Share**.
4. Change access to **Anyone with the link**.
5. Make sure permission is set to **Viewer**.
6. Copy the link.
7. Test the link before submitting it.

If the judge has to send you a request for permission, the video is not currently accessible.

18. Naming Your Video

Please name your video using the following format whenever possible:

Class Number – Exhibitor Name – Horse Name

Example:

301 – Jenna Everwyn – Marvin

If entering the same horse in multiple classes, create a separate clearly labeled video for each class.

Please do not name your files:

IMG_8472

horsevideoFINAL

finalfinalREALFINAL

or

thisone.mp4

Your show secretary will thank you.

19. One Class Per Submission

Unless otherwise stated, submit one video link or file for each class entered.

If you enter five classes, you should generally submit five corresponding class videos.

Do not make the judge search through one 45-minute video to locate individual classes.

20. Submission Deadline

All video links or files must be submitted by the published entry deadline.

Videos may be recorded before the deadline at any time permitted by the official show rules.

Late, inaccessible, deleted, or incomplete videos may not be judged.

Once judging begins, exhibitors should avoid changing, replacing, or deleting submitted videos unless instructed by show management.

21. Your Video Does Not Need to Be Perfect

Please remember:

This is a horse show.

Horses sneeze.

Dogs bark.

Children wander through camera frames.

Someone's husband will probably ask whether the camera is recording while it is very obviously recording.

A horse may stop to poop directly in front of the judge's imaginary viewing box.

None of that automatically ruins your entry.

We are looking for a clear and honest representation of your performance.

Do your best, stay safe, and submit the ride you are proud to have judged.

22. Technology Help

If technology is the only thing keeping you from entering, please do not panic.

Ask:

- A barn friend
- Your teenager
- Someone else's teenager
- The person at your barn who somehow knows everyone's Wi-Fi password

The Equimist will also provide simple submission instructions before entries close.

Technology should not be the reason you miss your horse show.

23. Fairness and Integrity

All submissions must represent an authentic performance completed by the listed horse and exhibitor.

Show management reserves the right to reject or disqualify videos that:

- Have been materially edited
- Misrepresent the horse or exhibitor
- Conceal required portions of the performance
- Demonstrate unsafe or inhumane treatment
- Cannot be fairly evaluated
- Violate the published class or submission rules

The Equimist Virtual Horse Show is built on trust, sportsmanship, education, and horse-first horsemanship.

We would much rather see an imperfect but honest ride than a manufactured perfect one.

JUDGING & SCORING

******Because this is a pilot program the judges will be selected based on the number of entries. There might be 1-20 different professional horsemen that are needed to get feedback back to you guys in a reasonable amount of time. Because of this judges and their family may enter, as their participation does not affect others outcomes and results.**

1. Judging Philosophy

The Equimist Virtual Horse Show is designed to provide exhibitors with thoughtful, constructive, and useful evaluation while recognizing the individuality of horses, riders, disciplines, and levels of development.

Judging will be based on the published standards for each class, with consideration given to the horse and rider's division, level, and the purpose of the class.

The Equimist Judging Philosophy:

In receiving a score it is our mission for you to compete against yourself. Each ride will be scored and feedback provided. We hope you will join us in 2027 for our 4 Horse Show Series to

continue to grow, learn, and join up with your horse. Year end awards will be provided in several categories.

2. Judging Standards

Where appropriate, class standards are informed by commonly recognized practices within the applicable discipline or breed/show association. However, The Equimist Virtual Horse Show operates under its own published rules and is not sanctioned by or affiliated with any outside breed or competition organization.

Judges will consider factors appropriate to the individual class, which may include:

- Correctness and accuracy
- Quality of movement or performance
- Balance and rhythm
- Responsiveness
- Rider position and effectiveness
- Horse-and-rider communication
- Execution of required maneuvers
- Manners and suitability
- Safety
- Overall presentation
- Class-specific requirements

Not every factor applies equally to every class.

3. Scoring System

Each entry will receive an individual score and/or evaluation based upon the published criteria for that class.

Official Scoring Scale:

0-100

Example framework:

Excellent: 90-100

An exceptional performance demonstrating a high degree of correctness, preparation, communication, and execution for the entered level.

Very Good: 80-89

A strong performance with many positive qualities and only minor areas requiring improvement.

Good: 70-79

A generally correct and effective performance with identifiable strengths and areas for continued development.

Developing: 60-69

A performance demonstrating understanding of the exercise or class expectations while showing areas that require additional development.

Needs Improvement: 0-50

The performance contains significant errors, inconsistencies, or areas requiring additional preparation.

Scores should be interpreted within the context of the horse/rider division and class entered.

4. Individual Score Sheets

Every exhibitor will receive an individual score sheet and/or video feedback.

Score sheets may include:

- Overall score
- Scores for individual judging categories
- Strengths demonstrated
- Areas for improvement
- Judge comments

The score sheet is intended to be an educational tool in addition to documenting the official class result.

6. Penalties & Errors

Penalties may be assessed for errors including, but not limited to:

- Incorrect execution of a pattern or maneuver
- Break of gait
- Wrong lead or incorrect gait
- Refusal
- Omission of a required element

- Going off course
- Failure to meet class requirements
- Unsafe performance
- Unauthorized assistance
- Video submission violation

Not every error will carry the same penalty across every discipline. The published class standards will determine how an error affects the final score.

7. Incomplete or Off-Pattern Performances

An exhibitor who makes an error should continue the performance whenever it is safe and reasonable to do so.

A mistake does not necessarily mean an entry will receive no score.

Our Practice: We encourage exhibitors to continue on. You will be judged on your horsemanship throughout the situation.

The Equimist encourages exhibitors to complete their performance safely rather than abandoning an entry because it is not perfect.

8. Safety & Welfare

Horse and rider safety takes precedence over scoring.

Judges may heavily penalize, stop evaluation of, or disqualify a performance that demonstrates unsafe conduct or raises significant concerns regarding horse welfare.

Examples may include:

- Excessive or inappropriate use of equipment
- Excessive correction
- Dangerous riding or handling
- Clearly unsuitable conditions
- Conduct that places the horse, rider, handler, or another individual at unreasonable risk

A poor score is never considered justification for compromising the welfare of the horse.

9. Equipment & Attire

The Equimist Virtual Horse Show encourages every exhibitor to present themselves and their horse with care, pride, and attention to safety. A polished presentation is encouraged; an expensive presentation is not required.

General Presentation

Exhibitors should make a reasonable effort to present themselves and their horse in a manner appropriate to the class and discipline entered.

Horses should be reasonably clean and well groomed, and tack should be clean, properly fitted, in good repair, and safe for its intended use. Riders and handlers should wear clean, neat, appropriately fitted clothing suitable for the activity being performed.

Traditional show attire is welcomed but is **not required unless specifically stated in the class description**.

A clean schooling outfit, simple show attire, properly fitted used or borrowed equipment, or other safe and appropriate presentation will not be penalized because of brand, age, price, or lack of decorative details.

Judging of Presentation

When presentation is relevant to a class, judges should evaluate:

- Neatness and overall preparedness
- Appropriate and safe tack
- Proper fit and function of equipment
- Attire appropriate to the activity and discipline
- A professional, intentional overall appearance

Judges should **not** give preference based upon the perceived monetary value, brand, trendiness, or prestige of an exhibitor's clothing, tack, saddle, equipment, or horse.

An exhibitor should never receive a higher score simply because they own more expensive equipment.

Likewise, exhibitors should not be penalized for using older, secondhand, borrowed, repaired, or budget-conscious equipment provided that it is safe, clean, appropriately fitted, and suitable for the class.

Discipline-Specific Tack

Whenever practical, tack should be generally appropriate for the discipline being represented. However, The Equimist recognizes that exhibitors may participate across multiple disciplines and may not own specialized equipment for every class.

Unless a specific piece of equipment is necessary for safety or essential to the purpose of the class, reasonable substitutions are permitted.

The purpose of this show is to evaluate the performance presented—not an exhibitor's ability to purchase an entirely new tack room.

Safety

Safety takes priority over appearance or tradition.

Tack and equipment must be in safe working condition and appropriately fitted to the horse and rider. A judge or show official may penalize or disqualify an entry when equipment, attire, or tack creates a legitimate safety or welfare concern.

ASTM/SEI-certified equestrian helmets are strongly encouraged for all mounted exhibitors, especially those 18 and under and are required for all over fences classes for all ages.

Grooming

Horses should be presented clean and reasonably groomed.

Braiding, banding, clipping, hoof polish, false tails, mane preparation, cosmetic products, and other traditional show-ring finishing practices are optional unless specifically required by a class.

An exhibitor will not be penalized simply because their horse is not braided, banded, body clipped, cosmetically enhanced, or prepared according to expensive or labor-intensive industry trends.

Good horsemanship and thoughtful preparation should be evident without requiring exhibitors to spend beyond their means.

The Equimist Standard

We believe presentation matters because preparation matters—not because money determines who belongs in the show ring.

Come prepared. Come safe. Take pride in yourself and your horse. Use what you have well.

The quality of your horsemanship, riding, handling, preparation, and performance will always matter more than the label inside your jacket or the name stamped on your saddle.

10. Horse & Rider Level Consideration

Entries will be judged according to the requirements of the class and applicable division.

Judges should recognize the developmental expectations associated with the entered horse and rider level without changing the fundamental requirements of the class.

For example, the expectations for a developing horse should appropriately reflect that division while still rewarding correctness, safety, communication, and progression.

11. Constructive Feedback

Judge comments should be professional, respectful, specific, and useful.

Feedback should identify what the exhibitor did well as well as areas that could improve the performance.

12. Judge Decisions

The judge's decision regarding scoring is final.

Questions regarding mathematical errors, incorrectly recorded scores, or administrative mistakes may be submitted to show management.

This is just a marker for a milestone.

A request for review is not an opportunity to challenge a judge because an exhibitor disagrees with an opinion or placing.

13. The Purpose of the Score

A score represents the judge's evaluation of **one submitted performance on one day**.

It is not a statement about the worth of the horse, rider, handler, trainer, or partnership.

The Equimist Virtual Horse Show exists to make competition more accessible, educational, and encouraging while maintaining meaningful standards.

RULES & SPORTSMANSHIP

The Equimist Virtual Horse Show was created to make showing more accessible, educational, encouraging, and fun without sacrificing good horsemanship or meaningful competition.

By submitting an entry, exhibitors—and a parent or guardian when the exhibitor is a minor—agree to follow the rules published in this Premium Book and conduct themselves in a manner that reflects respect for the horse, fellow exhibitors, judges, show management, and the sport.

General Rules

1. All exhibitors are responsible for reading and understanding the rules, class descriptions, eligibility requirements, and video submission requirements before submitting an entry.
2. Entries must be complete and submitted by the published deadline.
3. Exhibitors are responsible for entering the appropriate class, rider level, and horse level. Show management reserves the right to contact an exhibitor regarding an entry that appears to have been entered incorrectly.
4. Each submitted performance must meet the requirements published for that class.
5. Entries must represent a genuine performance by the horse-and-exhibitor combination listed on the entry.
6. Videos may not be altered in a way that misrepresents the performance. Permitted and prohibited video practices are outlined in the Video Submission Rules.
7. All required patterns, tests, courses, or maneuvers must be performed according to the applicable class instructions.
8. Tack, equipment, and attire must comply with the Tack & Attire and safety provisions of this Premium Book.
9. Show management reserves the right to reject, reclassify, penalize, or disqualify an entry that does not meet the published requirements.

10. Situations not specifically addressed within the Premium Book will be decided by show management in a manner consistent with the purpose, safety standards, and spirit of The Equimist Virtual Horse Show.

Horse Welfare

The welfare of the horse takes priority over competition, scores, ribbons, entry fees, and results.

Horses must be treated humanely before, during, and after the recorded performance.

Excessive force, abusive training practices, excessive use of aids or equipment, intentional intimidation, or any treatment considered detrimental to the physical or emotional welfare of the horse will not be accepted.

Show management and judges reserve the right to penalize or disqualify an entry when the submitted video demonstrates a significant horse-welfare concern.

An exhibitor should never continue a performance simply for the sake of completing a class when doing so would compromise the safety or welfare of the horse or rider.

When in doubt, take care of your horse first. There will always be another class.

Sportsmanship

Good sportsmanship is expected from exhibitors, parents, guardians, trainers, coaches, owners, spectators, and anyone representing an entry.

Participants are expected to:

- Treat fellow exhibitors with respect regardless of experience, discipline, horse, equipment, financial resources, score, or placing.
- Accept judging decisions professionally.
- Communicate respectfully with judges and show management.
- Celebrate the accomplishments of others without diminishing their own.
- Ask legitimate questions through the appropriate channels.
- Represent themselves and their horse honestly.
- Encourage an environment in which beginners and experienced competitors can participate without ridicule or intimidation.
- Remember that there is a human being—and usually a very loved horse—on the other side of every entry.

Disagreement with a score or placing does not excuse disrespectful behavior.

Social Media Conduct

Because this competition takes place virtually, sportsmanship extends beyond the submitted video.

Participants may share their own performances, scores, ribbons, experiences, and opinions. Constructive discussion about competition and judging is welcome.

Harassment, bullying, targeted ridicule, threats, or intentionally degrading another exhibitor, judge, horse, trainer, or show official in connection with The Equimist Virtual Horse Show may be considered unsportsmanlike conduct.

Critiquing another exhibitor's performance publicly without their invitation is strongly discouraged.

We want people to feel safe being brave enough to participate.

Communication With Judges

Judges should not be contacted privately by exhibitors, parents, trainers, or owners regarding scores, placings, or individual entries.

Questions regarding results, score calculations, rule interpretation, or possible administrative errors should be directed to show management through:

Jenna Everwyn - TheEquimist@gmail.com

Show management may consult the judge when appropriate.

Requests for clarification must remain respectful and are not an opportunity to pressure a judge into changing a professional opinion.

Protests & Score Reviews

Requests for review may be submitted when an exhibitor believes there has been:

- A mathematical or clerical error
- An incorrectly recorded score
- An incorrectly applied rule
- An administrative error affecting the entry or result

Requests for review must be received by 1/1/2027

A difference of opinion regarding a judge's evaluation is not, by itself, grounds for a protest.

Judges' decisions regarding subjective evaluation and class placing are final unless a documented administrative or scoring error occurred.

Coaching & Outside Assistance

Outside assistance during a recorded performance is: Totally encouraged at the more novice levels. If it feels safer, go for it.

Classes specifically designed to permit assistance will state so in the class description.

Any permitted assistance should support safety and successful participation without materially completing the judged work for the exhibitor.

Honesty & Integrity

The virtual format depends upon trust.

Exhibitors are expected to submit performances honestly and follow the same standards of integrity they would be expected to follow at an in-person competition.

Deliberate falsification of an entry, manipulation of a video to misrepresent a performance, misrepresentation of eligibility, or other intentional dishonesty may result in disqualification.

Rule Violations & Disqualification

Depending upon the nature and severity of a violation, show management may issue:

- A warning
- A scoring penalty
- No score for an affected maneuver
- Disqualification from a class
- Disqualification from additional classes
- Forfeiture of awards
- Removal from the competition in serious circumstances

Not every mistake is misconduct.

An accidental pattern error, missed maneuver, wardrobe mishap, lost stirrup, break of gait, or imperfect performance is part of horse showing and will be handled according to the applicable judging rules.

Disciplinary action is reserved for situations involving rule violations, dishonesty, safety, welfare, or conduct—not simply because somebody had a less-than-perfect ride.

Final Authority

The Equimist reserves the right to interpret and enforce the rules of the competition and to make decisions regarding circumstances not specifically addressed in this Premium Book.

Whenever possible, decisions will prioritize:

Horse welfare. Human safety. Fair competition. Education. Accessibility. Good sportsmanship.

The Equimist Standard

Compete hard. Prepare well. Be proud of what you accomplish.

And remember that someone else's success does not take anything away from yours.

We can have standards without cruelty, competition without exclusion, and meaningful judging without forgetting why most of us walked into a barn in the first place:

We really, really love horses.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

We know horse showing comes with questions—especially when you're doing it from your own barn. Here are answers to some of the most common ones.

Do I need horse show experience to enter?

No! The Equimist Virtual Horse Show is designed to welcome riders and handlers at a variety of experience levels. It is recommended that you have experience in the discipline you enter for the safety of you and your horse. Don't enter the over fence classes if you have never jumped safely with instruction, etc.

Please read the division and class eligibility requirements carefully and choose the level that most accurately represents you and your horse.

You do not need to already consider yourself a "show person" to participate.

Do I need a registered or purebred horse?

No.

Registered horses, grade horses, ponies, mules, draft crosses, rescues, backyard legends, and everything in between are welcome unless a particular class specifically states otherwise.

Do I need expensive tack or show clothes?

Absolutely not.

We ask that you and your horse be clean, neat, safe, and appropriately presented for the class you're entering.

Traditional show attire is welcome, but the price, brand, or prestige of your equipment and clothing will not earn you additional points.

Use what you have well.

Do I need access to a show arena?

No.

You may record at home or at another appropriate location as long as you have enough safe space to complete the requirements of your class and your video meets the Video Submission Rules.

Your arena does not need to be fancy.

What if I don't have a regulation-size arena?

Please use whatever safe area that you have. Scale it down to fit.

What if I make a mistake?

Keep going!

A mistake does not automatically eliminate you from the class.

Depending upon the class, errors such as a break of gait, missed transition, wrong lead, refusal, or pattern error may affect your score, but we would much rather see you safely finish your performance than give up because it wasn't perfect.

Can I start my video over?

Yes, please be fair to yourself and your horse. Perfection is not the goal.

Can someone call my pattern or test for me?

Yes. Classes may permit a caller, reader, or other appropriate assistance.

Can my trainer or someone else coach me during my video?

For all divisions, besides the Open level.

Can the person filming me talk?

Ideally not.

Can I edit my video?

Videos may be trimmed as permitted under the Video Submission Rules, but they may not be edited in a way that changes, hides, rearranges, or misrepresents the actual performance.

Please read the complete Video Submission Rules before recording and uploading your entry.

What if my horse leaves the camera frame?

Do your best to position the camera so the judge can clearly evaluate the entire performance.

Can I enter more than one horse?

Yes!

Each horse-and-exhibitor combination is treated as its own entry.

Can the same horse be shown by more than one person?

Yes. Please exercise best horsemanship practices so as to not over work the horse.

Can I enter the same horse in different divisions?

Horse and rider eligibility requirements still apply.

How do I know which rider level to choose?

Choose the level that most accurately reflects your current riding or handling experience according to the Divisions & Eligibility section.

If you're genuinely unsure, contact show management before entering and we'll help you determine the most appropriate division.

How do I know which horse level to choose?

Horse level is based on the criteria published in the Divisions & Eligibility section—not simply the horse's age.

Please choose the category that most accurately reflects your horse's current level of training and experience.

What if my horse is green but I'm an experienced rider?

Perfectly fine.

Horse level and rider level are considered separately so we can more accurately recognize the experience of each half of the partnership.

What if I'm a beginner riding an experienced horse?

Also perfectly fine.

That's exactly why horse and rider levels are separated.

Do I have to ride English or Western?

No.

Many classes allow exhibitors to participate in the tack and style appropriate to their discipline. Some classes are discipline-specific, so always check the individual class description.

Can I enter multiple disciplines?

Yes, provided you and your horse meet the requirements of each class.

You do not need to completely reinvent your wardrobe or tack setup just to try something new.

Do I have to braid, band, clip, polish hooves, or use a fake tail?

No.

You are welcome to turn out your horse according to traditional show-ring standards, but optional cosmetic preparation will not determine whether you belong here.

Clean, cared for, and thoughtfully presented is enough.

Are helmets required?

Yes for those 18 and under, and for all over fences classes.

Please remember that individual classes may have additional safety requirements.

What happens if something goes wrong during my ride?

Take care of yourself and your horse.

If tack breaks, your horse becomes distressed, conditions become unsafe, or something simply doesn't feel right, stop.

No ribbon is worth continuing an unsafe situation.

Will I get feedback even if I don't place?

Yes.

Eligible completed entries will receive an individual score sheet and judge feedback regardless of placing.

The feedback is an important part of this show—not a consolation prize.

Will I receive a real ribbon?

Yes!

Physical Equimist ribbons/rosettes will be mailed to eligible award recipients according to the Awards & Recognition section.

Make sure the mailing address on your entry is complete and correct.

When will results be announced?

Official results will be announced: 12/12/26

Score sheets and awards will be distributed according to the published show timeline.

What if I disagree with my score?

That's okay. Judging involves professional evaluation, and exhibitors will not always agree with every decision.

Mathematical, clerical, administrative, or rule-application errors may be submitted to show management for review according to the Rules & Sportsmanship section.

A difference of opinion regarding a judge's evaluation is not grounds for changing a placing.

Can I contact the judge about my score?

Please don't contact the judge privately regarding an entry.

Questions should be directed to show management through:

TheEquimist@gmail.com

What if I can't afford traditional horse-show equipment?

You can still show.

Financial resources should not determine whether someone gets to experience competition, receive professional feedback, or celebrate progress with their horse.

Safe equipment matters. Properly fitted equipment matters. Preparation matters.

The logo stamped on your saddle does not.

What if I'm nervous about submitting my video?

Submit it anyway.

You do not need to wait until you have the perfect horse, perfect arena, perfect outfit, perfect pattern, or perfect ride.

Prepare. Be safe. Do the best you can with the horse you have today.

That's horse showing.

What if I have a question that isn't answered here?

Please check the complete Premium Book first. Detailed information regarding eligibility, class requirements, scoring, tack and attire, video submissions, awards, and sportsmanship can be found in the applicable sections.

Still can't find it?

Contact The Equimist at:

TheEquimist@gmail.com

We're happy to help clarify the rules before you submit your entry.

ENTRY CHECKLIST

Ready to Show?

Before you hit **SUBMIT**, take a quick trip through this checklist. A few minutes now can save you from discovering later that your beautiful ride was filmed vertically, your address is missing, or your horse was entered in the wrong class.

1. Choose Your Divisions & Classes

- ☐ I have reviewed the **Divisions & Eligibility** section.
- ☐ I selected the appropriate **rider level**.
- ☐ I selected the appropriate **horse level**.
- ☐ I reviewed the **Show Bill** and selected the classes I want to enter.
- ☐ I read the complete description and requirements for each class.
- ☐ I confirmed that my horse-and-rider/handler combination is eligible for each selected class.

2. Read the Rules

- ☐ I have reviewed the **Rules & Sportsmanship** section.
- ☐ I understand the **Judging & Scoring** standards.
- ☐ I reviewed the **Tack & Attire** requirements for my classes.
- ☐ I understand the horse welfare and safety expectations of The Equimist Virtual Horse Show.

3. Prepare Your Performance

- ☐ I downloaded or saved any class instructions I need.
- ☐ I have the space and equipment necessary to safely complete my classes.
- ☐ My tack and equipment are safe, properly fitted, and appropriate for what I am doing.
- ☐ I know whether a caller, reader, coach, or other assistance is permitted in my classes.
- ☐ I practiced enough to understand the class requirements—but remembered that nobody is asking for perfection.

4. Prepare to Film

- ☐ I read the complete **Video Submission Rules** before filming.
- ☐ My camera position allows the judge to clearly see the performance.
- ☐ My filming area has adequate lighting and visibility.
- ☐ I confirmed the required camera orientation.
- ☐ I know what must be shown or stated at the beginning of my recording.
- ☐ I understand what video trimming or editing is—and is not—permitted.
- ☐ I asked my camera person to read the filming instructions too.

Seriously. Give them the instructions. Don't just yell them from horseback.

5. Check Your Video

Before uploading:

- ☐ This is the correct horse.
- ☐ This is the correct exhibitor.
- ☐ This is the correct class.
- ☐ The entire required performance is included.
- ☐ The horse and exhibitor remain sufficiently visible for judging.
- ☐ The video plays correctly from beginning to end.
- ☐ The video has not been edited in a prohibited manner.
- ☐ I watched the **actual file I am submitting** at least once.

6. Complete Your Entry

- ☐ Exhibitor's name is correct.
- ☐ Horse's show name and/or barn name is correct.
- ☐ Horse information is complete.
- ☐ Rider/handler information is complete.

- ☐ Rider level is correct.
- ☐ Horse level is correct.
- ☐ English/Western/other applicable information is selected.
- ☐ All desired classes are selected.
- ☐ My mailing address is complete and accurate.
- ☐ My email address and contact information are correct.
- ☐ Parent/guardian information has been provided if required.
- ☐ All required waivers, releases, and acknowledgments have been completed.

7. Upload Your Videos

- ☐ Each video is attached or linked according to the submission instructions.
- ☐ Each video is clearly identified with the correct horse, exhibitor, and class.
- ☐ Any sharing permissions required to view the video are turned on.
- ☐ I tested my links before submitting them.
- ☐ I did not assume that because the link works for me, it automatically works for everyone else.

8. Final Check

- ☐ I have entered everything I intended to enter.
- ☐ I have reviewed my information for spelling or selection errors.
- ☐ I have confirmed my total entry fees.
- ☐ I have submitted payment according to the entry instructions.
- ☐ I have saved my confirmation or receipt.
- ☐ I submitted everything by the published deadline.



And Finally...

☐ I remembered to enjoy this.

Your arena doesn't have to be perfect.

Your horse doesn't have to be perfect.

Your outfit doesn't have to be expensive.

And your ride definitely doesn't have to be flawless.

Prepare well. Take care of your horse. Present yourselves proudly. Submit the video.

You're officially horse showing.