

Reining Newsletter - January/February 2010

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REINING AT HOV

The Sport of Reining will, for the first time, be a formal discipline under GHS at the 2010 Horse of the Year show. Every member of GHS is eligible to compete in the Western Pleasure, Trail (utility), Western Riding and actual Reining classes that will be run on Friday, 12 February 2010, in the Small Sand Arena.

Butch Carse, an American judge holding a variety of Breed and Discipline judging cards, will be officiating at both the Reining Show and the South African Quarter Horse Association (SAQHA) Show which will be held on Saturday, 13 February 2010. Mr. Carse will also be conducting a Reining and Western Clinic on Sunday, 14 February, at a venue near KEP that will be open to anyone who would like to learn more about the FEI Sport of Reining and the preliminary discipline of Western Pleasure. Riders in the clinic will not be required to have a Western saddle but will be asked to use a bridle and bit that meets the National Reining Horse Association (NRHA) criteria. Information about the clinic can be found at www.saqha.co.za or through the Reining link on the GHS Web page.

Reining is actually the Dressage of the Western disciplines. Before a horse is started on Reining manoeuvres it should be riding quietly at the walk, jog (slow trot) and lope (slow canter), working off the rider's seat and legs on a loose rein, and know how to do transition from a lope or gallop to a walk and then full stop with patience and no resistance. Then the horse and rider begin learning the fine points of Reining which include transitions from slow 10 meter circles at the lope to fast, 20 meter circles at the gallop, flying changes of lead, the ability to spin in place on the hind quarters with the inside hind foot planted both to the right or left without moving out of the spot, roll backs over the haunches to change direction and lead from a complete stop, and then the spectacular sliding stop which, when done correctly, can go 30 meters. All of these manoeuvres must be done with precision, style, and grace. Any resistance on the part of the horse, such as a gapping mouth, swishing tail, or pinned ears counts against the total score. The horse and rider begin with a score of 70 and increments of +1/2 to +2 or -1/2 to -2 are used for each manoeuvre.

Reining is the fastest growing Equestrian discipline in the world and is extremely popular in Europe. The GHS Reining Committee will be working to develop a series of classes that will encourage individuals who want to try Reining without investing in equipment to participate in future Training shows.

For additional information about SANEF Reining, contact GHS or Show Convenor Sarah-Jane McCrindle (sjmccrindle@hotmail.com).