



Judges & Stewards Commissioner
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Dear Halter Handlers,

We would like to ask for your cooperation with a positive change in the halter arena at this year's Nationals. The US National Show Commission gave us approval to remove the Compliance judge from the Breeding/In-Hand arena. To do so, it's very important that we all work together to demonstrate kind and fair treatment of the horses being shown. All the rules of the ring from previous years will still be in place, but we are asking handlers to take the responsibility of policing yourselves.

As we all know from our discussions around the "bagging" subject, the equine industry in general is under a microscope as it relates to the humane treatment of horses. All disciplines and all breeds are being watched by various animal rights organizations. It is extremely important in this climate that we recognize that when showing horses at the Nationals, you're not only representing your horse and its owner, but you're representing the entire Arabian breed. As such, we are asking each of you not to give any spectators an opportunity to question how Arabian Horses are treated at the U.S. Nationals.

We are specifically asking that you adhere to the rules of the halter ring, including but not limited to, no schooling before your horse is on deck to present to the judge (just as in the past). While doing your preparation in that position, we ask that there be no shanking or any contact between the whip and the horse, except to correct an unruly horse. The same applies during the final walk around by the judges at the end of the class. Preparation of the horse on deck for presentation to the judges, is allowed.

The U.S. National Show commission approved the removal of the compliance judge for various reasons with the stipulation that our handlers are willing to take on the responsibility of representing their horses and our breed, with great consideration for the consequences we could all face from any perceived aggressiveness from any handler or rider.

Your cooperation will be appreciated by the entire Arabian Horse Community. Wishing you all the very best of luck for a successful show!

U.S. National Show Commission

R. Stanton Morey

Mary Jane Brown