

# **8TH ANNUAL CONNECTICUT 4-H MODEL HORSE SHOW**

**2024  
Middlesex County Extension Center  
Equine Events Day**

**UConn**  
**EXTENSION**



**Connecticut State Model Horse Show**  
**December 7, 2024**  
**Equine Events Day—Middlesex County Extension Center**

### **What is a Model Horse Show Class?**

So many young people who love horses most likely have one or two model horses – so why not show them in a 4-H model horse show?!

A model horse can serve as a teaching tool for either the 4-H horse owner or non-owner, encouraging the 4-Her who has some degree of horse knowledge/experience, as well as an introduction for those 4-Her's new to the world of horses! The Model Horse Show is a fun, educational way to learn about horse show classes, tack, barn safety, breeds and all sorts of horsey things. Gathering information, display organization, hand-making tack/accessories, and writing class descriptions all enhance the 4-Hers knowledge and skills.

A model horse show class captures a moment in the life of a real or imaginary horse. Model horses, such as a Breyer, Peter Stone or Hartland, are displayed in classes, such as fitting and showmanship, trail, or pleasure. Tack and other accessories may be included to create a realistic image of the class. Emphasis should be that the 4-H'er does his/her own work, just like in a real horse show. Expensive store bought items for the model horse are not necessary to participate. In fact, 4-Her's are encouraged to hand make lots of their own things!!

Entries should be on a display board that is no larger than 18" x 24". Poster board is acceptable as long as it is the correct size. Other boards or bases can be used. Size and type of the model horse/pony does not matter as long as the class is to scale. The horse and accessories should match the class being entered. The display must include a written description of the class, on a 3" x 5" card, which should explain what the horse is doing and the use of accessories.

Exhibitors must pre-register for the classes they want to enter and are given an exhibitor number. This number is used to identify your entry or entries. You can enter as many classes as you would like. You may also enter more than one display in a particular class. **The preferred method of payment for entry fees is Venmo.**

Model horses should be presented as clean and neat. The main criteria are to match the horse model to the class you are entering. Walking, trotting, and cantering poses, even standing models, offer performance options because you can explain what the horse is doing in the write-up. Rider dolls are not required, so if you choose to use a rider doll, the doll must be properly attired for the class and positioned well. Accessories should be proportional to the display. Keep it simple and natural. Hand-made accessories are encouraged. Model putty can be used to help position horses and accessories.

### **Rules**

1. The show is open to all registered 4-Hers. Contestants do not need to have a horse project to enter.
2. The New England 4-H rule book may be used as a resource.
3. **Classes must be set up by the 4-Her, not parents or leaders.** Older 4-H members may assist younger 4-Hers if help is needed.
4. Pre-registration is required to plan for time to judge, ribbons, etc.
5. Entry fee is \$3.00 per entry per class; entry fee of \$20 for unlimited entries. **All entry fees can be paid via Venmo to @CTState-Horse.** Due to COVID and health and safety concerns we prefer using Venmo to keep this a touchless event.
6. Explorer (5 & 6 yrs.) aged entries will receive feedback and a participation ribbon. Junior and Senior entries will be judged and receive Danish ribbons.
7. Classes will be judged on age, realism, relevance to the class, scale, correct fitting tack for discipline, detail, neatness and workmanship as well as condition of the model.

8. Displays should be no larger than 18" x 24" – a separate display is required for each class entered. The whole display should be to scale.
9. Displays must include a description of the class written on a 3" x 5" index card. On the back of the card, please include name and age of exhibitor, 4-H level, and name of class entered.
10. Riders are optional – points will not be taken off for lack of rider figures - figures if used, should be appropriate size.
11. When the term "horse" is used, this refers to any equine species.
12. Store bought items are not necessary, items created by 4-Her's welcome!

**Set Up** Set up is from *December 2nd—December 6th at the Middlesex Extension Center during business hours Judging will occur after February 6th*. Awards will be presented at Horsin In Stride.

### **Class List**

Classes should follow the same rules and judging criteria as a live horse show. For example, a western fitting & showmanship horse would be shown with a halter whereas an English horse would be shown with a bridle. The written description on a 3" x 5" card tells the judge what he or she is seeing in your class. Entries will be divided by explorer, junior and senior levels.

**4-H Fitting & Showmanship. In the show ring.** Horse should have a halter/lead or bridle to reflect the show discipline. Rider (if used) should be properly attired for the discipline. Accessories may be used to show a pattern.

**Around the Barn.** Does not have to include a barn but does have to include a horse. Display might include a paddock, arena, grooming, or tack area or anything else found around a barn. Accessories should be appropriate for what is being shown.

**Western Pleasure Class. In the show ring.** Include description such as tracking left or right, which gait, show less contact, etc.

**English Pleasure Class. In the show ring.** Include description such as tracking left or right, which gait, show less contact, etc.

**Trail Class with 1 Obstacle -In the show ring.** Include description of what horse is doing at the obstacle, and name of obstacle

**Out for a Trail Ride -** Include description of what horse is doing on the trail. Safety equipment should be included. Mixed tack is acceptable. Write up should include information about your trail ride.

**Hunter/Jumper - In the show ring.** Must include a jump & written name of jump and description of what the horse is doing

**Famous Horse -** Include the name of the horse and why this horse is famous

**Schooling/Lesson Time -** Include description of what is being displayed

**Costume - In the show ring.** Include description of costume/theme – higher points may be awarded for home-made costumes

**Miscellaneous—In the show ring.** Any horse show class that is not mentioned above, examples: lunging, driving, dressage, reining, gymkhana, breed, minis. Include name and description of class and what horse is doing.

**Breed—**Models should be good examples of the breed or type being exhibited. Halter and lead or bridle appropriate for breed are permitted but not required. Include index card describing breed, breed origin, typical size and coat color, use and other characteristics of note.

