

Get Ready to Show!

One Month Before

- **Submit Your Entry** - Hand in your entry to Raynham Stables by opening day if you would like us to send it in for you. Shows are filling up, so we want to get them in early! Opening day, entry fees and all other details can be found in your omnibus or online at www.horsetrials.on.ca. Don't forget to include a photocopy of your membership cards and a cheque made payable to the show.
- **Go Cross Country Schooling** – We will visit a variety of farms over the season. Horse and rider combinations that have evented before may only need to go school once before their first show. New horses and riders will likely need to go 2, 3 or more times to get comfortable and confident galloping across country and over solid obstacles.
- **Learn Your Dressage Test** – Don't wait until the night before the show to learn your test. Memorize it (by drawing it out or walking it on foot) a few weeks before the show. Then try riding the test and see what's easy and what movements and transitions need work. Over the weeks leading up to the show don't ride the whole test over and over; ride the individual movements, focusing on the parts you struggled with. A few days before the show, ride the whole test again to make sure you still know it and you have it all smoothed out!

The Day Before

- **If you Ride** – If you have a practice ride or lesson the day before the show, make sure you work on something you and your horse do well. No w is not the time to bash away at something new or run your dressage test over and over. You want to have a relaxing, confidence boosting ride to get you in the right frame of mind for tomorrow!
- **Bathing** – Try to wait until the afternoon to bathe your horse or your horse will be dirty by the next day! Remember not to shampoo a horse's mane right before a show or it will be too slippery to braid. Be sure to shampoo the tail though, and rinse well! Undiluted shampoo is great for getting white markings bright and clean.
- **Braiding** – Make sure you leave enough time to get the job done right. If you are an inexperienced braider, it may take 1 – 2 hours. See the "How to Braid a Mane" article for tips.
- **Cleaning Tack** – Nothing looks worse than a sparkly clean horse with dirty tack so take your time. Bits should be removed and soaked in water to get off any grime. Don't forget to polish buckles and stirrup irons. To get the leather really shiny, clean first with saddle soap, then apply a leather conditioner (always check with your instructor before using a new product).
- **Pack Your Gear** – All your show equipment (except your saddle) should be placed in a tote in the gooseneck of the trailer before you leave for the night. You don't want to be scrambling to pack in the morning. Don't forget you are responsible for bringing everything your horse needs, so pack buckets, fill a hay bag and bed down a stall in the trailer.
- **Walk the Course** – Find out when your cross country course walk is and be there! No exceptions.

In the Morning

- **Prepare for Shipping** – Make sure you arrive at least 30min before the planned shipping out time (it's your responsibility to find out when we're leaving). Horses love to rub out braids and lie in manure so you may have some touch ups to do. You'll need to put on shipping boots/wraps, a head bumper (if your horse is over 15.2hh) and a sheet if it's cool out. Don't forget a lead rope!
- **Prevent Panic!** – Before you leave, run down the check list on the following page to ensure you have everything you need. You don't want to arrive at the show, tack up for dressage and discover you left your bridle at home on the cleaning hook!

Show Essentials List

Horse Equipment

- Fill hay bag/net (make sure there is a bale for refills for the drive home!)
- Bed down a stall in the trailer
- Buckets (one for drinking water and one for sponging off to cool down)
- Shipping boots/wraps
- Head bumper to protect horse's head when travelling (horses over 15.2hh)
- Show sheet and tail protector (optional)

Horse's Tack

- Bridle(s)
- Saddle(s)
- Girth (if you use two saddles, make sure you have a girth that fits each!)
- Saddle Pad(s) (white for stadium and dressage, coloured for cross country)
- Brush Boots for cross country
- Martingale/Breastplate (if needed)
- Cooler or anti-sweat sheet

Rider's Gear

- Field Boots / Leather paddock boot and half chap system
- Show Shirt
- Stock and Stock pin.
- Riding jacket
- Helmet
- Shirt in your cross country colors
- Body protector
- Hair net & elastics
- Gloves
- Crop & Spurs
- Medical armband
- Cross country watch (optional)

Miscellaneous

- Small sewing kit and spare buttons for making repairs if necessary.
- Safety pins for attaching numbers etc.
- Folding chair(s)
- Snacks for yourself and treats for your horse! Don't forget lots of water.
- Toilet paper
- Sunscreen and sun hat
- Cash (In case you missed an entry fees or for buying a food/drinks)
- _____
- _____
- _____