Ground Work Training Test Rules.

These tests are based on the principles of Equitation Science and have been designed to gauge your horse’s training and give you some guidance as to which areas, if any, need some improvement. As such the welfare of the horse must be prioritised above all else. Calmness, arrived at via an adherence to the equitation science training scale, is the most important criteria.

The safety of you and your horse must also be privileged. You must wear a well fitted riding helmet with a four point safety harness. You should wear safe footwear. The arena (which can be 20mx60m or 20mx40m) must be safe, with a level (not necessarily perfect), non-slip surface (such as sand, woodchip etc) and free of obvious hazards. The arena does not need to be marked with letters, small plastic marking cones or something similar in place of the letters can be used.

One of the aims of good training is to achieve consistency with no fear and absolutely minimal force. You can use a bridle with any kind of snaffle bit or a bitless bridle or head collar of any kind as long as it fits well and is safe and well maintained. If you use a bridle with a bit a noseband is optional. If you do have a noseband it should be tightened according to the ISES principles (two stacked fingers between the nasal bone and the leather). You may carry a short crop or a dressage whip (up to 105cms long).

Gloves are optional. You can have a caller.

Tests can be submitted from the 1st till the 20th of every calendar month. You can ride any two tests. Results will be emailed between the 25th and 30th of every calendar month. The judge’s decision is final. Please note on your entry if you are under 18 years of age as this is a separate judging category. Prizes are kudos only.

Creating your video!

Your test must be done in a single take, that is there should be no edits. The film can be taken with a smartphone and should be taken from behind C (if possible) and should show the whole arena, without as little panning as possible. Please use landscape format, as good a quality as your device allows and keep the sound on.

Please make sure that your name, your horse’s name and the test you are submitting is written clearly in the email that you send with the link and your entry. If you have a videographer and they can repeat this information at the start of your test, this is also useful – though not compulsory especially if you are videoing your own test.

Once you have made your video upload it to YouTube via the app or on your desktop. Title the video “Equitation Science tests online” and include your name, horse’s name, the test(s) you are riding and if you are under 18. Set the visibility to unlisted.

Complete the online submission form and send it, along with the link(s) to your video(s) between the 1st and 20th of every calendar month. If it is your first test, please also fill in and submit the waiver form on the website.

If you have any queries please don’t hesitate to email us at equine@bigpond.net.au