

Changing of Project Horse for Calgary Regional 4-H Horse Shows (Feb. 27, 2010)

- 1) Any horse in this show must have a properly completed and signed Declaration of Mount, registering the horse as a member's PROJECT and handed in to the Show Committee by the January Regional 4-H Horse Committee meeting of the current 4-H year.
- 2) A member's 4-H PROJECT HORSE may be replaced no later than **April 1st** of the current 4-H year with the approval of the club project leader/instructor with **no penalty** for the following reasons:
 - i) UNSUITABILITY
If, in the opinion of the 4-H project leader/instructor, a PROJECT horse is deemed to be unsuitable and **therefore unsafe** for the member to bring to the show.
 - ii) ILLNESS, LAMENESS OR DEATH OF THE HORSE
Must be verified by a Vet Certificate.
- 3) A member's PROJECT HORSE may be replaced after the **April 1st** deadline but not later than **two (2) weeks prior to either show**, with the approval of the club project leader/instructor **AND** the Show Committee for the above reasons, but that member will be eligible **only** for 1st place prizes and/or ribbons in their class and **will not** be eligible for High Point or Reserve High Point awards. Also, any points attained will **not** be counted towards the Club High Point Award.
- 4) A member's PROJECT HORSE may be replaced with a newly purchased horse only if a purchase was necessary to replace the original PROJECT HORSE because of i) Unsuitability or ii) Illness, Lameness or Death during the current club year. All deadlines mentioned above will apply. Note that a member is expected to use their original PROJECT HORSE to the completion of the 4-H year, which runs from Oct. 1st to Sept. 30th, and therefore would include both 4-H on Parade and the Regional Show.
- 5) If a member's replacement horse becomes their PROJECT HORSE before 4-H on Parade, and the member continues on with their Record Book on this new PROJECT HORSE, then that member and their new PROJECT HORSE will become eligible for High Point awards at the Regional Show only, even if the replacement was made after the April 1st deadline.
- 6) Members in Levels 4-7 who have more than one PROJECT HORSE registered in different projects and who have submitted a Declaration of Mount form on each horse by the January meeting deadline, may substitute one of their other PROJECT HORSES up to **two (2) weeks prior** to either show **without penalty**.
- 7) A Replacement Horse Form must be submitted at the time of notification of such.
- 8) Replacements of any kind will not be allowed after **two (2) weeks prior to either show**.

We are trying to encourage members to pick a Project Horse and to stick with that Project Horse for their entire 4-H year. This is what the program is all about – to pick an animal and work with it and do records on it for the entire 4-H year.

However, sometimes things happen and a member's project horse doesn't work out because it isn't compatible or it doesn't have enough training for the member's skill level. Or in the worst case, the animal becomes sick, injured or dies. We want to be able to make provisions for these members to be able to get another horse to complete their year. However, some stipulations have to be made for when these changes are allowed to happen, both for safety reasons and for fairness to the rest of the members. Also, these changes have to be made in ample time for the Show committee to be able to set up classes and do all of the paperwork necessary for the show.

In essence, this document says that if a Project Horse that a member has declared on their Declaration of Mount becomes unsuitable, or if it becomes lame, sick or dies, this horse may be replaced without any penalty, as long as it is done before April 1st. If it is changed after April 1st but before 2 weeks before the show, they can still take part in the show but will not be eligible for High Point at 4-H on Parade. However, if this replacement horse becomes their Project Horse, with a Declaration of Mount and confirmation that the member is continuing on with their Record Book on this new horse before 4-H on Parade, then they will become eligible for High Point at the Regional Show.

Speaking to the **Alberta 4-H Equine Project Policy # 6.06** that states that a replacement horse “**must be of equal (or lesser ability) to their former 4-H animal**”; this was put in place to deter people from going out and borrowing a better, more well trained horse as a replacement for their original Project Horse just to win the show. However, if a horse is unsuitable because it does not have enough training, or because it is too spirited for the rider (thinking of a beginner), then one would assume that the replacement horse would be better trained or easier to handle, and therefore possibly of greater ability than the original one. Also, if a member's horse becomes permanently injured, or dies, and a new horse has to be purchased, it is only logical that the member would try to purchase the best horse they are able to and not one that is of lesser ability than the one they had. So this policy has to be taken in the light that it was intended.

Some questions to help clarify:

If I do not have my Declaration of Mount handed in by the January meeting, am I allowed to go to 4-H on Parade or the Regional Show?

Ans: No. (In the case of a new member who does not have a horse and who has not been able to get an appropriate horse before the January meeting deadline, concessions may be made as long as the Show Committee is notified of such before the deadline.)

If I find a replacement horse before April 1st, am I allowed to take it to 4-H on Parade?

Ans: Yes, and you will still be eligible to compete for High Point or Reserve High Point at both 4-H on Parade and the Regional Show. You must complete a new Declaration of Mount to hand in to the Show Chair and assuming that this is going to be your new PROJECT Horse, start keeping records on this replacement horse.

If I find a replacement horse after April 1st, am I allowed to take it to 4-H on Parade?

Ans: Yes, but you will not be allowed to compete for High Point or Reserve High Point at either 4-H on Parade or the Regional Show and your points will not go toward your club's High Point. However, if this replacement horse becomes your new PROJECT Horse, and you complete a Declaration of Mount and continue on with your Record Book on this replacement horse before 4-H on Parade, then you will be eligible for High Point at the Regional Show.

If I find a replacement horse after 4-H on Parade, am I allowed to take it to the Regional Show?

Ans: Yes, but you will not be able to compete for High Point at the Regional Show.

If I find a replacement horse after 4-H on Parade and declare it as my new Project Horse and continue on with my Record Book on this replacement horse, am I allowed to compete for High Point at the Regional Show?

Ans: No, this is only allowed if done before 4-H on Parade.

If the only horse I have at the moment for 4-H is an old, lame farm horse and I am looking for something suitable to purchase to replace it, can I replace my original 4-H Horse with this new one when I purchase it?

Ans: Yes, but you have to follow the stipulations stated above regarding the deadlines.

If I have a PROJECT Horse that I have been using and taking to the shows, and during the summer I discover a horse that is better trained and that I would like to buy and use for my 4-H PROJECT, can I switch horses before the Regional Show?

Ans: No. You need to complete the 4-H year with the horse you have. Then you can start the next year with your new horse.