

# California Fox Trotter Association's Horse Show Class Descriptions

**Tack and Attire at a Glance:** Exhibitors should wear Western show attire: western hat (optional for ladies) western style long sleeved shirt (jacket or vest optional) and western style trousers. Riding boots are required, spurs are optional. Helmets are optional. Western Saddles with a horn are mandatory. Bridles should be browband or western type, with cavesons. Colored browbands/nosebands and ribbons are appropriate.

**1, 2 & 3 – Missouri Fox Trotter Model Classes** – Halter class where horses are shown in hand at a walk and are lined up to be judged. Show halters and ribbons are appropriate.

**4 – Open Showmanship – Any Breed** – Pattern class judged on the ability of the exhibitor to show a horse at halter. Leather halters with or without silver are appropriate. No ribbons. Horses should perform the requested pattern efficiently with smoothness and precision.

**5 – In-Hand Trail – Any Breed, Any Age** – Horses work over and through obstacles in-hand. Handler must maneuver horse using leadline of halter and horse may not be touched by the handler unless instructed by the judge, or if sidepassing is required. Generally uses the same course as the regular trail class.

**6 – Open Trail Pleasure – Any Breed** – A trail pattern class that is judged on the performance of the horse over and through obstacles, with an emphasis on manners and response to the rider. Western Tack and Attire required. No cavesons, ribbons or gag bits. Must use split or romel reins with only one hand on the reins. Cowboy hat or helmet required.

**7 – Western Pleasure – Any Breed** – Western Tack and Attire required. No cavesons or ribbons, one hand on the reins, must use split or romel reins. Cowboy hat or helmet required, chaps optional. Horse works quietly exhibiting a smooth, flowing, rhythmic ride in a trail walk, flat walk and fox trot. Horses may be halted on the rail and asked to back, or asked to back during the lineup and exhibit a 360 degree pivot left or right.

**8 – Vintage – Riders 50 and Older - Any Breed** - For riders 50 and above, horses are shown at the flat walk (walk) and fox trot (jog or trot).

**9 – Equitation – Any Breed** – Rider is judged on proper riding form and posture. Performance class where horses are shown at the flat walk (walk) and fox trot (jog or trot).

**10 – Novice Amateur Rider – Any Breed** – For riders that have not won more than 3 blue ribbons in performance in previous years. Shows where rider was the only entry do not count. Also, if you considered a novice rider at the first show, you are a novice rider for the whole show season.

**11 - MFT Open Fox Trot – Open Ladies** – Missouri Fox Trotters only, performance class where horses flat walk and fox trot, open to all ladies.

**12 – Amateur Owned and Trained – Any Breed** – Performance class where horses flat walk (walk) and fox trot (jog or trot). Horse must be owned by the amateur exhibiting the horse or owned by an immediate family member. Horse may be started under saddle by a professional, but training may not exceed more than 30 days of professional training.

**13 – Novice Horse – Any Breed** – For young horses or those relatively new to showing that have not won more than 3 blue ribbons in performance in previous years. Shows where horse was the only entry do not count. Also, if the horse is a novice horse at the first show, it is considered to be a novice horse for the whole show season.

**14 – Cal Bred – Any Breed** – Horses must be bred and foaled in California. Performance class where horses are shown at the flat walk (walk) and fox trot (jog or trot).

**15 – MFT Amateur Fox Trot – 4 Years & Older** – Missouri Fox Trotters age 4 and older only, performance class for Amateur riders where horses flat walk and fox trot.

**16 – Lead Line – Any Breed** – Riders 7 and under only. Horse to be led by an adult, an additional person may walk beside the rider.

**17 – MFT Youth Fox Trot** – Riders age 17 and under riding Missouri Fox Trotters only. Helmets Encouraged.

**18 – MFT Open Fox Trot – Open Gentlemen** – Missouri Fox Trotters only, performance class where horses flat walk and fox trot, open to all gentlemen.

**19 – MFT Open Fox Trot – 4 Years & Older** – Missouri Fox Trotters age 4 and older only, performance class open to any rider, horses will flat walk and fox trot.

**20 – Novice Horse & Rider – Any Breed** – For horses and riders that have not won more than 3 blue ribbons in performance in previous years. Shows where horse and or rider were the only entry do not count. Also, if the horse and rider are novice at the first show, they are considered to be novice for the whole show season.

**21 – MFT Open Fox Trot – 2 and 3 year Olds** – Missouri Fox Trotter two and three year old horses only, performance class where horses flat walk and fox trot.

**22 – Owner To Ride – Any Breed** – Rider must be the owner of the horse, performance class where horses are shown at the flat walk (walk) and fox trot (jog or trot).

**23 – MFT Open Fox Trot – 4 Years & Older – Will Canter** – Missouri Fox Trotters age 4 and older only, performance class that is open to any rider, horses will flat walk, fox trot and canter.

**24 – English Pleasure – Any Breed** – English saddles, bridles and bits as well as hunt, dressage or saddle seat attire are all required. Hat or Helmet required. This is a two gait class where judging is based on performance, condition and conformation, with maximum credit given to the flowing, balanced, willing horse. Horses may be asked to back clear of the line-up.

**25 – Country Pleasure – Western or English – Any Breed** – Exhibitors may compete in English or Western tack and attire in this two gait rail class. Hat or Helmet required. Judging is based on the quality and consistency of the gaits as well as manners of the horse. The horse should exhibit a free flowing, rhythmic movement that gives the rider the most pleasurable of rides.

### **Classes Having Specific Tack and Attire Requirements:**

**Showmanship and In-Hand Trail** – Western style halter with or without attached chain, no ribbons on horse. Whips and crops are not allowed and exhibitors should not wear spurs. Exhibitor must wear a Cowboy hat and female exhibitors must wear their hair neat & contained (such as in a net or braid).

**Trail and Western Pleasure** – Western Tack and Attire required. Split or romel reins with one hand on reins, no cavesons, ribbons or gag bits. Cowboy hat or helmet required, female riders must have hair neat and contained (such as in a net or braid), chaps and gloves are optional.

### **English Pleasure and Country Pleasure (if riding English)**

**Hunt Seat/Dressage** – English style snaffle bit, Kimberwick bits, or Pelham bit(with two reins); hunting, forward seat or dressage saddles; breeches, tall boots and hunt or dressage coats; tie or chocker required; hunt cap, hard hat or dressage top hat or derby required, Helmets optional and gloves optional.

**Flat Seat-** Weymouth or Pelham bits may be used in full bridle (double-reined bridle), only refined English shank bits are allowed, no aluminum or western grazing bits; show, cutback, dressage or park type English saddles; saddle suits or saddle suit jacket with Kentucky jodphers; ties and vests required; derby or soft hat required, Helmets optional and gloves optional.