

Proposed NWA Rule Book Change

Topic: Judging criteria for Model, In-hand and Halter.

Proposed Rule changes:

1. Section 10 Paragraph 10.10

- a. **Current Rule:** In all in-hand and model classes, stallions and mares should be free of genetic abnormalities such as parrot mouth, under-bite or any other incorrect bite deviations.
- b. **Proposed Rule:** In all In-hand or ~~model~~ **Breeding** classes, ~~stallions and mares~~ **horses** should be free of genetic abnormalities such as parrot mouth, under-bite or any other incorrect bite deviations.
- c. **Reason/s:** Excluding Model class from the “genetic abnormalities of the mouth” criteria is based on several factors. Traditionally, the Model class is a “beauty contest”; which doesn’t require strict inspections of the mouth or descended testicles. Furthermore, the Model horse is not representing a breeding program per say that would necessitate this level of inspection. This level of inspection should only be required of the In-hand or Breeding classes. Current In-hand or Breeding Class rules exclude geldings from the genetic abnormality criteria and it was felt that geldings should be held to the same standard as mares and stallions.

2. Section 10.24, C, 3rd Sentence:

- a. **Current Rule:** In Model, Halter, and In-Hand classes, stallions and mares should be free of genetic abnormalities such as parrot mouth.
- b. **Proposed Rule:** In ~~Model Halter~~ In-Hand **and Breeding** classes, ~~stallions and mares~~ **horses** should be free of genetic abnormalities such as parrot mouth.
- c. **Reason/s:** Same reasons stated previously. Removing the word Halter because “Halter” is not defined in Section 5.10 and 11. Only In-Hand, Breeding and Model classes are defined under Section 5.

3. Section 10.24, E, 1.

- a. **Current Rule:** Entries in all classes in this Division shall be led into the ring and proceed, counterclockwise as directed by the Judge.
- b. **Proposed Rule:** Entries in ~~all classes in this Division~~ **In-hand or Breeding** classes shall enter the gate and proceed directly to the judge for verification of descended testicles (if a stallion) and teeth/bite inspection. After this preliminary check, horses will proceed counterclockwise as directed by the Judge.
- c. **Reason/s:** Current rules do not specify when the judge is to inspect the mouth. The current judging trend is to perform mouth inspection during conformation presentation which has been suggested to be disruptive.