

RAS Royal Show - List of Approved Classes

It is not expected that every show will hold this full list of classes. This is an approved list of classes that have been compiled by the Society to allow for local variations and strengths. The organiser of the Donkey & Mule classes at each show will select from the range below.

However, donkeys must be catered for at each show where classes for them have been established. Where mules will also be competing, then classes for them should be included. **Donkeys and mules must not be judged against each other.**

Where there are not enough entries to have separate classes donkeys and mules may be judged at the same time **but must be awarded separately**. This will work well in the performance sections. Where a show plans to vary from the established classes for donkeys or mules, the show should liaise with the Donkey & Mule Society's Show Secretary to ensure it is a format approved by the Society. The Show Secretary is Sherryn Green. (See contact details at end of document)

In-Hand Donkeys

To be judged on conformation and action

Geldings are to be given equal consideration with jennies and jacks.

1. Best presented donkey on a lead rein

(50% donkey, 25% gear, 25% handler)

2. Novice donkey

(Donkey not to have won more than 3 first prizes in an In-Hand class at the day of the show)

Young Stock In Hand Donkeys

To be judged on conformation and action

3. Jack, Jenny or Gelding, foal or yearling

4. Jack, Jenny or Gelding 2 years of age

5. Jack, Jenny or Gelding 3 years of age

Champion and Reserve Champion Young Stock In Hand Donkey

To be judged from classes 3 to 5

Adult In Hand Donkeys (4 years and over)

6. Jenny donkey 4yrs & Over

7. Gelding donkey 4yrs & Over

8. Jack donkey 4yrs & Over

Champion and Reserve Champion Adult In Hand Donkey

To be judged from classes 6 to 8.

Supreme Champion In Hand Donkey

(Young stock and Adult In Hand Champions to be judged)

RAS Medal and Sash at Royal Shows

In Hand Mules

To be judged on conformation and action

9. Best Presented mule on a lead-rein

(50% animal, 25% gear, 25% handler)

- 10. Mule 3 years and under**
- 11. Molly Mule 4 years and over**
- 12. John Mule 4 years and over**

Champion and Reserve Champion In-Hand Mule

(To be judged from classes 10, 11 & 12)

Donkey In Hand Performance Section

13. Paced & Mannered Donkey

14. Pack Donkey

This is not a fancy dress class. Its purpose is to judge the animal most suitable for packing. In some cases the donkey or mule may be required to parade without a saddle to show its conformation suitability for pack work. Where a pack saddle is required the class should also be judged on pack load balance, safety and its suitability for the donkey or mule.

15. Ridden donkey on a lead rein.

To be judged on the suitability of the donkey for the rider and both to be judged as a unit. (Donkey to be 3 years or over. Rider 12 years or under).

The lead rein may be attached to the bit for safety. (Rider not eligible for class 16). The accepted minimum age for a rider is 4 years. If a lead rein rider is younger than 4 years the adult handler/assistant must take full responsibility in the event of any accident involving that rider.

16. Ridden donkey

To be judged on the suitability of the donkey for the rider and both to be judged as a unit. and on the willingness and obedience of the donkey to walk, trot and canter, change rein and rein back. Riders over 4 years (rider not eligible for class 15).

At small shows where there is only one ridden donkey class, and led and independently ridden donkeys compete against each other, the emphasis and key determining factor in judging the class should be the suitability of the donkey as a mount for the rider.

17 Bending Race

Led or ridden against time.

18. Donkey Challenge

To be judged on style and manners through four from the challenge list.

19. Donkey Pattern

To be judged on willingness, style and accuracy.

The pattern to be selected from the approved pattern list by the show organiser who also advises the competitors

20. In Hand Donkey Jumping:

Two jumps up to 500 cm, not timed, to be judged on style and willingness of the donkey.

21. Long-reining

To test willingness and obedience. To be driven in long reins negotiating a line of poles and obstacles at a walk and stopping, reining back and standing when asked. Not judged on time.

22. Family Pet

Does not count towards the In Hand Performance Championship.

23 Child Handler (Donkey to be led by a child 12yrs and under)

Champion and Reserve Champion In Hand Performance Donkey

To be judged from classes 13 to 21 on a points basis:

6 points 1st, 4 points 2nd, 2 points 3rd, 1 point 4th.

If the final points are equal, champion is awarded to the donkey with the highest points who has also won the most first places. If they are still equal, then the donkey who has the highest number of second places

Harness Donkeys

Donkeys must be a minimum of 3 years of age.

24. Best Presented donkey in harness.

25. Best Whip

Judged on the driver's ability to gain obedience and free movement from the donkey

26. Best Paced harness donkey

To be judged on the best type and paced donkey/s in harness).

27. Driven Donkey Challenge

To be judged on willingness, style and accuracy. It will consist of four challenges, which will be chosen from the Driven Challenge list by the judge.

28. Driven Pattern

To be judged on willingness, style and accuracy. Competitors will drive a figure of 8; serpentine, rein back and halt. The pattern can be found on the society's web page.

29. Cone course

A series of cones driven against time. The fastest time wins. 5 penalty points each time ball/s are knocked off a pair of cones

Champion and Reserve Champion Harness Donkey

To be judged from classes 26 to 29 on a points basis:

6 points for 1st; 4 points for 2nd; 2 points for 3rd; 1 point for 4th.

If the final points are equal, champion is awarded to the donkey with the highest points who has also won the most 1st places. If they are still equal, then the donkey who also has the highest number of second places.

Ridden Mules

Mules must be a minimum of 3 years of age.

30. Best Paced and Mannered mule under saddle

31. Ridden Green Mule Pattern

For mules in their first year competing under saddle

32. Ridden Open Pattern

Entries in the above class not eligible

33. Challenge

To be judged on style and manners through four challenges from the challenge list.

Champion & Reserve Champion Ridden Mule

To be judged from classes 30 to 33

Mule In-Hand Performance

34. Best Paced and Mannered Mule class

35. Young Stock Pattern - 2yrs and under

36. Open Pattern

Entries in the above class not eligible for this class

37. Advanced Pattern

Young Stock and Open mules eligible.

38. Long reining.

Performing a series of such as stopping, bending through a line of poles and backing.

39. Challenge

To be judged on style and manners through four challenges from the challenge list.

Note: At shows where the mule entry is small a mule performance section can be created from selecting classes from these recommended classes **or** if no Mule In-Hand Performance Section is provided then mules can enter the Donkey Section instead. **However, where mules are competing in the donkey ring they must be awarded separately. Mules must not be judged against donkeys.**

Champion and Reserve Champion In Hand Performance Mule

To be judged from classes 34 to 39 on a points basis:

6 points 1st, 4 points 2nd, 2 points 3rd, 1 point 4th.

If the final points are equal, champion is awarded to the mule with the highest points who has won the most 1st places. If they are still equal, then the mule who has the highest number of second places

Harness Mules

Mules must be a minimum of 3 years of age.

Where mules are competing in the donkey ring for harness they must be awarded separately.

Mules must not be judged against donkeys.

40. Best Presented mule

50% animal, 25% harness and cart, 25% driver.

41. Best Paced mule

42. Best Mannered mule

43. Driven Challenge

to be judged on style and manners through four challenges from the challenge list.

44. Driven Pattern

To be judged on willingness, style and accuracy. Competitors will drive a figure of 8; serpentine, rein back and halt. The pattern can be found on the society's web page.

Champion & Reserve Champion Harness Mule

To be judged from classes 41 to 44 on a points basis:

6 points 1st, 4 points 2nd, 2 points 3rd, 1 point 4th.

If the final points are equal, champion is awarded to the mule with the highest points who has also won the most first places. If they are still equal, then the mule who also has the highest number of second places.

Supreme Champion Mule

In Hand Mule Champion, Ridden Mule Champion, In Hand Performance Mule Champion and Harness Champion to be judged.

RAS Medal and Sash at Royal Shows.

Sherryn Green

Show Secretary

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