

so be patient. Once the horse understands what you want, use only the halter and voice cues, but you can leave your right arm outstretched as a visual cue. Teach from the other side, reversing your cues, then move away from the fence and add a pole to side-pass over. When you add the pole to side-pass over, be sure to keep the horse centered over the pole as he moves, so that he does not hit it.

**The ground tie!** In an ideal ground tie, the rope is placed on the ground and the horse stands still, with its head up and eyes/ears following you as you walk a complete circle around the horse. To train for this, start in an enclosed area with no distractions (like food or friends) with a long lead on the halter. Set the horse up squarely, tell him to "whoa" and step away slowly, letting out the lead. If the horse moves or drops his head, tug on the lead and say "no". Reward him if he stand and watches you. Gradually extend the lead and distance until he stands while you make a complete circle around him and keep up the praise. Once you have this, try dropping the lead on the ground. Stand in front of the horse and make a big deal of dropping the lead, give a brief, light tug, saying "whoa", and then walk around him, practicing both directions.

### Before your class...

- Watch for the In-Hand Trail pattern to be posted. When it is, take the time to memorize it.
- Just before your class, you should be offered a 'walk through'. This is when the ringmaster or other designated person will walk the exhibitors through the course (without their horse), going obstacle by obstacle.
- Think about your strategy during the walk through and ask questions about the course, if you have any.

### Major Faults and Causes for Elimination

You will be marked down for any of the 'Major Faults' and will be disqualified for any of the 'Causes for Elimination'.

### Major Faults

- There is a sixty second time limit to complete each obstacle. After time is used, you will be directed to the next obstacle by the judge.
- Physically moving or coercing the horse by touching.

### Causes for Elimination

- Off course: Taking an obstacle in the wrong direction; Negotiating an obstacle from the wrong side; Skipping an obstacle unless directed by the judge; Negotiating an obstacle in the wrong sequence; Off pattern.
- Carrying a whip or crop.
- Refusal of three obstacles.
- Horse leaving the obstacle course.

