



SHOWING, some details...

DRESSAGE
EVENTING
FULL BOARD
TRAINING
COMPETITION
RECREATION

Showing locally, statewide or nationally is a great test of skills. Competing is a marker of progress and definer of goals. It is fun for riders to see other competitors. We learn by observation. When you know a show is in the area evaluate your interest, are you a spectator, groom or competitor? We need to first be a spectator.

Spectators watch. They watch how the show runs, where the rings are, how horses and riders behave. They learn safety and etiquette, correct show attire and performance modifications. Sometimes they are needed to—often quickly—hold and fetch things for the riders, carry water, run errands and always, did I say always, support and congratulate all the riders and their horses. Spectators often volunteer and help the show run for example dressage needs scribes to record the judges comments, the cross country phase cannot run with out volunteer jump judges, timers, and score collectors. Lunch, snacks and drinks keep the competitors on their game. We all love photos riding and in between rides. Oh ya, there is clean up...after the day it's got to be put away. Think of your abilities and lend a hand!

Grooms clean tack, clean horses, braid and polish the boots of the rider. Our show clothes, fresh from laundry or cleaners, have to be put on and kept clean. And the horses feet need to get oiled just before you ride...challenging. These preparations all take place before you get on. Tack cleaning, figure an hour. Braiding, figure an hour. Getting dressed, 30 minutes. Grooming the horse and tacking up takes 30 minutes. Three hours of work before the rider competes...yup.

Competitors do the spectating and grooming for themselves in addition to competing. The preparation and participation is all part of the experience. The competitor also practices consistently, plans for the show and learns the required rules, tests or courses. When the rider feels ready, the show gets entered. Each show has an entry form. Those forms list cost requirements and due dates. Closing dates mean that the entry form must be in the show secretary's hand on that day. Entries are the rider's responsibility. Some shows will consider late entries, always with penalty fees added, and let you know if you got in by the start of the show. Some shows require other organizations to be joined. All the information is listed on the entry form. Drug fee, office fee, membership fees all need to be added up and included in the payment total. Parent signatures, horse owner's signatures and fees are required. Then the form is mailed or delivered to the show secretary.

Experienced riders often have out grown clothing to sell or share. Their experience showing can help you prepare. Ask and they will be happy to help. The world of horses spans the globe. I hope this overview brings your show experience into focus.

SUZANNE BROCK

OWNER

TRAINER

Keep your heels down!