

Definition of Movements

Canter Change of Lead

This is a movement where the horse is brought back from canter to trot and after a few (two or three) steps is re-started into canter with the other leg leading.

Change of Rein

This is a change of direction usually through the middle of the ring. It can be undertaken at a trot or canter with a trot leg change to execute the change in leg.

Simple Change of Lead

This is a movement where the horse is brought back from canter to a walk of 3 to 5 strides then an immediate (but smooth) transition is made into the other canter lead. A movement that contains two transitions with clear canter and walk strides.

The Halt

The horse should stand attentive, motionless and straight with the weight evenly distributed over all four legs. The neck should be raised with the poll high and the head slightly in front of the vertical.

On the Bit

In all its work, even at the halt, the horse must be on the bit. A horse is said to be “on the bit” when the neck is raised and arched, according to the degree of training and the extension of the pace. The head should remain just slightly in front of the vertical, the horse’s poll should be the highest point.

Acceptance of the Bridle

The horse must accept the bridle, whether it is a snaffle or a simple double bridle. It should go forward without resistance, accepting a soft contact. The horse may lightly ‘champ’ the bit, but the mouth should not be open or the tongue over the bit.

Straightness

The horse is moving on the correct line when it is perfectly straight from the tip of the nose to the tail when going forward on a straight line and is flexed through the poll and bent through the body when on a curve or when on a circle.