

## The Show Mom Quiz

What better way to end the year than to reflect on all that we have learned from the past show season. Whether you are a new show mom or a seasoned professional, our goal remains the same—to pledge our undying, unwavering and unflappable support to our rider and horses regardless of the financial and psychological ramifications that such a commitment might have. And, if we can have a little fun along the way—even better. Because at the end of the day, that's what show moms do best.

So sharpen those pencils and let's hope you were all paying attention.

**1. What is the appropriate age to let your child start riding lessons?**

- a. There isn't one—it's dangerous. They should never start.
- b. Before they can walk
- d. Age 6
- d. When they have graduated from college, have a job and can afford to pay for their own lessons

**2. What is the best way to pick a trainer for your rider?**

- a. Easy, by the number of blue ribbons they have on display
- b. How they get along with your rider
- c. Proximity of the barn to your house
- d. By the amount of insurance they carry

**3. What is considered appropriate attire for your rider during a lesson?**

- a. Whatever they have hanging in their closet that's already paid for
- b. Festive ModJods, t-shirt and a helmet
- c. Jeans, sweatshirt and flip flops
- d. Kneepads, reinforced thigh pads, Kevlar vest, mouth guard and their brother's football helmet

**4. When your rider falls off their horse for the first time and you are in the stands, what is considered an appropriate Show Mom response?**

- a. Stop talking and ask who that is on the ground
- b. Watch in silence and awe as your trainer assists your rider with lightening quick speed and agility
- c. Scream hysterically and scare the other horses along with your rider, trainer and all the Academy riders that are running along the rail
- d. Begin drinking heavily once you have regained consciousness

**5. When your rider first starts hinting/demanding that they want/need their own horse you:**

- a. Tell them, "Absolutely not. There are plenty of good lessons horses at the barn and out in the pasture."
- b. Start finding pictures of World Grand Champion horses taped to every major appliance in your house

and office

- c. Tell them to get out and get a job and start saving their money
- d. Laugh and say, "It's just one horse—how expensive could that be anyway?"

**6. When you finally make the life altering decision to buy your first horse, whom should you bring along to help you make the right choice?**



- a. Your husband
- b. Your trainer
- c. A flock of eager Academy riders
- d. Your personal banker who not only has direct access to all your accounts and your IRA pin number but an extra key to your safety deposit box at the bank.

**7. What is considered an appropriate amount of money to spend on your rider's first show horse?**

- a. \$500
- b. \$25,000
- c. \$50,000
- d. Not even close

**8. When buying your first horse, what would be considered an appropriate color to choose?**

- a. Bay
- b. Chestnut
- c. Black
- d. Have we not learned anything? It really doesn't matter as long as it matches the suit.

**9. How much should you budget for your rider's first suit?**

- a. What, they can't borrow one?
- b. \$5,000
- c. Doesn't really matter they will grow out of it before the end of the season
- d. Whatever is left over in your IRA account after you bought the horse.

- 10. How much money should you plan on budgeting for dry cleaning your rider's suit each year?**
- It needs to be dry-cleaned?
  - As much as necessary
  - With early bird coupons it shouldn't be more than \$5.00 a show
  - \$10,000 at a minimum which includes rush charges for same morning service
- 11. What is considered an appropriate size for your horse's stall area?**
- 20 x 20
  - 12 x 12
  - 5 x 5
  - The same size as your house and preferably with air conditioning
- 12. How can you tell how old a horse is?**
- By its girth
  - By its teeth
  - By its trot
  - By how much it costs
- 13. What is considered appropriate food for your new horse?**
- Left overs from dinner
  - Hay
  - Chocolate Whoppers
  - A five gallon jug of peppermints
- 14. What is the proper definition of a "broke" horse?**
- Broken
  - Suitable for any rider
  - The owner no longer has sufficient funds to keep the horse in the manner to which it had become accustomed
  - Expensive and more money than you want to spend
- 15. What is the proper definition of a "green" horse?**
- A horse entered in the costume class
  - Not recommended for a novice rider
  - An environmentally sound horse
  - Crazy
- 16. As a Show Mom what should be your number one priority once you have delivered your rider into the very capable hands of their trainer on the morning of their first class?**
- Go eat breakfast
  - The bun
  - Remembering to call school to let them know that your child will be out 'sick' today
  - Securing a seat in the arena that is not only as close to the Ladies Room as you can possibly get without actually sitting inside it but also in close proximity to where the Ambulance is parked and within arms reach of your cooler that is filled with liquid encouragement.
- 17. During an A Rated Show, when is it appropriate for a Show Mom to speak to their rider?**
- Any time you want
  - After their class
  - While they are in the ring
  - Two weeks after the show and only once you have secured their dry cleaning for the next show
- 18. When your rider wins prize money at a show who should get the check?**
- The Dad, of course, to help offset the enormous expenses that no one told him about when he said "yes" to buying a horse.
  - The trainer for more lessons
  - The rider so they can shop at the show
  - The beleaguered Show Mom who ran out of hair spray after step three of "the Perfect Bun".
- 19. When ordering pictures at a show do you:**
- Wait to see how your own turn out before you buy the professional ones
  - Buy only those pictures that highlight the true beauty of your horse in action
  - Buy only if your rider wins a blue ribbon
  - Buy every picture of your rider smiling never taking into account what the horse is doing
- 20. When the horse show is over for the evening what is the task at hand for every Show Mom?**
- Call home to make sure their husband has not set fire to the house while trying to cook tacos on the gas grill that he has moved into the family room so he can watch re-runs of football
  - Get your rider back to the hotel for a good night's sleep
  - Talk to the trainer to see why your rider didn't win their class despite the fact that they were on the wrong diagonal in both directions
  - Drive 100 miles in either direction of the show grounds to find a fast food restaurant that is still open so your rider can have at least one nutritious meal for the day.
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- ANSWER KEY:**
- If you answered "A" on 15 to 20 questions your answers are spoken like a true Dad.
  - If you answered "B" on 15 to 20 questions you are obviously a seasoned professional and have been doing this for years and probably didn't really have the time to answer silly little quiz questions like this.
  - If you answered "C" on 15 to 20 questions you have not yet committed to turning over your entire life savings to your rider's trainer and might need another season before you throw caution to the wind and completely jump in.
  - If you answered "D" on 15 to 20 questions you are clearly a dedicated Show Mom that has survived more than one show season.
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- NOTE: The views expressed by the author are her reflections and hers alone and should not be seen as a reflection on her husband or teenage daughter. The publishers of Saddle & Bridle Magazine do not necessarily share the same views as the author and quite frankly are a bit surprised that even a simple assignment of "a quiz" could still go well over the author's allotted word count. While they are not offering up their individual results of the quiz, it is their sincere hope that the reader will take the tongue in cheek musings of a nervous show mom with the humor in which it was intended. You can email the author at Patti@ADistudio.com.*