

## **Guidelines for In Hand Classes**

The showing of horses in hand, be it a breed or led hack event can include as much preparation, ring craft and etiquette as a ridden class.

The horse should be presented either plaited as in ridden hack classes or to the given standard of showing for a particular breed. The handler must be neatly attired in either riding attire or a suit, dress etc with emphasis placed on suitable footwear, preferably non slip and ideal for running in, hat and gloves.

The horse should be shown in either a simple snaffle bridle with cavesson noseband or a double bridle (although the double reins can become cumbersome to lead with). Some breeds do have a particular type of headgear and would be judged appropriate to the breed.

The horses are led on the ring always to the right so that the judge has full view of the horse at all times. Halting one at a time may be asked for, proceeding to a trot approximately halfway around the ring. This gives the judge and overall impression of the horse moving.

In preference, the horses should be called in and lined up. At all times the horse and handler should remain alert with the horse standing square. The judge may call the competitors one by one to stand their horse up. The handler should constantly watch the judge's movements and must never block the judge's view, either looking side on, front or back.

The workout usually consists of a triangle, with a walk straight from the judge, trot across with lengthening stride and trot straight back to the judge. Halt and stand the horse up again. When back in the line up, the horse should remain square and alert as the judge may look down the line at any time.

As the winners are announced, the competitors step forward and once presented with the ribbon lead off at a trot in the same order.