MHCO Spring Clinic - Conformation and Showing

The following handout is based on information from reputable sources as well as the experience and opinions of the clinician. Some of the topics covered are debatable. Participants are encouraged to take as much from the clinic as they wish and to seek the opinions of others whenever possible in order to form a well rounded knowledge base.

Conformation

Objectives

- 1. Learn to recognize correct conformation when looking at horses that you are considering for purchase or in evaluating your own horses to determine their suitability for breeding or in pricing them appropriately.
- 2. Recognize the importance of correct legs, as they have the most direct influence on a horse's soundness and suitability for performance.
- 3. Have a basic appreciation for the overall picture, balance and symmetry of the horse.

General:

- **Quality/refinement** refers to well defined bones and tendons, clean (not swollen) joints, sharply defined features, and smooth hair coat and muscling.
- **Presence** is very difficult to define. It's all about the horse's attitude and is independent of his appearance. A horse with presence always thinks he is the best looking horse around and demands attention. His eyes are bright and his ears are up and attentive. It is my opinion that true presence is not something you can teach a horse.

The Body (Figure 1):

- The top line should have a strong attachment of the neck into the withers with a strong straight back.
- The bottom line should be tight with no "hay" belly or pot belly. Contrary to popular belief this is most often caused by protein deficiency, not excess hay/grass.
- When viewed from the front, the chest should be wide enough to allow ample room for heart and lungs while not being so wide as to force the legs out and affect the gait.
- When viewed from behind, the hindquarter muscling should be well developed and symmetrical when the horse is standing square.
- When viewed from the side, the height from the withers to the ground should equal the length from the point of the shoulder to the point of the buttock (see Figure 1). This means that the horse's body should fit into a square. Many Miniatures are far too long for their height making them more of a rectangle than a square. This is not ideal so if you are breeding a rectangular horse consider a mate with a more square body type.
- The length of the foreleg should be greater than the girth depth (see Figure 1).
- Overall, the right side of the horse should be symmetrical to the left side.

The Head:

Personal preference plays a big role in determining the type of head you like (specifically related to the shape of the nasal bone and forehead). An excessively dished face and prominent forehead are not ideal and can be associated with dwarfism (often in combination with high set nostrils). This is not to be confused with the sought after Arab-type head. A few things apply to all head types:

- The size of the head should be in proportion to the rest of the body. The most common fault in Miniatures is a head that is too big.
- The eye should be as large as possible but not bulging out of the head. A small eye (called pig eye) is considered a fault. There should also be ample space between the eyes across the forehead. The distance from the ear to the eye should be at least one third the distance from the ear to the nostril and should equal the distance between the eyes. This allows for ample brain space as well as a good panoramic range of vision. The bony orbit (around the eye) should be prominent. Look in the eyes for a good indication of a horse's temperament.
- Ears should be small, alertly carried and finely cut. They should be set wide, parallel to each other and slightly in front of the poll.
- The muzzle should be fine and delicate but not so small as to interfere with nostril size/air flow or space for incisor teeth.
- Width across the cheekbones indicates room for molar teeth and sideways grinding of food
- In all horses, but especially in Miniatures, it is very important for the upper and lower incisors to meet evenly. An over or under bite is considered a serious fault in a breeding animal. Stallions with off-bites should be gelded and can be shown in gelding halter classes and performance classes. Mares with bad bites should not be bred or shown in halter but can be shown in performance classes.

The Neck:

- The neck length (from the poll to the withers) should be equal to or slightly greater than the back length (from the withers to the end of the loins) as shown in figure 1.
- The neck should have a graceful shape that rises up out of the withers without dipping down.
- The throat latch should be clean and refined.
- The attachment of the lower neck should be short and shallow and attach relatively high on the chest.
- The top line of the neck should be twice as long as the underline of the neck.

The Forelimb (see Figures 2, 3):

- The angle of the shoulder should be about 45° to the ground. This can be determined by palpating the shoulder blade's bony prominence (the spine of the scapula). The length of the shoulder is measured from the withers to the point of the shoulder. The shorter and straighter the shoulder, the shorter and quicker the stride. This leads to more concussion on the limb and a greater chance of lameness.
- The carpus, commonly called the knee, is composed of multiple bones and 3 separate joints. When viewed from the side the carpus should appear straight and not deviate forward (over-at-the-knee, buck-kneed) or backward (back-at-the-knee, calf-kneed). (Fig. 2, a-e) When viewed from the front the front of the carpus should be flat and face directly forward. The cannon bone (third metacarpal) should be centered under the knee. When the cannon bone is off-set it is called a bench knee.
- When viewed from the side the pastern should have a similar angle to the shoulder although it is often slightly steeper. This angle should be continuous with the angle of the hoof. Pastern angles that are too straight increase concussion while those that are too sloping increase strain on tendons and ligaments at the back of the leg. (Fig. 2, f-k)
- If the hoof angle is much straighter than the pastern angle (>70°) it is called a club foot (Fig.2, h). It results from excess tightness in the deep digital flexor tendon. Club feet are

- quite common in Miniatures and are caused by a combination of genetics and management factors (nutrition, improper hoof trimming etc.).
- When viewed from the front, a line drawn from the point of the shoulder to the ground should divide the limb equally in half to the center of the hoof and the toe should point straight ahead. The feet should be the same distance apart at the ground as they are at the body. Deviations from normal include base-wide, base-narrow, toed-in (pigeon toed), toed-out, bow-legged, or knock-kneed. (Fig. 3)

The Hind Limb (see Figures 4, 5, 6):

- The angle of the croup is measured from the point of the hip to the point of the buttock. If the croup is too flat the hind end action tends to occur behind the hindquarters whereas if the croup is too angled (goose-rumped) it places the hind legs too far under the belly and structural problems can ensue. Somewhere in the middle is ideal so that the horse keeps its hind limbs directly under the hindquarters. (Fig. 4)
- In the side view, a line from the point of the buttock to the ground should touch the point of the hock, trace the back of the cannon bone and finish slightly behind the bulbs of the heel. If the hind limb is in front of this line the horse may be camped under or sickle hocked (too much angle to the hock). If the hind limb is behind this line the horse may be camped out or post-legged (straight hocked). Pastern-hoof angles should be slightly steeper in the hind limbs. (Fig. 5)
- When viewed from the back there are some similarities to the front limbs. The line from the point of the buttock to the ground should bisect the limb. Unlike the front limb it is normal for the toes to point slightly outward since the stifles must point slightly outward to clear the horse's belly. If this is excessive then the horse will be cow-hocked. Base wide/narrow conformation can occur in the hind limbs as well. Cow hocks are one of the worst hind end faults due to the excessive stress placed on the hock joint. It is my observation that this is one of the most common faults in Miniatures and breeding animals should be selected for correct hind legs. (Fig. 6)

Effect of Conformation on Gait (see Figures 7, 8):

- Winging in refers to when the foot swings inward during flight but often lands outside the normal track. Often associated with narrow and/or toed-out conformation. Winging can lead to interference between the swinging leg and the supporting leg causing injuries or tripping.
- Paddling is when the foot swings outward during flight but often lands inside the normal track. Often associated with wide and/or toed-in conformation. This is sometimes called winging out.
- Rope walking or plaiting is when the horse places one foot directly in front of the other. Associated with toed out, base narrow conformation. Can cause tripping or stumbling.

Figure 9 shows the skeletal structure of the horse including important bony landmarks.

References for information and figures:

- 1. Adams' Lameness in Horses, Stashak, Ted C., Fifth Edition 2002.
- 2. The Horse, Evans, J.W. et al., Second Edition 1990.

In the Show Ring

Objectives:

- 1. Apply what you learned about conformation to show off your horse's best features and minimize his faults while in front of the judge.
- 2. Learn to get the most from your horse at the trot to show off his movement.
- 3. Learn simple tips to improve your overall performance in the line classes with respect to show ring etiquette, professionalism, presentation and sportsmanship.

Things to Think About

- Know your horse's strengths and weaknesses before starting to show. Evaluate him yourself while someone else holds him. You can ask someone you trust for their opinion but if you ask for honesty make sure you want to hear it.
- There is little you can do to hide faults in your horse's way of going. As discussed previously these usually stem from conformation faults which can be minimized when the horse is standing still. You can place your horse feet to make him look more correct than he actually is. Picture the conformation diagrams and try to make your horse look like them.
- If you're one of the lucky people whose horse is very correct you still need to pay attention to how he is standing. A correct horse left to set himself up can create faults that aren't actually there. The judge can only mark what he/she sees.
- A lot can be done without touching your horse if you work on it at home but it can be more frustrating. In my experience placing the horse's feet has been accepted in Ontario shows and you can decide for yourself if you want to show this way. **Touching your horse is NOT allowed in showmanship classes.**
- At home keep your horse mentally stimulated and vary his work regime. A bored horse will be dull in the ring because showing has become monotonous work.
- Consider carefully if and how you will use food rewards and whether this method is appropriate for your horse. Be careful when using food rewards for stallions or young horses. I tend to avoid hand feeding these horses.
- Our horses are not allowed to graze in hand so they are not constantly trying to grab grass when we are in the show ring.

At the Show

- Show proper respect for the judge and your fellow competitors by presenting a horse that is properly turned out. Dress neatly and appropriately to complete a professional picture.
- Following the instructions of the judge, line your horse up without crowding the horse next to or in front of you. Give yourself room to work around your horse and make sure you don't upset someone else's horse if yours misbehaves.
- Set your horse up quickly the way you like and then avoid excessive fiddling. Work with him at home to get him used to standing for long periods of time. Start with short periods and praise and release him BEFORE he gets impatient and moves. Gradually increase the length of time you expect him to stand.
- Stand your horse square, not stretched. His four legs should be placed under the "corners" of his body. Refer to conformation diagrams.
- Stretching the neck up and out can open up the throat latch.
- Pressing down on your horse's loins with 2 fingers can accentuate the top line and raise the tail head slightly.

- ALWAYS know where the judge is and what they are looking at and ALWAYS know what your horse looks like (how is he standing?). In other words, keep one eye on your horse and one eye on the judge at all times.
- Never stand between the judge and your horse. They should always have an unobstructed view of your horse. Move from one side to the other depending on where the judge is at any given time (even if you don't think he/she is looking at your horse at that time).
- When walking your horse towards the judge, line your horse up with the judge and walk in a straight line. Don't expect the judge to move for a better view. Upon turning to trot away make sure your horse is still lined up with the judge before proceeding. Train your horse to be responsive when you want to trot off. Nothing looks worse than a handler trying to drag their horse along.
- Practice turning your horse on the haunches. This is expected in showmanship classes and looks good in regular halter classes. It also helps keep your horse lined up with the judge as you turn to trot away.
- When the judge asks to see your horse trot from the side (i.e. around the ring or on an L-pattern) give the horse his head and stand back from him so the judge can see. Trot the horse out as much as he will without breaking to a canter. Stay behind your horse's shoulder so he moves forward freely and willingly.

Other Topics

If time allows I will be glad to answer questions/conduct discussions on a variety of miscellaneous topics. Please feel free to ask anything and I will gladly admit if I do not know the answer. Hopefully I will be able to help you with most of your questions. Topics can cover issues related to Miniatures, horse in general, veterinary topics etc. Some ideas:

- Breeding/foaling
- Vaccination programs
- Equine dentistry
- Colour genetics (see attached explanation of Tobiano inheritance)
- Locations for intramuscular injections
- Dwarfism

If you have any questions about anything in this handout feel free to approach me at the shows or send me an email: micourt@sympatico.ca

Thanks for making the 2nd annual MHCO Spring Clinic a success! Hope to see you again next year...

Michelle

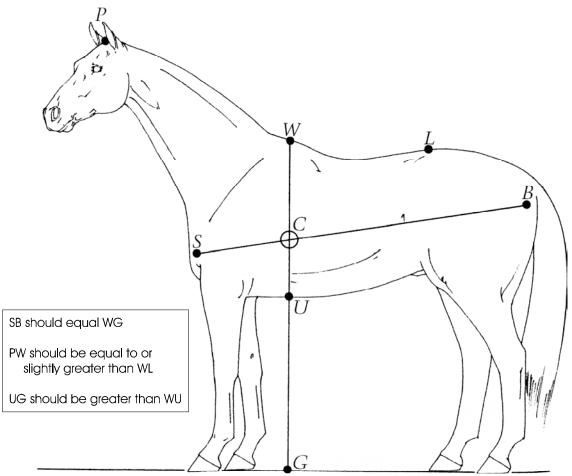


Figure 1:

Proportions. P, poll; W, highest point of withers; L, caudal loin; B, point of buttock; S, point of shoulder; C, center of gravity; U, underline; G, ground; WU, depth of body; UG, lower limb length; WG, height and overall limb length; SB, length of body; PW length of neck; WL, length of back; LB, length of hip.

(Reprinted with permission from HillC, Klimesh R. Maximum HoofPower. North Pomfret, VT; Trafalgar Square Publishing, 2000.)

from: Adams' Lameness, Stashak, 2002

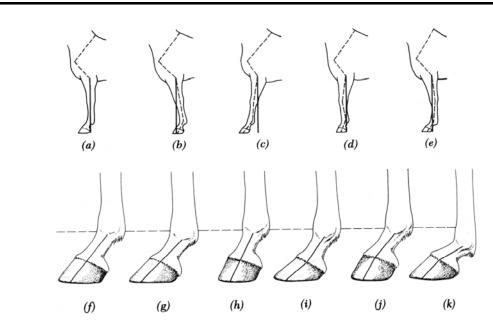


Figure 2:

Front-leg conformation viewed from the side: (a) ideal; (b) camped under;

- (c) camped out; (d) buck-kneed; (e) calf-kneed; (f) proper angle of pastern;
- (g) pastern with too much slope; (h) straight pastern;
- (i) heels too low; (j) heels too long, 'club foot'; (k) weak pastern.

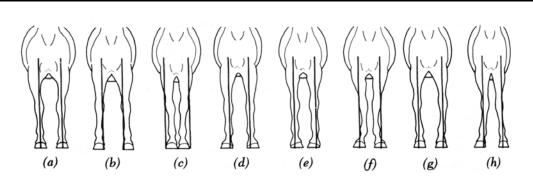


Figure 3:

Front-leg conformation viewed from the front: (a) ideal; (b) base wide;

- (c) base narrow; (d) toes out; (e) pigeon-toed; (f) base narrow, toes out;
- (g) bowlegged; (h) knock kneed.

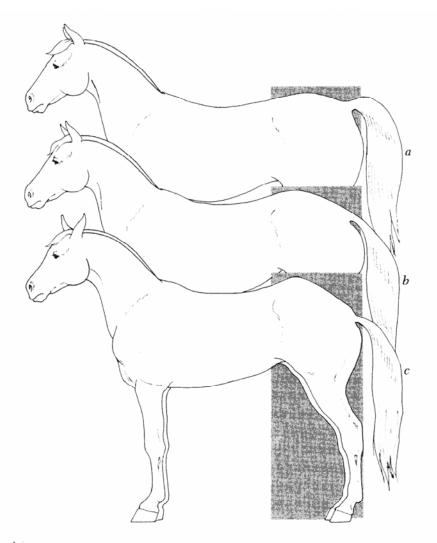


Figure 4 Conformation of croup: (a) level croup of Arabian; (b) proper slope for most breeds; (c) steep croup.

From: The Horse, Evans et al., 1990

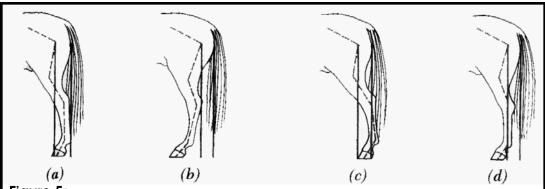


Figure 5:

Hind-leg conformation viewed from side: (a) proper leg set; (b) sickle-hocked; (c) camped-out; (d) hock lacks proper angle, too straight.

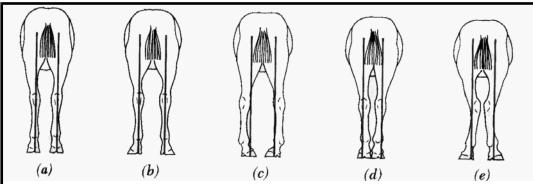


Figure 6:

Hind-leg conformation viewed from behind; (a) ideal; (b) stands wide; (c) bowlegged; (d) stands close; (e) cow hocked.

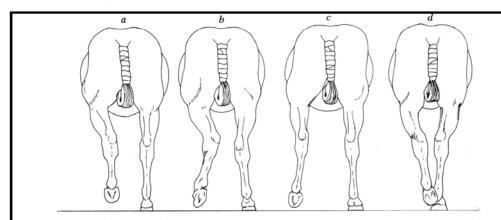


Figure 7:

Way of going as influenced by conformation of hind legs: (a) ideal (b) cowhocked; (c) wide; (d) close.

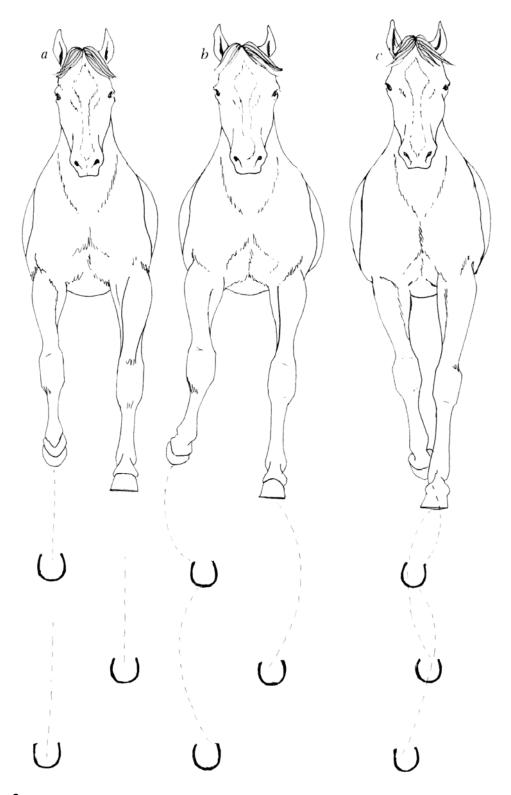
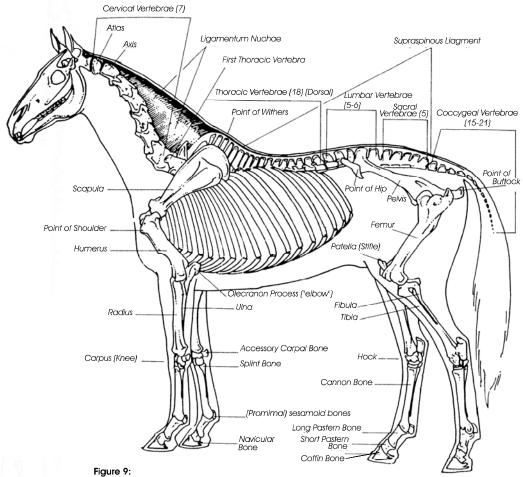


Figure 8
Defects in way of going: (a) normal way of going; (b) paddling, and (c) winging inward.



Equine skeleton. (Reprinted with permission from Hill C. Making Not Breaking. Ossining, NY:

Breakthrough Publications, 1992.)

From: Adams' Lameness, Stashak, 2002

Tobiano Inheritance

In order for a pinto Miniature to be produced a certain combination of alleles must be present in their genetic code. Every horse carries 2 alleles for the tobiano gene. The *To* allele is dominant over the *to* allele meaning that if *To* is present the horse will be a pinto. If there are 2 copies of the recessive *to* allele the horse will be solid.

The following combinations are possible:

ToTo= homozygous pinto *Toto*= heterozygous pinto *toto*=homozygous solid

*the term homozygous simply means that both alleles are the same, heterozygous means the alleles are different.

In order for a foal to end up with only 2 copies of an allele it must get 1 copy from each parent. Each sperm carries one allele and each egg carries one allele. The stallion produces 50% of his sperm with 1 of his alleles and 50% with the other. The mare does the same with her eggs. If the horse is homozygous then all of its sperm/eggs will carry the same allele.

Punnett Squares show the possible combinations and the resulting offspring:

ToTo X ToTo

	То	То
To	ТоТо	ТоТо
То	ТоТо	ТоТо

= 100% homozygous pintos

ToTo X Toto

	То	to
То	ТоТо	Toto
То	ТоТо	Toto

= 50% homozygous pintos

& 50% heterozygous pintos

Toto X toto

	to	to
To	Toto	Toto
to	toto	toto

= 50% **solids**

& 50% heterozygous pintos

To To X toto

	То	То
to	Toto	Toto
to	Toto	Toto

= 100% heterozygous pintos

Toto X Toto

	То	to
То	ТоТо	Toto
to	Toto	toto

= 25% homozygous pintos

& 50% heterozygous pintos

& 25% solids

toto X toto

	to	to
to	toto	toto
to	toto	toto

=100% solids

Important Points About Pintos

- A solid horse WILL NOT throw pintos no matter how many pintos are in its pedigree unless it is bred to a pinto who gives the foal the *To* Allele. See Punnett Squares.
- Rarely, an apparent solid is actually a minimally marked pinto. Be suspicious if the "solid" offspring of 2 pinto parents has socks, a star or blue eyes. Genetically this horse might not be one of the 25% *toto*. A lab test is required to prove this! Don't claim a solid could throw pintos unless you have tested them and they are known to carry the *To* allele. Also, don't take the word of a seller who claims this without proof.
- A horse that does not have white on its body cannot be registered as pinto. This can create some confusion when looking up pedigrees in the studbook and trying to determine the genetic makeup of a horse.
- As shown in the previous tables a lot of pintos are produced without a homozygous parent. Don't let someone tell you their horse is homozygous simply because "they have always thrown pintos", especially if it has always been bred to pintos! Lab tests for homozygosity are available for around \$40 US. "Pawprint" markings are frequently associated with homozygosity but are not a guarantee.

MHCO Spring Clinic - Body Clipping and Show Grooming

The following tips are a guideline based on the experience and, in some cases, the opinions of the clinicians. There are as many different ways to prepare a horse for a show as there are people showing. Use as much of what follows as is reasonable for you and your situation and feel free to consult other competitors for their ideas as well.

The Pre-Clipping Bath

- Bathing your horse before clipping will reduce wear and tear on your blades and make them last longer. Clean hair also cuts better for a smoother final product.
- Scrub shampoo in well (especially if hair is quite long and/or it has been awhile since the last bath) and rinse thoroughly.
- Scrape excess water from the coat (use your hands on the legs).
- Do not spray any products on the coat before clipping.
- Allow your mini to dry completely. This bath can be given the day before you plan to clip but don't turn the horse out in between (they will roll in the stall but shavings aren't as hard on blades as sand).

The Post-Clipping Bath

- Bathing your horse after clipping washes away those loose hairs that will make him itchy. It is also a good time to get any dirt you missed with your pre-clipping bath and pick out any areas you missed with the clippers.
- A light shampooing with a good rinse should do.
- Spray your horse liberally with a coat conditioner such as Healthy Hair (see appendix #4) and run a soft brush over him to lie the hair flat.
- Think about the temperature and the fact that you now have a newly naked, wet horse. Blanket him if needed.

The Day-Before-the-Show Bath

- This is where you have to use some elbow grease. Various shampoos are available including ones that claim to enhance blacks or chestnuts. You can make your own decision as to whether you think these really work. Whitening shampoos do work very well for pintos or even just white socks on solids. Choose one of the blue or purple ones as they seem to work the best (and you can make some fun coloured pintos!). If you have white on your horse (even just a sock) you MUST use a blue shampoo to really make that white pop.
- Scrub hooves with a stiff brush (especially white feet) to remove all dirt.
- Use conditioner in manes, tails and (if your horse will tolerate the rinsing) forelocks.
- Rinse entire horse very well as shampoo residue will make the coat look dull.
- Remove excess water with a sweat scraper (use your hand on the legs).
- Spray your horse liberally with Show Sheen (see appendix #12) including the mane and tail (spray the tail really well). Wait for the tail to dry before trying to comb/brush through it even if that means leaving it until the next morning. NOTE: Show sheen makes the coat very slippery. Remember this when harnessing driving horses that have been sprayed with show sheen.
- Cover your horse with a clean blanket and return him to a clean stall. If you do not have blankets for your horses you can leave them naked but you may have manure spots to remove in the morning so allow extra time for this. Also plan to bathe earlier in the day so they have time to dry before it gets cool at night.

Body Clipping

- Deciding when to clip prior to a show depends on your horse's colour, coat condition and hair growth rate. Horses that clip to an unappealing colour generally do best if clipped 7-10 days before a show. This allows some re-growth and a return to their more natural colour. Fine lines usually fade as hair grows back. Some colours look good even when clipped the day before the show.
- Use a number 10 blade for the body.
- Have a couple of sharp blades handy as well as a can of Kool Lube spray (see appendix #5). You will need more blades if you have not washed your horse as dirt will dull them quickly.
- As you clip the blades will heat up. Always know how hot they are and check them before you use them on thin skinned or sensitive areas like the ears. Kool Lube will cool them a bit but you may have to switch blades. If they are not dull set them somewhere so you remember that you can use then again later.
- Your horse will be the most patient at the start so do the trickiest areas first. We do the head (including the ears) first followed by the legs. If you horse gets impatient with the legs you can go to the body for awhile and return to the legs later. Horses that are bad for their ears may respond well to a twitch. A metal blanket clip makes a good hands-free twitch but be sure not to leave it on for too long and rub the nose well upon removal.
- Clip against the direction of the hair growth. Note that hair growth changes direction in areas such as the loins and chest. Most, if not all, horses have whorls that can be tough to clip.
- Take care when clipping close to the eyes. Have adequate restraint to avoid sudden
 movement and injury to the eye. You can clip off whiskers above and below the eyes but
 try not to cut off the eyelashes. Proper technique for clipping around eyes was
 demonstrated.
- When clipping the tail triangle, start big as you can always go smaller. Take off small increments until it is the size you want. The size will depend on the natural tail set of your horse. Don't go too big! The point should be right on the spine and the sides should be even. Try the "string crupper" as a guide (shown in demo).
- Many horses are sensitive to clipper vibrations on the bones of the lower legs. Having an assistant hold up the opposite leg can help keep the leg you're working on planted.
- Roll the skin on the lower legs to clip the hair that normally lies in the grooves between the tendons.
- When clipping the hind legs be careful that the tail doesn't get in the path of your clippers as tail hairs take a long time to grow back! Have an assistant hold the tail aside or tie it up in a knot.
- When clipping the belly be careful where you put your head so you don't get kicked by a ticklish horse.
- The mane is a tough area to do well. Take care to make the line straight as a crooked line will make the neck look bad.
- If you need to thin your horse's mane you can do this by clipping some off from the underside of the mane.
- When you are done the whole body go back over any lines as shown and try to get rid of them.
- After clipping run the blades in blade wash (see appendix #6) to clean them.
- Practice will make perfect so be patient.
- NOTE: When clipping a driving horse for the first time of the year always ground drive them for a few minutes before hitching them. Harness feels funny on a clipped

body and horses have been known to take off or buck because of it. Most horses get over it quickly and problems can be avoided with a quick ground drive.

Care of the Body Clipped Horse

- Frequent bathing and clipping removes the natural oils from your horse's coat and it can start to appear dry and lustreless.
- If possible spray your clipped horse daily with a coat conditioner and run a brush over him to help the hair lie down. This will help encourage growing hair to lie flat.
- Depending on the temperature you may want to blanket your horse at night. A cold horse will grow hair faster and require more frequent clipping.
- Also remember that dark hair usually bleaches out in the sun and the skin of clipped white areas can burn with prolonged sun exposure. Consider a sunscreen spray (see appendix #3), or limit time in the sun between the hours of 11 am and 2 pm. Blanketing while outside is also an option but don't forget about legs and necks!

Day-Before-the-Show Trimming

- Before you bathe your horse you should touch up the bridle path and whiskers (muzzle and eyes). This can be done with a number 40 blade but may require some blending for a smooth finish.
- Cut the bridle path on an angle (as demonstrated) towards the underside of the mane to help the mane lie as flat as possible and minimize the thickness of the neck.
- Cut the tail so it is not dragging on the ground or your horse will step on it when he backs up. This will result in tail hairs being pulled out (sometimes in large chunks). A single tail hair can take years to grow back to full length!

Show Day

At home:

- Give yourself plenty of time in the morning because if there is a stain in the stall the horse will find it. Spot wash as needed to remove manure stains.
- Carefully comb through the mane and tail. When doing the tail, start at the bottom and hold the tail above where you're combing to prevent pulling out hairs.

Before your class:

- Lightly smooth your horse's feet with a sanding block. Choose either black or clear hoof polish (see appendix #10) depending on your horse's colour. Black hoof polish where it doesn't belong can be very hard to get off (your hands or nose, your horse's white socks...). Black hooves should be black and white hooves should be clear. Other colours like chestnuts or roans can go with black or clear but if they have white socks the hoof should be clear. Don't cover striped hooves on appaloosas or silvers with black as this is part of their characteristic colouring. The rules are not set in stone. It can be useful to have a small piece of carpet to stand your horse on while painting feet to keep grass out of the way. Make sure the feet are very dry before allowing the horse to move (especially if you are putting them back into shavings).
- Spray your horse with World Champion Pepi (see appendix #8) or more show sheen and run a clean brush over him. Pepi should be used in the mane and tail too.
- Use a hair gel like Dippity Do (see appendix #11) to smooth down wild mane hairs and forelock. The forelock can be pulled aside if you horse has a nice head or flyaway hair that looks messy. A tiny elastic band (like the ones used to braid manes) on the show halter will hold the forelock to the side.
- Make sure eyes and nostrils are clean. The horse can't see (and doesn't care) if he has a boogie! Moist baby wipes work well for this.

- Face gloss like World Champion Shine On (see appendix #9) can be applied to the muzzle and around the eyes for accentuation. Gloss is available in black or clear.
- Keep a clean towel handy as you wait to go into the ring for last minute touch ups. Pepi looks fantastic but does attract dust.
- Fitting of the show halter is very important. The noseband should sit 1-2 fingers' width below the facial crest (bony prominence pointed out in the demo). Adjusting the halter too low will make your horse's head look long.
- Know how much time you need for your grooming routine and remember you need time to change into your show clothes AFTER you get your horse ready.

Best of luck to everyone this year! If you have any questions about anything in this handout please feel free to ask me at the shows.

Thanks for making the 2nd annual MHCO Spring Clinic a success! Hope to see you again next year... Taime

Appendix - Grooming Products

Sample prices are provided for a general idea of cost. Most of these products are sold at all tack shops and prices will vary. Where brand names are given there may be other brands of a similar product.

1. Shampoos:

- Regular, antibacterial, medicated, colour enhancing and whitening.
- 2. Conditioner:
 - Human products from the drugstore or horse products from tack shops.
- 3. Absorbine Spray-on sunscreen:
 - 32 oz for \$23.95.
- 4. Healthy Haircare Moisturizer (mix 1 part product with 8 parts water):
 - 16 oz for \$16.95.
- 5. Oster clipper Kool Lube spray:
 - 14 oz for \$9.49.
- 6. Oster blade wash:
 - 16 oz for \$8.49.
- 7. Clipper blades:
 - \$25-30/blade.
 - Be sure to buy the appropriate type of blade for your clippers or it won't fit.
 - You will need several #10 blades.
 - You may also want to get one #40 blade and one #15 blade.
 - The higher the number the shorter it cuts the hair.
 - Blades can be sharpened many times before they need to be replaced.
- 8. World Champion Pepi coat gloss:
 - 15.3 oz can for \$14.95.
- 9. World Champion Shine On face gloss:
 - 4 oz for \$10.95 (lasts a long time).
 - Black or clear.
- 10. Absorbine Supershine hoof polish:
 - 8 oz for \$9.95.
 - Black or clear.
- 11. Dippity Do hair gel:
- 12. Absorbine Show Sheen:
 - 475 mL for \$8.75.