

# It's A Cinch Horsemanship, LLC

## FAQs about Showing

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### **How do horse leases work?**

IAC school horses are show leased only, meaning horses are leased for the day or day(s) of competition including horse's tack. Riders can lease their current lesson horse for shows when they are at an appropriate riding level for outside competitions and if that horse is currently available for lease, with trainer's permission.

### **How much does it cost?**

Show leases are charged a lease fee of \$40 for horse, tack and coaching, and a hauling fee for the day. Hauling fee's range from \$30-\$50 for local shows. Please note that this is very inexpensive for coaching and hauling fees in this industry and I try to keep them as low as possible to give dedicated students more opportunities to show without owning a horse first. With that said, showing with a school horse is a privilege and one that must be earned and respected. Riders are responsible for all class fees, show office fees and stall rental (if applicable). Classes normally run from \$10-\$15 for each class. Stalls run from \$25-\$40 per night.

### **Where do we go to Horse Shows?**

We show primarily Pima County 4-H and open shows. They are usually at Brandi Fenton Arena and the Pima County Fairgrounds. For more advanced students that qualify at county level, there are also AZ Nationals (Jan) and AZ State Fair (Nov) in Queen Creek.

### **Show Code of Conduct:**

Every rider and rider's parents are required to sign a show code of conduct at the beginning of the season which outlines expectations of behavior. To summarize, I expect great sportsmanship from everyone, regardless of whether you're having a

great show or a terrible day. If you're whining and crying with a bad attitude I will send you home, no one wants to be around *that* kid. ;)

### **What equipment do I need to purchase?**

All riders showing need to have their own grooming supplies for shows. Riders also need appropriate attire for their chosen discipline(s). Lists of grooming supplies and required show attire are available on our website ([www.itsacinchhorsemanship.com/showing](http://www.itsacinchhorsemanship.com/showing)) or by request.

### **When am I ready to show?**

Riders must be riding at least 2x per week to be eligible for any off-site competitions or events with a school horse. More riding and practice time will be needed if planning to do more advanced riding and shows. Since our main avenue of competition is 4-H, riders need to not only be at an appropriate riding level, but should also be able to care for and tack their horses completely independently. There is no parental or adult help allowed at a 4-H show, and if an adult is caught helping you will be disqualified. Before going to an away show you should be able to; load and unload your horse from the trailer, tie your horse securely, lunge a horse safely, be able to space your horse in a crowded arena, saddle and bridle, check and adjust your tack, be able to remain calm if your horse is nervous or upset, remember to give your horse water between classes and be able to remember basic show procedures such as checking in at the show office and with your gate person.

### **When you're ready to show:**

For interested students, you will be offered the opportunity to join our show team once I think you're ready to haul out to shows.

### **What if I want to go to shows and you don't think I'm ready?**

Trainer's decision is FINAL to show on stable owned horses.

## **How do I get ready for showing?**

So glad you asked... Join 4-H! In addition to lessons, 4-H will prepare you for all of the extra things you'll need to know to be a well-rounded horse person. Come to shows and help out and watch. Participate in team grooming. Do horse handling tests for 4-H with your horse and see how they are in a different environment besides home. Show at our in-house practice shows!

## **Do I need to lease a horse for the practice shows?**

Nope! They are open to everyone regardless of skill level so that you can learn and compete in a safe environment, and you'll get ribbons!

**When are practice shows and where are they held?** In-house shows are held at It's A Cinch Horsemanship in both spring and fall. We hold a spring show in March and a Halloween costume show in October.

## **I'm new to showing this year, what do I need to know? (This is for the kids that have done a few practice shows and are moving to the bigger stuff.)**

1. Prep for shows: Horses need to be prepped for away shows. 1-2 weeks before a show horses are clipped (bridle path, legs, ears, whiskers), and then they are touched up the night before. Horses are bathed the day before a show and then banded or braided depending on discipline. Tack gets cleaned and packed in the trailer as well as feed and supplies needed. Show prep days can take a long time so please prepare accordingly and give yourself enough time to finish.
2. Disciplines: We show mainly English and/or Western starting out as they are easier for beginner riders. We also show in Ranch Horse, Gymkhana and Jumping. Jumpers need to be able to pass 4-H jump qualifying before jumping. I currently only allow novice level competition (cross rails) on school horses because jumping is A LOT of wear and tear on a horse's joints. Riders are encouraged to move on to a Hunter/Jumper barn to pursue more advanced jumping. \*Also note that most

barns will require a full lease or to purchase a horse for riders jumping over 2 feet so that any horse injury or maintenance needed is the rider's responsibility.

3. Read the rule book! Check out the 4-H rulebook for information on levels, points and high point awards, attire, procedure, and grounds for being disqualified. We practice a lot of these things in lessons, but ALWAYS a good idea to read your rule book.
4. More riding time will be needed to advance. As you advance up the levels for showing you will need to ride more than twice a week. This is not only to practice more but also to keep you and your horse's body conditioned. Imagine your horse as a musical instrument, the more you practice, care for and keep it tuned, the better you will perform.
5. Warming up is important! When you get to a show give yourself enough time to warm your horse up before entering the ring. Your horse is going to step off the trailer and into a foreign land, so make sure you give them a chance to check out their new surroundings before you ask them to stand still for showmanship. In addition, the more confident and assured you are the more you'll help keep your horse calm. Horses are herd creatures and if you are nervous, your horse is more likely become nervous as well.
6. Shows can take *ALL* day. Be prepared for the long haul...aka bring snacks! Your horse is your responsibility to watch and care for until it is loaded on the trailer again and on the way home. Even if you are done showing for the day before everyone else you cannot leave your horse tied to the trailer and go home. Horses **MUST** be attended by a person at all times, even if you just sit in a chair and watch your darling munch on hay. This prevents horses from getting untied and running around the parking lot.
7. Showing should be fun! A few nerves are to be expected, but this should be something you enjoy doing! Hang out with your horse, your friends, meet new people, see your trainer in her most sleep deprived state and make some memories!