

Introducing.. The Show Riding Mount..

Proposed & Specifically adapted for the Australian Show Ring

Written by Samantha Watson

Height:

Suggested classes,
Show Riding Mount not exceeding 14hh,
Show Riding Mount over 14hh and not exceeding 15hh,
Show Riding Mount over 15hh

Type:

A show riding mount does not require the elegance of a show hack, however, it is a quality, heavier type of show horse, combining show ring presence, whilst possessing good conformation, being sound of wind and limb, displaying good manners and free, forward going paces. The animal will not carry the substance and strength required of the hunter, nor the elegance and fineness of the hack, but should fit between both types, carrying a little more bone and substance than the show hack, but less than the show hunter. The animal should be capable of carrying a child or adult pleasantly for longer journeys.

Conformation:

The Show Riding Mount should possess good quality, have enough flat bone below the knee to correspond with its height, depth through the girth and have strong powerful second thighs and a well rounded rump combined with muscle and strength and short across the loins. He should be fine through the gullet and sit up into the bridle. The animal must be able to gallop. His conformation should be proportionate. His limbs, especially viewed from the front should not appear too close, too narrow or too wide. Like any show animal, he should move straight, without dishing or plaiting and stand squarely on all four legs with well shaped feet. A good looking, attractive head is naturally desirable.

Way of Going:

The Show Riding Mount should display expressive movement. The horse should be a smooth ride, responsive to the rider's aids, having the ability to gallop, pull up and stand still without fuss. If a gallop is not requested, some definite lengthening of stride through canter should be displayed. Overall good manners are especially important in these classes. The horse should display a loose, easy walk, swinging through the shoulder and a long, swinging stride at the trot, with some lengthening requested. All paces should be performed without overt collection or any form of "tightness," or tension. The picture should be one of ease and comfort.



Miss Jordan Murray's Multi Champion Riding Horse Mount (NZ), On Cloud Nine (dec) showing excellent type & Jordan wearing correct attire for these classes.
Photo credit: Lesley Warwick Show Shots NZ

The Workout:

The workout should follow the same lines as those described for a show hack, including lengthened trots, and should always include a gallop, or at the very least, a definite lengthening of stride.

Presentation:

Show Riding Mounts are traditionally shown in brown tack with a coloured browband, Simple snaffles, bit and bridoon or Pelham bits may be used. Saddles should be straight-cut to show off the horse's shoulder with an unobtrusive numnah or half pad. Manes should be plaited, tails pulled or plaited, with legs and faces trimmed and subtle makeup applied to the animal. A false tail may be worn and quarter marks applied.

Riders may wear a tweed or solid colour jacket with either shirt and matching tie, or shirt and stock for adults and shirt and tie for riders under 17. Breeches/jodhpurs should be buff or canary coloured, worn with either top boots for adults or jodhpur boots for riders under 17. A matching helmet and gloves will complete the picture. Naturally the rider's hair will be immaculate. Show canes or a whip to 76cm are generally carried.