

SHOWING YOUR CASPIAN, a few specifically Caspian and general comments

Periodically the Caspian Horse Society runs a Breed Show with classes for Stallions, Mares, Youngstock and Part-breds, plus ridden and driven classes, gymkhana and jumping. Other shows may allow Caspians to take part in Working Hunter Pony, Handy Pony, First Ridden or Lead-Rein Pony, occasionally Mountain and Moorland or in Foreign or Rare Breed Breed classes, as well as jumping etc.

PURE-BRED CASPIANS should be shown in any Caspian Society class with mane and tail unplaited, but clean and brushed. Length of mane is immaterial and as the Caspian grows a long silky mane that lies flat to the neck, can sometimes be considerable. The tail should ideally be left natural, ending about 4" below the hock.

PART-BRED CASPIANS are usually shown plaited up in Caspian Society classes, with pulled tail if desired. This is left to the discretion of the owner.

In both cases, these conventions apply to Caspian breed classes, but other shows may have different requirements.

Grooming – His and Yours! Your Caspian or part-Caspian should be groomed to perfection – coat shining, feet well-trimmed, tack spotless and gleaming. Remember also that you are your horse's best accessory. This is not the place for casual jeans or gaudy clothing which will upstage the horse, so support your beautifully groomed horse by your own high standards!

Ring-manners are vitally important to your success. Luckily Caspians are very amenable and learn quickly, which makes training a pleasure. Preparation should still start several months ahead. On show day he should be well behaved, standing up quietly for the judge and willing to walk and trot when asked. Even foals should stand quietly in a foal slip and walk away from their mother if required.

Teach your Caspian to stand correctly, lead easily on a loose rein alongside you at the chosen pace, not clutched tightly or dragged behind you. Always turn him *away* from you - do not pull him round you when you turn. Remember to keep him alert and standing properly even when (you think!) the judge is no longer looking at you.

Shouting or using a whip on your horse in the ring or outside it is an admission of defeat and poor management and will be heavily frowned upon. If you or your horse behaves badly the judge may ask you to leave the ring, so spend enough time on training beforehand to avoid this disgrace. Remember that you are representing the Caspian breed. Remembering the show only a week or so beforehand is not good enough!