



THE  
UNIVERSITY  
OF RHODE ISLAND  
COOPERATIVE  
EXTENSION

## URI 4-H Horse Show Etiquette

1. Be on time for the show. Arrive at the start of the show, even if your classes are not at the very beginning. You must be registered before the first class starts.
2. Be on time for your classes. Riders should always be prepared to enter the ring when their class is called. If you do not enter the ring after two ring calls, you forfeit your class.
3. Listen to the announcer. Each venue has its own policies and rules for keeping the show organized and safe. Make sure to follow all instructions from the announcer's box.
4. It is fine to receive coaching while warming up, but coaching on the rail during classes is not allowed in 4-H shows.
5. Help your fellow riders. The hallmarks of 4-H are community and education. We are here primarily to learn. This is a great opportunity to meet riders from other barns and share tips and tricks.
6. Do not hit or hurt your horse, even if you are frustrated. Animal abuse will not be tolerated.
7. Do not shout or make loud noises close to the show ring. The riders and the horses in the ring need to stay focused during their class.
8. Offer to help out as needed. The people running our 4-H shows are volunteers. They are donating time and effort to give you a positive show experience. It is expected that you will also pitch in a bit (e.g. open and close the gate, run ribbons to the ring, help set up obstacles, etc.) to help the show run smoothly.

Note that violations of show etiquette may affect your eligibility for future shows. Some infractions warrant warnings, while others are grounds for dismissal from the show and/or the 4-H program.