

ASDS Visitor and Spectator Protocol

The following are guidelines for visitors and spectators which are compiled to assure the safety and enjoyment of all at the competitions. Common courtesy and heeding the requests of show officials are most appreciated.

On-time performance: Show competitions are scheduled to the minute, and therefore, if you are invited to watch a performance, plan to be early to accommodate parking and seating. Drive slowly in the presence of horses.

Barn rules: One of the most universal rules of a horse facility is “NO Smoking” in and around the barn as there are many flammable materials in the area. Also do not feed the horses or enter any stalls without permission.

Warm up areas: Most competitors warm up their horses about 30 minutes before their test time. It is a time for concentrating on the task at hand. Plan to find seating in the spectator area. After the competition/test, congratulate your deserving horse enthusiast on a job well done.

Unpredictable moving items: Balloons are not good items to bring to a horse show, and umbrellas should be opened with caution.

During the performance: Quiet observation is the best manner of enjoying the test performance. Calling out during the performance can distract the competitor and hinder the rider from hearing the reader call the test pattern. Applause is well-appreciated after the completion of a test. Caution, however, is recommended in respect to the reaction a young or inexperienced horse that may ‘spook’ to an over-exuberant audience.

After the performance: Meet the competitors well away from the testing arena. Take general precautions as other horses may be in the immediate area. Walking in the back of an unknown horse is not a safe practice. Edible nontoxic flowers/leis are great gifts for the rider. With permission, carrots and apples are great treats for the horse.

Awards: There are no formal awards ceremonies after the Show. Test scores are posted on the bulletin board in a timely manner after the ride. After each Level is completed, ribbons and awards are distributed from the Officials tent.

Questions? Ask one of the show officials. For more information on our Dressage Society, visit our web site at: www.alohastatedressage.com.