

## **MINIATURE HORSE SHOWING MANUAL :**

### **These are tips, not rules!**

When assessing the potential of a prospective show horse, natural balance together with correct conformation and movement are of utmost importance. A show horse should have that essential quality and presence in order to attract a judge's eye. Good faultless action is essential and a horse that is naturally a good mover will be easier to produce for the show ring.

It takes months of hard work and correct feeding in order to produce an animal ready for the ring. Conformation plays a very big part in the show animal. However, the overall impression is likely to be the deciding factor at the end of the day. The movement of the horse can often compensate for minor conformation defects. A good mover can rise several places in the line-up. The rhythm and stride, as well as straightness, are what count so it is extremely important that the animal is allowed to show itself off to its best advantage by its handler.

Any horse considered by the judge to not be under proper control or ill-mannered is likely to be asked to leave the ring or marked right down in the line-up.

### **Important Points to Remember in the Showring Turnout of the Handler :**

Handlers are to be smartly turned out. A hat (not necessarily a hard hat) is normally worn with gloves. Traditionally a tweed jacket with fawn pants, but equally smart, and not as hot, is a waistcoat over a long sleeved shirt and tie. Acceptable colours are black, navy or brown. Pants are to be dark, beige, cream or fawn.

The goal is once again to place the emphasis on your horse, not on yourself. Therefore brightly coloured jackets are a distraction, not to be worn in the show ring. Also keep in mind that a black horse's movement gets lost against a handler wearing dark colours. Always keep the horse you are showing in mind and dress accordingly.

Dress for the utility classes are exactly the same, the only exception being for the jumping classes where more comfortable shoes are allowed.

### **Riding Classes :**

- All competitors must wear protective headgear while mounted in the arena, practice arena and/or collecting ring. The protective headgear must include a retaining harness secured at more than two places and must be worn with the chinstrap properly secured.
- General Purpose saddles
- Well fitted numnahs (not squares) either the colour of the saddle or the colour of the horse are used. A sheepskin can also look very effective.
- Plain snaffle bridle with only a cavesson noseband to be worn.
- Saddles and bridles are traditionally brown although black is acceptable.

- Girths are the same colour as the horse except, if you want a statement and your horse or pony is well put together, you could use a white girth.
- A flat cavesson noseband is more correct than a raised or stitched noseband. A broad flat noseband will make a plain head look more delicate.
- Velvet Browbands may be worn for all Lead Rein classes
- Safety Stirrups for all Lead Rein classes.
- Horse's mane and tail may be plaited, especially for Best Turnout Class. All types of plaits are allowed.
- No Jewellery should be worn as a safety measure
- Discreet buttonhole.
- When the hair is below the level of the ear, the hair should either be plaited or secured in a hair net.

### **Showing Your Miniature Horse :**

The goal of this exercise is to show your horse to the optimum ability of the horse.

Presenting and running up in hand offers the judge a good opportunity of studying your horse close up and seeing how straight and well it moves. How you present your horse will very much govern the judge's reaction. The horse must therefore be taught to stand up properly, not take long to adopt a good position and obediently step forward or backwards as required, to give the judge the best possible view. It must lead out well and show itself off at the walk and trot, moving freely and actively to give a good outline. Knowing how to make the most of your horse in this phase is essential to success.

The popular saying, **“you never get a second chance to make a good first impression,”** is very true when it comes to showing your horse. Your entrance into the arena is the moment that the judge gives you his undivided attention to make his initial overall assessment.

### **Ring Procedure :**

- Enter the arena and circle in a clockwise direction. If the horse's pace in front of you is restricting your horse, you are allowed to pass this horse. Always pass on the inside making sure you pass quickly without necessarily obstructing the judge's view of this horse. You may even trot while showing at the walk in order to not obstruct the other horse.
- The judge may ask for the circle of horses to stand still and horses to trot half a circle individually to show off their movement.
- Horses line up and are called forward individually to perform the triangle test. Remember that you are allowed to change your position in the line-up. If you feel crowded you may choose a different line-up spot where your horse may feel happier. Ring Stewards are advised to always line the horses up on the long side of the arena, but it is up to the handler to stand his horse up where it is comfortable but still in the judge's line of vision.
- Horses may be asked to circle at a walk again.

- Horses line up in order of preference
- Horses are called forward in order of merit for the presentation of prizes.

You may wait until the judge/s attention is firmly onto you before you make your entrance. Remember **FIRST IMPRESSIONS COUNT**. Enter at an energetic trot unless otherwise instructed. You have one minute to make your first impression count. Use this one minute to its optimum. Train your horse at home to immediately show a pace that shows the horse and its movement at its best.

Even when the judge/s attention is onto the next horse, keep showing your horse. You never know when he looks over his shoulder at the competitors already lined up to just remind himself of the horses already seen. Never block the judge/s view of your horse. Always position yourself in such a way that the judge has an open view of your horse. Keep your horse standing square with its attention on you the handler.

**The Walk** : A horse is judged on the horse's ability to stride out and move freely from its shoulder. The horse must have a natural ground covering walk that is regular, free and unconstrained. Must demonstrate a definite four beat.

**The Trot** : The trot must be balanced, cadenced, free-moving, show elegant carriage and with easy rhythm and impulsion from the hindquarters. The trot should show equality of movement both from the front and the rear end. The trot should never look forced, laboured or artificial.

**Triangle** :

**Points to remember :**

Be ready to walk up as the last horse in front of you is being shown. Stand the horse up correctly a little away from the judge on (if possible) a flat piece of ground. Stand in front and slightly to the side of the animal holding the leading rein, which should not drag on the ground. Smile at the judge as you check that the horse is standing up properly. Encourage your horse to prick his ears and arch his neck. You may use a piece of grass or something similar to attract your horse's attention.

At **point A of the triangle** line your horse up to the best of its advantage. Take extra care that you are never between the horse and the judge. Always position yourself in such a way that the horse can see you clearly and have its attention firmly on you but also in such a way that you can see all four feet of the horse. This will enable you to immediately correct any undesirable stance. Remember that ideally your horse are always presented **OPEN** to the judge. This means that if the judge are on the right hand side of the horse, the right front leg will be positioned further forward, or directly in line to the left front foot. Also the right hand hind leg will be positioned further backwards than the left hind leg. You yourself will be on the left front of the horse, facing the horse. When the judge moves around to the other side you will reposition the horse so that the horse is again presented **OPEN** to the judge now on the left hand side of the horse. You yourself are to move over to the right front of the horse to be out of the line of vision of the judge but

where you still have an unrestricted view of all four your horse's feet. Keep his attention on you in such a way that makes the horse look well balanced and at its best.

Moving to **Point B** : Keep your horse at a brisk pace. Try to emulate the description given of the walk. Practise at home to determine the best walking pace for every horse you may be showing. It is important that the judge be given the opportunity to see the horse's movement directly from behind.

**Point B to Point C** : Train you horse to immediately and willingly start trotting the minute you have made the turn. Practise at home so that you will know at what pace you need to show your horse to highlight his/her best points. Try to encourage your horse to move out energetically and freely on a longish rein, never restricting movement by holding tightly to the lead rein underneath the chin. Allow the horse some freedom to move freely and show its paces.

**Point C to Point A** : Keep your horse under control in the turn at **point C**. Then trot straight back to the judge at **Point A**. The judge will be trying to judge the movement from straight in front, therefore trot directly towards the judge. He/She will move out of the way. Keep on trotting past the judge as he/she will move directly behind to judge the trot straight from behind.

Move back to the line-up and immediately set your horse up and keep showing. The judge may look up from the horse he/she is busy judging at any moment to have a look at a horse in the line up to compare points and you don't want to be caught napping. Never lose an opportunity to improve your horse's placing by not doing your part.

### **POINTS TO ALWAYS REMEMBER :**

When you make your turns around the different triangle points, always push your horse, it is never a pulling motion. Use your opportunity wisely while doing your test, show your horse to the best of its ability. If you need to carry on past a pointer if your horse did not trot correctly or did not show a flatfooted walk, carry on past the marker until you get the desired pace on your horse. Always keep in mind that the judges are nearly always pushed for time and a short, sharp show will be more appreciated than a longer one. Remember it is quality rather than quantity that is required. It does not take long for an experienced judge to assess a well-trained, well balanced horse with good conformation. Never waste unnecessary time!

### **ETIQUETTE**

- Review and follow the horse show rules.
- Be courteous to other exhibitors and show management.
- Offer to help someone in need.
- Do not block the entrance to the arena.
- Be aware of your surroundings;
- Keep a safe distance between your horse and other horses, at least one horse length between you and the horse in front of you.

- If you need to pass do so at a safe distance, **ALWAYS** pass on the inside.
- Try not to cover a fellow competitor from the view of a judge and blocking his/her view of the horse next to you.
- Remember a polite smile and a word of encouragement to another competitor is all in the spirit of the competition.
- Courteousness in the ring is paramount...even if you don't agree with the result. Congratulate the winner as it may be you next time!!
- Always send your apology if you are not turning up for a championship
- **Remember be alert at all times as you never know when the judge is looking at you!!**

### **TIPS ON HOW TO GET YOUR HORSE IN CONDITION AND READY FOR THE SHOW RING :**

❖ Brand names mentioned here are not registered for the use on horses. Use this at your own risk.

#### **Getting those whites even whiter :**

Anybody who has a horse with any white on them knows the difference what a brilliant white marking can make. They also know how hard it is to keep those whites looking sparkling clean throughout a horse show. Here are a few tips on getting whites clean, making them stand out, and keeping them that way.

#### **Blue Shampoo :**

A shampoo with a blue or purple tint made either specifically for white horses not only removes stains but also adds a bit of the tinted blue/purple colour to reflect light and make the whites brighter. You can make your own blue shampoo by adding approximately 10ml of **gentian violet** to any shampoo.

#### **Baby Powder :**

Once legs dry, apply a coat of baby powder to the white markings to add more white colour and to set the work the tinted shampoo has done. The baby powder will also help keep whites white as it deflects dirt and discoloration. Apply another quick coat of baby powder before entering the ring for that added whiteness.

#### **Plumber's White Chalk :**

Also works very well. It can be applied as a thick paste and then bandaged, allowed to dry, and only removed just before the class and brushed out. Very, very white legs! It can also be used on the body.

#### **Baking Soda :** ( Koeksoda / Bicarbonate)

Baking soda mixed with water will also help scrub those whites clean. The baking soda helps to lift the stains and also is slightly abrasive and helps scrub away dirt.

### **Omo or Sunlight liquid :**

The laundry detergent, is a great whitening “shampoo”. Just mix a capful in a large bucket of water and apply to a wet horse. Make sure to rinse well and not use too often as this may be drying to skin. It has optical brighteners built in that reflect light, making the horse look brighter. As always with any non-horsy product do a patch test and wait 24 hours for reaction to make sure the product is safe for your horse and he won't have an allergic reaction.

### **Scratch That Itch :**

Fungus, skin irritation, dry skin and other horse itches can be a hassle as they can lead you horse to start rubbing off hair as well as cause major discomfort to our beloved animals. There are plenty of antifungal “treatments” available on the market these day but they sure can be pricey.

Listerine: For that nasty tail itch that cause you horse to start rubbing out his precious tail try applying Listerine Mouthwash. The alcohol content seems to kill whatever is causing the itch as well as soothe the itching and stops rubbing. Mix the Listerine 50/50 with baby oil as the alcohol tends to dry out the hair.

### **WHAT TO DO WITH TAILS :**

Tails are often knotted and as we all know each hair is precious and we never want to pull one out. Washing them and getting them looking clean and shiny can be a real challenge. Never ever brush your tail out without using a detangler. Every hair that you pull out takes approximately 5 years to grow back.

- Always soak the tail in hot water with a bit of whitening stuff, then shampoo and condition. Hot water to soak the tail, then wash in warm water and a cold final rinse. If you have no hot water there, boil some. Cold just will not get the stains out. Always use horse products, never use bleach or cleaning products - your horse's tail will fall out.
- **Tomato sauce** is a natural bleaching agent. After washing, cover whole tail with tomato sauce and rub it in well, plait and cover it up, an old sock works well. Wash out within 24 hours and repeat if necessary. Always be very careful not to cover the tail bone but to just get the tomato sauce on the tail hair. It may be safer to run a test first to see if your horse may show a reaction to the tomato sauce if it touches the body by accident. A tip is not to use your best clothes as horses tend to swish their tails if any flies join the party. Some brand names may leave a pinkish tint, so run a test well before the show.
- **Omo or Sunlight Liquid :** Wash tail thoroughly with **Omo** and or **Sunlight liquid**. Just mix a capful in a large bucket of water and apply to a wet tail. Make sure to rinse well and not use too often as this again may have a drying effect on skin. Use a good conditioner after shampooing. Be careful not to apply to top of tail if you are going to plait the tail.

- **Pledge** : Believe it or not, this lemony wood cleaner works as a cheap and great tail detangler and adds brilliant shine all while repelling dirt. It is not a silicone based product which tends to end up attracting dirt. After a good wash and some conditioner, just spray it on the tail as needed to comb through tangles and when finished spray an extra coat to prevent the attraction of dust, you have a tail that stays clean and tangle-free
- **Bleached-out tails:** It's so horrible to have that tail that is a beautiful colour up top but down in the skirt looks bleached out. Here's the secret for that: Hair dye! Now, there are a few rules to dyeing your horse's tail with dye meant for humans. Do not touch the dye to the actual tail bone as you may get an allergic reaction. Also, just as with humans, don't use the dye too often as it can be drying and damaging to the horses hair. Always do a strand test by dyeing just a few strands with the dye and waiting 24 hours to see if there is a reaction. Match the dye as close as possible to your horse's hair. Overall the dye will help give your horse's tail a fresh and clean look. This may never be used to change the horse's tail colour but only to enhance the natural colour.

### **HOW TO BLACKEN HOOVES FOR THE SHOW RING :**

Before you can polish the hooves black at a show, you need to make sure the hooves are clean and smooth. Follow these easy steps to ensure your hooves looks fantastic :

- **Cleaning the hooves** : When washing your horse the day before the show, ensure that you take care of the hooves as well. Take a nail brush and wash the hooves on the outside as well as underneath to make sure they are also dirt free and looking good.
- **Moisturizing the hooves** : After washing and letting the horse dry, take some milking cream and apply it to the now clean and smooth hooves. This will moisturise the hooves and keep them from drying out.
- **Sandpaper** : Use sandpaper or a pot scourer to clean white hooves and having it looking spotless.
- **Polishing the hooves** : On the day of the show, just before entering the arena, take clear show polish and go over the whole hoof. This makes a ton of difference, let dry for a minute and buff off with a towel. Then add the black or brown show polish (if suitable), making sure to do a perfect straight line just under the coronary band hair. Also remember to polish the heels at the back of the hoof. Traditionally horses with black legs have black polished hooves, chestnut legs have brown polished hooves and white legs have clear polished hooves.
- **Finishing touches** : When the polish has dried, spray some Mr Min or Hoof Enhancer to it for that shiny look.

## **MAKEUP :**

Black around the eyes and the cheekbone to enhance the head. Small eyes can be made to look better by using a little mascara or even black eyeliner. A little oil or spray can be added to the mane and tail to add shine. But remember nothing can replace natural shine which comes from good feeding and a happy horse.

## **OTHER TIPS AND TRICKS :**

**Trimming the hair :** You must be skilled to do this properly, but with loads of practise you will soon find it easy to do. The whiskers around the muzzle and the ears needs to be correctly and neatly trimmed. Some believe it is cruel to trim off all the hair inside the ear and all the whiskers, but if you take care of your horse with trimmed ears and muzzle, nothing can go wrong. Trim the whiskers so that at least 1,5 to 2cm is still visible, depending on the amount of whiskers. Use a fly mask with ear protectors if you are worried that insects may pester the horse during the day.

**Vinegar :** After rinsing the conditioner or shampoo (whichever is applied last) off your horse rinse them down with a solution of half white vinegar and half water. This will not only help repel flies but also helps to repel dirt and gives a great shine.

**Haemorrhoid Cream :** Haemorrhoid cream does the trick for growing hair back perfectly (think no more white spots) on scrapes and cuts.

**Elbow Grease :** Nothing will get your horse shinier and with a beautiful coat than a good daily grooming using the correct tools and techniques.

**Mr Min :** Yes, Mr Min you use in your house. Spray this on your horse just before entering the arena at a show, wipe onto coat with a soft towel or micro fibre cloth, it helps make the horse's coat shine and keeps dirt off. Whenever there is dust on the coat just wipe and off it goes. It also works beautifully on the tail and face. Take a small cloth, spray some Mr Min on it and wipe gently on the face.

**Cleaning the ears :** Make sure to clean the ears. Take a wet wipe and rub gently in the inside of each ear to remove any dirt. This will make the horse's ears seem blacker and have a better overall look.

**Be prepared :** Good results don't come from working with your horse once a month. Your horse has to trust you before he can perform at your expected level. Practise working in-hand with him, teach him to stand still for the judge's inspection, make sure he is happy at all times.

**Tack :** Your tack should always be dust free and as clean as a whistle!! Use a leather soap, warm water and an old toothbrush to clean your show halter, saddle, bridle and harness. A glycerine soap bar is especially good. When dry use leather oil and a small cloth to oil every part of the tack. Make sure to clean all the little holes and to get the soap out of every nook and cranny. Polish buckles if need be. All tack should also be fitted correctly!!

## **TURNOUT OF YOUR HORSE :**

Many exhibitors devote a significant amount of time to training, practicing and perfecting their horse's performance, only to short-change themselves with a poorly turned-out horse. The presentation of the horse is as important as the performance.

I describe an appropriately groomed horse as one that is clean, clipped and thoroughly groomed, either every piece of the mane flattened or otherwise plaited to perfection with a neat looked after tail, and dressed to impress and with every piece of the horse sprayed, powdered and shining like a million dollars.

Getting a horse ready for the show ring is not something that can be done in a few minutes, right before the gate opens. Grooming for the show ring should begin long before show day. It is as much a part of a horse's every day routine as is feeding. A regular grooming regiment isn't just for show horses, it's for every horse.

### **Basic Turnout Advise :**

So we need a horse in a good shiny happy condition with a visit to the farrier regularly but at least 7 days prior to your departure to the show. Tack must be fitted and packed according to the classes entered and the rules of each class. A horse with healthy coat, ears, whiskers, feathers and fluffy hair trimmed, show boxes, halter, grass, bucket and all other needs packed with horses, dogs and grandma's ready to go. But before the turnout and fun at the show starts here's a few basic tips to help you prepare at home....

- Take good care of your horse at home by conditioning your horse with enough quality grain and grass, fresh water and supplements (if needed) so that your horse can shine, look and feel great from the inside out.
- Groom and curry your horse daily to release the natural oils and shine, try to wash your horse weekly at home with a good quality shampoo and conditioner to prevent debris and dirt clogging up. Nothing works better than good old fashioned elbow grease.
- **How to flatten your horse's mane?** The first would be to start about two weeks before the show and train the mane to lie down on the right hand side of the neck. The right hand side is suggested as miniatures traditionally have a lot of mane and the judge can easily walk to the side without manes in the line-up to compare necks. No horse will be penalised if that horse's mane is on the left hand side. **Reason :** If the mane on all the horses are on the same side, Our horses have a lot of mane and judges sometimes struggle to see the horse's necks. For ease of comparison.
- Wash the mane and condition it. Rinse most of the conditioner out but not all. Plait the mane tightly in a downward motion for the first inch or two, then relax the plait the further down you go. You can either do many thin little plaits, this is recommended for thick manes. Otherwise thicker plaits. I find the thin plaits lasts longer. Repeat this exercise at least every three to five days for two weeks. Two days before the show, wash the mane again but do not plait. You can use

any de-tangler instead of a wash and condition but this is not as effective as the washing process. If the mane is still standing up, use a horse hoodie especially at night to press the mane down and flat.

- **Tip from Horse n Hound to brighten horse's coats two weeks prior to the show –** Mix 500ml rosewater and 250ml olive oil with 1 liter shampoo. Wash your horse twice a week. Sponge mixture over horse and leave shampoo on to dry (around 30min), then rinse out all soapy residue. Rosewater & oil staying behind gets absorbed by the coat, repairing and reviving a dull looking coat quickly.
- Make sure to rug up in winter times to try and avoid the coat from drying out completely by harsh winter conditions. Horses love time out to play and roll until they start marching up and down irritated by weather conditions, it also helps to provide shading in the paddock with enough grass and fresh water. Think of yourself, going inside to pour a cold drink and just escaping the hot sun for a moment, no one wants to drink water that was lying in the sun all day long.
- If you have to body clip your horse for a show, do it two weeks before the show. Body clipping makes the coat dull for a while, and you want to give it time to get its natural shine back. Always put a hood and day sheet on preventing the coat from growing out stubbles. If your horse clips out a really bad colour and dull at the same time, use normal Mayonnaise you buy from any supermarket and groom them with a thick layer for about 15 minutes daily or rinse your horses coat with warm olive oil mixed with apple cider vinegar and that would help bringing the natural darker colour and shine of your clipped horse back before it is show time.
- After Clipping: After body clipping, rinse with a WARM olive oil and apple vinegar rinse (don't be shy about going heavy on both). Prevents fungus and that dry "just clipped" look.
- Never over train your horse at home, if your horse knows his/her paces and what is required from them, run them through it in short sessions keeping it interesting and fun. Remember it is a show horse and there would always be control and obedience but there is always a certain amount of sparkle needed in the arena, so never end up with a dull overworked horse with that tired look in the eye.
- Banging of tail : Use a sharp pair of scissors, take the tail hair in one hand and pull it straight down until somewhere between halfway past the hocks to just above the fetlock, cut straight across so the hair has a straight finish.

**Now let's start with the details.....**

**Wash Box :**

- Normal shampoo of your choice
- Conditioner

- Soft rubber curry comb
- Block soft sponges
- Soft body brush
- Sunlight liquid or Omo whitening for white markings
- Toilet or Hard Hoof brush, Pot sander, sand paper (they all do the same job)
- Blue rinse toilet block for grey horses or ponies
- Colour enhancing shampoo for grey, Black, Bay or Chestnut Horses
- 2 x towels
- Sweat scraper
- Clean horse blanket, especially in winter time
- Hosepipe with fittings and spray nozzle
- Baby shampoo – for head to avoid burning eyes

#### **Arena final touch grooming bag :**

- Small hand towel or cloth
- 1x dark n Lovely High sheen aerosol spray
- Tail brush
- Sheepskin glove
- Wet wipes
- Calzanetto shoe shine sponge

#### **Make-up and Turnout Box**

- Black and Clear High Gloss spray paint
- Black matt spray paint
- Sharp scissors
- Towels (never enough clean towels)
- Small makeup or dishwashing sponge
- Latex gloves (if you want to keep your hands clean)
- Black liquid shoe polish
- Baby oil gel (Vaseline) or glicerine
- Baby oil
- Black mascara or eye liner (optional)
- Hairspray
- 1x dark n Lovely High sheen aerosol spray – you can never have too many
- Mane and tail detangle, Mr Min or silicone surface spray
- Tail bandages
- Basic grooming kit
- Hoof pick
- Baby powder or maizena
- Clean sheepskin glove
- Wet wipes

- Fly spray

**Remember to pack and mark each box accordingly and when using them try to put everything back neatly in each box to be ready for the next class or the next day of the show.**

### **START ON A CLEAN SLATE :**

#### **Clipping :**

All clipping should be done a day or two before the show. This should be done even if your horse has been body clipped two weeks before the show.

- Clip your horse's ears out, clean clipped ears always looks better than the scissor cut look
- Clip whiskers and all fluffy hair on top of the face and underneath the jaw
- Also trim out the heels and fetlocks to remove any unnecessary leg hair, trim a clear line on top of coronet band. Use a sharp pair of scissors for this.

#### **Bathing :**

Give your horse a good wash a day or two before the show so the coat has time to settle, check your horse again the morning of the class for any stains or marks.

**NEVER SHOW A DIRTY HORSE** – Get up early and make sure you have enough time to wash your horse again if needed – if you have to think about whether or not he/she is clean enough, just bath him again!

Firstly wet your horse all over with water. For that ultra clean and shiny look choose a shampoo specific to your horse's colour. These shampoos really help to enhance the colour of the coat. Use Sunlight Liquid for white markings and socks.

Once you have the shampoo at hand you can either put some in a bucket or water or place it straight on to you sponge. Get a good lather on the coat and where possible leave the lather on the coat for a few minutes to work in. In stubborn areas you can apply the shampoo and leave for a few minutes before washing off. Thoroughly rinse the shampoo off the coat and sweat scrape the worst of the water away. If you want to enhance your grey horse's colour further use toilet Blue rinse block as a finishing touch as this will add shine and enhance the depth of colour to the coat.

Put some conditioner on the bottom of the tail and leave for a few minutes before you rinse. Never put conditioner on mane or top of the tail when you want to plait the hair.

When washing your horses face it's wise to use baby shampoo to prevent soap and irritating the eyes. Insert small blocks of sponge into your horse's ears to keep water from running into the ears.

Rinse all soap and put your heavy horse blanket onto the wet horse before walking him dry so the hair dries flat without getting fluffy.

After washing the tail spray with Mr Min or pledge. You want to leave your horse's tail as thick and lustrous as possible so only brush through the tail when you really have to.

### **Some more Turnout :**

- Cover up all your horse's blemishes and scars using hard polish to suit the colour of your horse
- Cover white socks and blazes with a decent layer of Baby powder or maizena. White shoe polish may also be used to brighten your horse's blaze or star.
- Spray the complete horse's coat with Dark n Lovely spray. Use the sheepskin glove to wipe while spraying.
- When you have the show halter on, take a makeup sponge and apply the baby oil gel to the muzzle and around the eyes. Keep in mind that it should not portrait a greasy look so do not use too much.
- Use the mascara to enhance the eye and to make it look bigger. Wipe this to blend into the natural colour of the horse.

### **Day of the Class :**

- Grooming
- Plaiting – if necessary
- Tail brushed and bandaged – if necessary
- Show halter clean and ready with show browband if preferred
- Final make-up and final touches
- Dressed neatly with show number
- Class time
- **HAVE FUN AND DO YOUR BEST**
- Even if something goes wrong or you are having a hard time....ALWAYS MAKE IT LOOK EASY!!!

### **Criteria Explanation APPEARANCE OF HORSE (40 points)**

- **Condition and thriftiness (20 points)**
  - Smooth, glossy coat and hard, rippling muscles
  - Alertness and vigour
  - Loose, pliable skin that is clean and healthy with fine, smooth, glossy hair
  - Evidence of correct balance of nutrition, care and exercise
  - Excess fat or a thin, unthrifty condition is objectionable, and may be penalized at the judge's discretion.
- **Grooming (20 points)**
  - Clean, well-brushed hair coat; dust, dandruff and stains are objectionable.
  - Areas around the eyes, ears, muzzle, nostrils, between the legs, under the tail and the sheath (male animals only) must be clean.

- Mane and tail trimming and braiding should correspond to **breed standards**. The mane and tail must be clean and free of snarls, with the mane trained properly to fall on one side of the neck.
- Long hair should be trimmed from the fetlocks, bridle path, whiskers, throat latch and ears to correspond to breed standards.
- **Length of the Tail :** One of the easiest ways to give your horse the neat finished appearance is to have a neat straight cut (banging) at the correct length. Recommendation : Horses with better hindquarters can be cut slightly shorter than horses with weaker hindquarters. Tail to be cut level with the chestnut just below the hock when the horse trots (shortest cut) or just above the fetlock joints (longest cut).
  - **How to do the Cut :**
    - Brush the tail thoroughly but don't use detangler sprays as this makes it difficult to cut in a straight line.
    - Have your assistant hold up the horse's tail at the height where it usually holds its tail while in motion.
    - Hold the bottom part of the tail to ensure it stays tight and in place when you use the scissors.
    - Now cut across the tail end in a straight line.

#### **Breed Standard South African Miniature Horse :**

- Miniatures usually have their manes left natural, and as long as possible, though in some horse show competition, the manes may be put in French braids down the crest of the neck. Mane may be pulled and braided as well.
- A short bridle path is allowed, 1-2 inches (25 to 51mm), clipping only the mane where the show halter/ bridle fits, just behind the ears.
- A long bridle path is allowed if you so wish, usually 6–8 inches (150–200 mm)
- Long mane with or without a short bridle path, may have a lock of mane braided in a stallion plait to open the throat latch area. Length of plait to be determined by the quality of the neck.

#### **THE TEN SHOWING COMMANDMENTS :** (Tongue in the cheek advise)

- Thou shalt not obstruct a judge's view of another horse.
- Thou shalt not deliberately make another competitor's horse misbehave in the ring
- Thou shalt not bring your groom / spouse / parent into the ring while you are competing
- Thou shalt not steal another's place in the line-up under the pretext "I thought it was me they were calling in"
- Thou shalt not be unpleasant or rude to a steward, thy groom, thy mother or father or whoever has been up since 4am driving or cleaning your horse.

- Thou shalt ignore persons outside the ring offering verbal assistance whilst you are in the ring. Or, if you are outside the ring, thou shalt not offer verbal assistance to any person inside the ring.
- Thou shalt never leave the ring without first seeking the judge's permission.
- Thou shalt at all times be polite and pleasant to the judge, even if thou thinkest "blind old bat" or "silly old trout."
- Thou shalt smile and say thank-you when handed your rosette, even if thou disagree with the result
- Thou shalt turn up for championships, parades and prize giving if required even if it is a long way home or thou want to change.