



SHELLEY COOPER of Rockwood lunges Miss Kiowa Bars on the long line in preparation for English classes at the Rockwood Trail Riders show this weekend.



SAHIB AKIL practises for showmanship competition with his owner Mary Smith at Sunday's Rockwood Trail Riders horse show. The two-year-old Arabian colt, nicknamed "Bozo", was showing for the first time.



EVEN SPECTATORS GET THIRSTY at a horse show. Rockwood trustee, Pat Smith, watches his daughter ride in the Rockwood Trail Riders show. His trusty trustee's thermos hangs from his hip pocket.



"YOU DON'T REALLY expect me to jump that in a western saddle, do you?" queries Flicka at Sunday's Rockwood horse show. Her owner rider Brent Storey of Rockwood was performing in his first show and was wearing chaps he made himself.



It's that time of year again and there are many questions about horse shows and "what do I wear?" Riders entering small schooling shows for the first time are very concerned with looking correct and having the right equipment for their horse. Most schooling shows are not as strict as recognized shows but there are some simple rules to follow.

I saw a young boy eliminated from a western pleasure class at EBHO last week because he was wearing jeans instead of dress pants. Finding out the regulations before hand avoids the nuisance and embarrassment of this.

Western Show requirements

Western dress must be neat, quiet, and clean. Gone are the days of the rhinestone cowboy. A dress western suit, or frontier pants and western shirt (short or long sleeved) are the requirements of most western classes. A western tie or scarf is a must, as are western hats and western boots. Jeans are only permitted if covered by chaps. Hair should be neat and not cover number. If you have long hair, braid it, tie it up, or wear a hair net (male or female!).

Your horse should be well-trimmed and clean. Check height regulations for the classes you wish to enter. Ponies are not allowed in many senior classes, both English or western.

Any western stock saddle with standard rigging and a quiet saddle pad (no pom-poms please) plus an acceptable humane bit or hackamore with western bridle are what you need. Mechanical hackamores, martingales, tie-downs and tappers are not permitted in performance classes.

English Show requirements

Just as western dress has quietened down in the last ten years, English dress has livened up a little. Many riders are wearing discreetly coloured jackets, often colour coordinated with saddle pad and braiding wool. This is most attractive, be it English or western.

The English rider must wear breeches or jodhpurs and appropriate boots. The shirt must be closed - i.e.: tie, stock, rat-catcher, or turtle neck (for schooling shows only - turtle necks are not permitted in recognized shows). A jacket and hard hat are required. See western rules for hair.

The horse need not be braided but a good braiding job catches the judge's eye.

Any acceptable English saddle with or without pad is permitted, as are most English bridles with bit. A snaffle bit only is permitted in dressage classes. No martingales, breast plates, boots or bandages are allowed in pleasure or dressage classes. A dropped noseband is prohibited in pleasure or working hunter classes. A crop is not permitted.

Hope this answers some of your questions and helps you enjoy your first horse show.

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(ACROSS FROM IGA)

Applauds revised code

If the new agricultural Code of Practice is adopted by Halton Region and area councils it could go a long way towards eliminating the friction between farm operators and rural residents, according to Halton Agricultural Representative Henry Stanley.

In its original form the code reduced problems for neighbors of livestock operations, but provided the operators with little protection from encroachment by other types of development, particularly rural non-farm residential development. The minimum distance formulas have been designed to help provide such protection.

New edition The new edition of the code contains minimum distance formulas to keep rural residences away from livestock buildings and manure concentrations. The formulas take into account such variables as the type of livestock, the number of animals, the type of manure system and manure storage.

In an interview recently Mr. Stanley said the reciprocal part of the code was very good. In effect the code forces non-farm rural residents to give more consideration to the farmer before building.

"When you consider the amount of money a farmer has to spend in buildings and machinery you realize he can't take a chance on being shut down. The code is one way to minimize complaints if it is accepted."

Concentrate problems Hamlet subdivisions have to stay a certain distance from the farm operation according to the code. Mr. Stanley sees this as a good thing because concentrations of people in rural areas concentrate problems for the farmer.

Stanley said meetings would be organized by the Ministry of Agriculture in the near future with municipal planning people and farmers. The purpose of those meetings will be to explain the provisions of the code.

Regional Planning Director Ed Cumming said he wasn't nearly as concerned with what the farmer might do that is wrong as he was with the restrictions placed on the farmer by residential development in the rural area.

Protect farmer "I'm not nearly as concerned about what the farmer might do wrong as what we may do to him. We need a policy to prevent us from putting him in an untenable position," he said.

The planner said in the past that all of the restrictions, regulations and rules resulting from the interface came to bear on the farmer. "He needs to be protected."

He suggested there was too much emphasis on the need for a code of practice for farmers and suggested the real need was for a code of practice for rural residents.

Markings
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