



Rally for the Rescues Trainer's Challenge Rulebook 2017

The main purpose of this trainer's challenge is to promote and showcase the rescue horses' value and trainability to potential adopters. **The main goal is to produce a horse with a solid foundation in ground manners; and relaxed and willing to follow the trainer's cues and commands.** Timeframe does not allow training for show quality discipline. Showcase horses that will be attractive to potential horse owners who need a safe, trusting and willing partner and assume the adoptive owner (family) does not have extensive horse training experience.

Divisions:

Youth – Up to Age 17

Horses 3 years and under (in-hand)

Adult

Horses 4 YO or older

General Rules:

All training and challenge exhibition must be humane and compassionate. Softness is encouraged. The welfare and best interest of the horse will be number one priority. Any behavior deemed to be excessively harsh or harmful could result in disqualification.

Adult Trainers MUST elect 30 days prior to Trainer's Challenge if they decide to show In-Hand instead of riding. Once election is made cannot be changed.

All horses must be sound, disqualifications for unsoundness is at the judges discretion.

Horses can be ridden/shown with two hands in a snaffle bit, bosal or bitless bridle. If using a shank bit **MUST** ride with one hand.

Tie downs, martingales, mechanical hackamores are prohibited.

No slider shoes will be worn for the competition and sliding stops are prohibited.

The use of training aides (whips, sticks, end of lead rope etc.) is prohibited. The exception is using a stick if doing liberty during the freestyle. If youth or in-hand adult,

Excessive spurring or jerking on the reins or lead line during the competition is prohibited and could result in point deduction from the judges.

Use of any bit or equipment deemed too severe by the judges will not be allowed and result in disqualification for that class.

Trainers will be given the specific patterns and obstacle course the morning of the challenge and will have an opportunity to “walk through” the course with judges prior to classes.

Attire and Tack:

All trainers under the age of 18 MUST wear an approved ASTM/SEI helmet with a chinstrap. However, helmets are highly encouraged.

Horses maybe exhibited in English or Western. Trainers are asked to wear appropriate attire and head gear that reflects the style of riding. No extra points given for excess bling, silver or sequins on tack or shirts.

Mane and tail costumes are allowed in the freestyle.

Judges:

JUDGES DECISIONS ARE FINAL. Judges shall place participants fairly and according to class rules. However, understanding the unique element of this challenge where all these horses come with a troubled past, the judges will be familiar with the story of each horse’s background which will help assess and judge accordingly in the performance of each horse.

Classes:

1). Handling and Fitness Class ~ 30 points per judge

The overall poise, confidence, appearance and position throughout the class, and the physical appearance of the horse will be evaluated. Trainers can show in a “show halter” but will not get extra points.

Conditioning – 10 points – The horse’s body condition and overall fitness will be assessed.

5 points – Overall appearance reflected for hair coat, mane/tail, hoof and feet condition etc.

5 points – Appropriate weight and muscling. Fitness condition. The score will not reflect conformation.

Handling – 20 points – The horse’s demeanor and responsiveness, as well as the relationship between horse and trainer will be assessed in the completion of the following maneuvers:

- Walk
- Trot
- Stop
- Back
- Pick up feet

2). Pattern (Showmanship Class) – 10 points per maneuver per judge – Youth and Adult In-Hand Pattern (Horsemanship Class) – 10 points per maneuver per judge – Adult Ride

This class will assess the horse’s performance, willingness and ability to complete a pattern of generic maneuvers. A horse will be assessed on gait quality, head carriage in natural position and balance. Maneuvers may include but are not limited to:

- Walk or Trot
- Change direction
- Stop
- Back
- Pivots or turns
- Lead changes

3). Obstacle – 10 points per obstacle per judge + 10 points horsemanship per judge

This class will assess the horse's performance and willingness over obstacles, with emphasis on manners, response to the rider and quality of movement. Estimated 10 obstacles

The following will result in "no score" for that particular obstacle:

- 30 second time limit is used up without completing the obstacle
- Taking an obstacle in the wrong direction
- Negotiating an obstacle from the wrong side
- Negotiating obstacles in the wrong sequence
- Skipping an obstacle

Obstacles may include but not limited to:

Walk across a bridge

Go over poles or a small jump

Work a gate

Back up through an obstacle

Pick up object and relocate to another location

Dragging items

Walk/trot through poles or cones

Sidepass

4.) Freestyle Performance – 50 points per judge

The freestyle performance encourages the trainers to choose music, costumes and props that will highlight the abilities and strengths of their horse and showcase what is special about their horse. Participants will be scored based on:

25 points – Overall Horsemanship – this will assess the partnership between trainer and horse, and the horse's overall willingness to perform and execute maneuvers in controlled, relaxed and confident manner. Also assessed will be the incorporation of maneuvers.

25 points – Originality and artistic interpretation – composition and arrangement (choreography) of the ride to the music and rhythm and use of costumes, props. Also assessed will be level of originality and overall entertainment value.

Trainers will provide their own props and assistance for arena setup and tear down.

Music is required for the freestyle and must be submitted as one single track either on CD or as an mp3 file.

Trainers will have 5 minutes to complete their freestyle performance – music and time will start when participant enters the arena.

Prize Structure:

Cash prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place for youth division, adult in hand and adult rider. Amounts yet to be determined based on sponsorship deadline. Prize awarded for Overall Fan Favorite.

Each trainer will get a belt buckle and long sleeve button up shirt.