

Inspection Day Protocol for Presentation of Stallions, Mares and Foals

*Handlers should enter arena individually as called. The horse should be stood up in front of the Inspector with the left side toward the Inspector. The handler should stand in front of the horse and position the horse in an open stance allowing the Inspector to see all four legs.

*At a signal from the Inspector the handler should lead the horse at the walk either straight away from the Inspector and back, or the handler should proceed clockwise around the small triangle. The reins should be carried in the right hand. Horses should be turned to the right with the handler staying on the outside of the horse, thus keeping the horse between the handler and the Inspector. It is recommended that the horse be shown on a loose rein allowing freedom of the head, and that the handler walk out to exhibit a free-flowing and rhythmic gait.

*At the Inspector's signal the handler should lead the horse at the trot in a clockwise direction around the larger triangle. The handler should be able to run fast enough to show the natural stride of the horse. The goal of the handler is to present the horse to its best advantage - there are no penalties for breaking gait, straying from the triangle, stopping or not stopping at the end of each side.

*Mares with weanlings at their side should be brought to stand in front of the Inspector first. The weanling should be in a halter and on a leadline and have its own handler. At the Inspector's signal the handler should turn the weanling loose and it is recommended that the halter be removed to prevent the foal from throwing its head and thus presenting incorrect movement. The handler of the mare should lead the mare at the trot in a clockwise direction around the triangle keeping in mind that the goal is to show the best gait of the foal and adjusting speed accordingly - or even stopping if necessary. The weanling should stay inside and trot loose on the mare's side. The foal only is being judged and the mare will not influence the scoring. There are no penalties to the weanling for breaking gait, stopping, bucking, galloping, reversing direction or any other 'foal' antics during presentation. The handler of the mare should be prepared to trot the triangle several times until the foal settles down and shows its correct trot.

*As directed by the Inspector mares and stallions will be presented at liberty following the trot triangle to allow all three gaits to be evaluated. Horses are to be presented in a bridle and reins are to be removed and the horse turned loose.

*Handlers should keep in mind that any advice given by the Inspector is aimed at assuring the best possible presentation of the stallion, mare or foal and should not be overly sensitive to such advice. If an owner is not experienced and comfortable in showing their horse(s) in-hand then he/she should consider hiring a professional handler.

*As a courtesy to the Inspector and the spectators handlers and anyone who will be entering the ring should be properly attired. A dark green RPSI shirt (often available for

sale at inspection) or a solid colored farm shirt with white or khaki pants is recommended. A white shirt and dark pants is also acceptable. Comfortable running shoes are a must. All horses should be properly groomed and braided as if showing in-hand.

