

RULES for the TRAIL PLEASURE DIVISION

1. Youth and Amateur Trail Pleasure classes will demonstrate two gaits: the Show Walk and Favorite Gait. Four and Over Amateur Classes and Youth classes 14-18 may be asked to canter if designated on the class sheet.
2. The Show Walk or the Trail Pleasure mule should be a smooth, easy gait with a smooth backend. The mule should be under control and have a natural headset.
3. The Favorite Gait for the Trail Pleasure mule should have an increase in speed from the Show Walk. Form should not be sacrificed for speed.
4. In all Trail Pleasure Classes, mules will be asked to “whoa” at least one time while performing at the Show Walk or Favorite Gait each way of the ring at the Judge’s discretion.
5. When asked to “whoa”, the mule should stop and stand quietly on a relaxed rein until asked to continue.
6. The mule must demonstrate perfect manners and an exceptionally smooth, natural gait. Mule and Exhibitor should show no sign of strain.
7. The Trail Pleasure mule must give the impression of the ultimate trail mule at all times during the class. This mule should represent the mule that gives equal pleasure “on the trail or inside the rail”.
8. The mule should perform on a relaxed rein and be ridden with one hand. However, Youth Exhibitors 13 Years of Age and Under may use two hands.
9. Since the Trail Pleasure mule represents the ultimate pleasure mule, cross chain cavesons and whips of any kind are prohibited in this class.
10. The Trail Pleasure mule must stand quietly and back readily in the line up or be penalized in the final judging.
11. Advanced Trail Pleasure classes will be required to perform the canter both ways of the ring, back clear of the line up and perform a 360 neck rein turn. All mules must be neck reined. The reins must be held in one hand and the loop shall fall to one side. When using split reins, a hand around the reins or index finger between the reins is permitted, but the free hand is not allowed to touch the reins. When using Romal reins a hand should be around the reins, but a finger between the reins is not permitted. (Romal refers to an extension of braided material attached to closed reins. This extension may be carried in the free hand with approximately a 16-inch space between the reining hand and the free hand holding the Romal). The Romal shall not be used forward of the cinch or used to signal or cue the mule. In Advanced Trail Pleasure the mule may be asked to “WHOA” from the canter.