# **Tips For The First Time Show Ring Moms**

Congratulations on your decision to get involved in the exciting world of horse shows! As a first-time show ring mom, you're probably eager to learn all you can about preparing your child and horse for showmanship success.



## **Tips For The First Time Show Ring MOMS!!**

by Sheri Morehouse

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Here are some helpful tips to get you started:

### 1. Start early.

The best way to prepare for your first horse show is to start early. This will give you plenty of time to find a good trainer, practice your showmanship skills, and get your horse in top condition.

If you can, start training your horse for showmanship at least six months before your first show. This will give you time to develop a strong

foundation in the basics and to work on any specific areas that need improvement.

#### 2. Find a good trainer.

A good horse show trainer can be invaluable in helping you prepare for your first show. A trainer can help you develop a training plan, teach you the basics of showmanship, and provide guidance and support throughout the process.

When looking for a trainer, it is important to find someone who is experienced, knowledgeable, and patient. You should also make sure that the trainer's philosophy aligns with your own.

#### 3. Practice, practice, practice!

The more you practice, the better prepared you and your horse will be for your first show. Practice your showmanship skills at home, at local clinics, and at horse shows. The more you practice, the more confident you will become.

When practicing, focus on the following:

- Standing correctly
- Leading your horse correctly
- Answering the judge's questions correctly
- Presenting your horse in the best possible light

#### 4. Get your horse in top condition.

Your horse's health and appearance are important factors in showmanship. Make sure your horse is up-to-date on all vaccinations and deworming. You should also groom your horse regularly and keep him in good physical condition.

If your horse is overweight or out of shape, you may want to consider putting him on a diet and exercise program. A healthy horse is a happy horse, and a happy horse is more likely to perform well in the show ring.

### 5. Pack everything you need.

On the day of the show, make sure you pack everything you need for you and your horse. This includes your show clothes, grooming supplies, tack, and any other necessary items.

It is also a good idea to bring a first-aid kit and a cooler with water and snacks. You may also want to bring a camera so that you can capture your first show experience.

#### 6. Arrive early.

On the day of the show, arrive early so that you have plenty of time to get your horse ready and to warm up. This will help you and your horse stay calm and focused before your class.

Once you arrive, check in with the show secretary and find out where your class is being held. Then, take your time to groom your horse and get him tacked up.

#### 7. Be confident and have fun!

The most important thing to remember on the day of the show is to be confident and have fun. Showmanship is supposed to be an enjoyable experience for you and your horse.

Don't be afraid to ask for help from your trainer or other experienced show ring moms. And most importantly, don't forget to smile and enjoy the moment!

Preparing for your first horse show can be a lot of work, but it is also a rewarding experience. By following these tips, you can help ensure that you and your horse have a successful and enjoyable show.

#### Good luck!



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