What is a Model Horse Show? Model horse shows were started by adults in the mid-1960s, first with the "photo" show and later the "live" show. In a photo show, a picture of a model horse is assessed. The horse is photographed at halter or in a performance class. The photo is sent to a photo show to be judged. A live show is where the actual model is exhibited and judged. The Howard County 4-H Model Horse Show is a live show.

Why should I participate in the 4-H Model Horse Show? The Howard County 4-H Model Horse Show is an educational event, entailing the collecting and showing of model horses. This hobby inspires 4-H’ers to pursue perfection, authenticity and creativity. Participating in model horse shows requires equine knowledge and skill to reproduce the realism needed to portray the image of a live horse.

Collecting and showing model horses is both interesting and informative. 4-H horse lovers of all ages will enjoy participating in the show. It is especially a wonderful learning experience for 4-H’ers who do not have horses or for 4-H’ers who, because of health reasons, cannot physically work around live horses.

Exhibiting model horses can be a total learning experience. 4-H’ers discover the structure of the horse - anatomy and conformation; way-of-going; colors; markings; proper tack, equipment and attire; and styles of riding and showing. The only limitations are your knowledge and imagination. The ultimate goal is to take the specific action of a live horse, freeze it in time and portray it in model size. Realism and correctness are the intent.

What brand of horses can I show at the 4-H Model Horse Show? You can show any type of manufactured model horse makers. Some examples include Breyer, Stone, and plush horses.

If you have any questions please contact Debra Wheelbarger at 410-733-0501 or email at lddwheel@aol.com

Maryland Cooperative Extension Service programs are open to all citizens without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age or natural origin.
Rules and Guidelines:

1. Entry fees are $10.00 for the entire day.
2. A single model may be shown in more than one class.
3. Each 4-Her may enter up to two models in each class and, therefore, may have two different entries placed in each class.
4. Each model must have an entry tag fastened to a hind leg that cannot be easily removed. The back of the tag will provide the Exhibitor Number (numbers will be assigned upon registration on show day). Tags will be provided by the Show Management. Entries without tags will not be judged.
5. It is expected that the exhibitor (owner of the model) will be available to manage the model and to take it to the judging table. Adults are not permitted to assist in the setting-up of horses.
6. Please do not pick up a model that does not belong to you.
7. There will be no talking to the judge while she is judging a class.
8. Once a class has started, only the judge and the ringmaster may be in the ring area.
9. The judge’s decision is FINAL.
10. Please keep noise level down during the show to hear announcements of classes.
11. Keep your area neat, clean, and free of any boxes or large items.
    Please clean up your area completely when the show is over.
12. Food and snacks will be available for purchase.

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Model Horse Show Class List

Division I - Breeds
Does your horse represent their breed in conformation, color, sex typing, and markings? In this division, the horse will be judged on breed qualities. Mares, stallions, geldings, and yearling are permitted in this division. NO HALTERS, BRIDLES, OR ANY TACK ALLOWED.

1. Light Breeds (Thoroughbred, Morgan, Paso Fino)
2. Stock Horse (Quarter Horse, Appaloosa, Paint)
3. Arabians
4. Warmblood /Draft Breeds

Division II - Performance Classes
In this division, the horse is presented in a scenario that depicts a real horse event. Judged on gait, condition, proper tack, obstacle and presentation. Tack recommended, but rider is optional.

5. English Performance - Cross country, dressage, stadium, pleasure, hunter
6. Western Performance - Barrel racing, roping, cutting, rodeo, pleasure
7. Trail - English or Western - Natural or arena obstacle required with horse. (Example: for opening a gate, must have a gate and the horse must be placed in the correct position to open the gate.)
8. Do It Yourself Performance - All tack and props must be handmade by the exhibitor.

Division III - Fun Classes
Have fun with your model horse! Show your models in a fun way: dress them up in costume, show their spiritedness, or show your other farm animals. You can even show your plush horses. Judged on presentation and originality.

9. Mare and Foal
10. Costume - Judged on presentation and originality. Rider optional, but must be costumed appropriately if used. Please provide a 3x5 card with a sentence or two describing your theme.
11. Fantasy - Pegasus, Unicorn

Division IV - Horse Management
This class is judged on how you manage various aspects of your model horse facility. Bring your barns and be creative!

12. Best Barn