

## How I Resolve To Have A Better Horse Show Season

Consider how nice this year would be if everyone lived by the following resolutions:

1. I will treat the show staff with courtesy and respect. They work hard to ensure that the show runs smoothly and that the results of my efforts get posted quickly and accurately with APHA. They are on the grounds long before and after I am.
2. I will read the APHA rulebook; the show rules and the entry form. I will be amazed at how many questions are answered in those documents. This will also help me keep resolution #1 because I will understand that certain conditions are required by APHA and are not being made up by the show staff to inconvenience me.
3. I will treat all others on the show grounds with courtesy and respect. To this end, I will remember that I am neither the only one at the show nor the most important person at the show. Furthermore, I will not lunge my horse in an area where riders are warming up nor will I allow my helpers to block the end gate of the warm up area with grooming supplies waiting for me to appear and be touched up for entry into the show ring.
4. I will keep my dog on a leash and keep the leash connected to a person, my stall or my trailer. I will never bring my dog into a ring where riders are warming up or handlers are lunging horses. Not everyone on the grounds appreciates the wonderful training my dog has and some of them may be afraid of dogs. The same goes for other horses. Better yet, I'll leave my dog at home.
5. I will cheer for the winners! This is what sets Paint Horse people apart from other breeds and associations. We realize that the competition is just me and my horse and how much we have progressed as a team. We are not competing against the other exhibitors and we show appreciation for those who are recognized by the judges. I realize that even when I ride to the best of my abilities and my horse performs as well as he can, there may be a team in the ring that the judges believe had a better ride. I will set goals for myself and be pleased when I reach them, even if they don't get recognized with a ribbon. Besides, one day it may be me in first place and I don't want the silence to be deafening.
6. I will give thanks to God for the opportunity I have been given to show these magnificent creatures. I will not take for granted my horse and all those people who make it possible for me to be here. Not everyone who loves horses as much as I do has the resources to be here.

On the 8<sup>th</sup> Day, God created the Quarter Horse.

On the 9<sup>th</sup> Day, He painted the best ones!