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Category: Horsemanship

Grooming

When using your own horse good grooming is imperative. A clean horse with clean tack shows you take pride in your animal and yourself. Your horse should be bathed, clipped and have a clean and tangle free mane and tail. Clip their bridle path, muzzle, cheeks, and under their jaws as well as their fetlocks for a polished look. A touch of oil on their muzzle and around their eyes will add some shimmer. While hoof black isn't required it does add a sharp finishing touch.

Rodeo queens do not use fake tails in their horses for competition or when using their own horses during their reigns. The natural look is most appropriate. However, if your horse is used for showing and has a pulled mane it is best to band the mane to keep it neat and tidy.

There isn't much that screams "I'm really not a horseman." than a horse who hasn't seen a farrier in a few months. Schedule a reset or trim for one to two weeks prior to your pageant.

When it comes to earning points in pageant competition every little detail counts. Having a well groomed horse tells the judges that you have pride in what you do, you have pride in your animal and you are a true horseman.