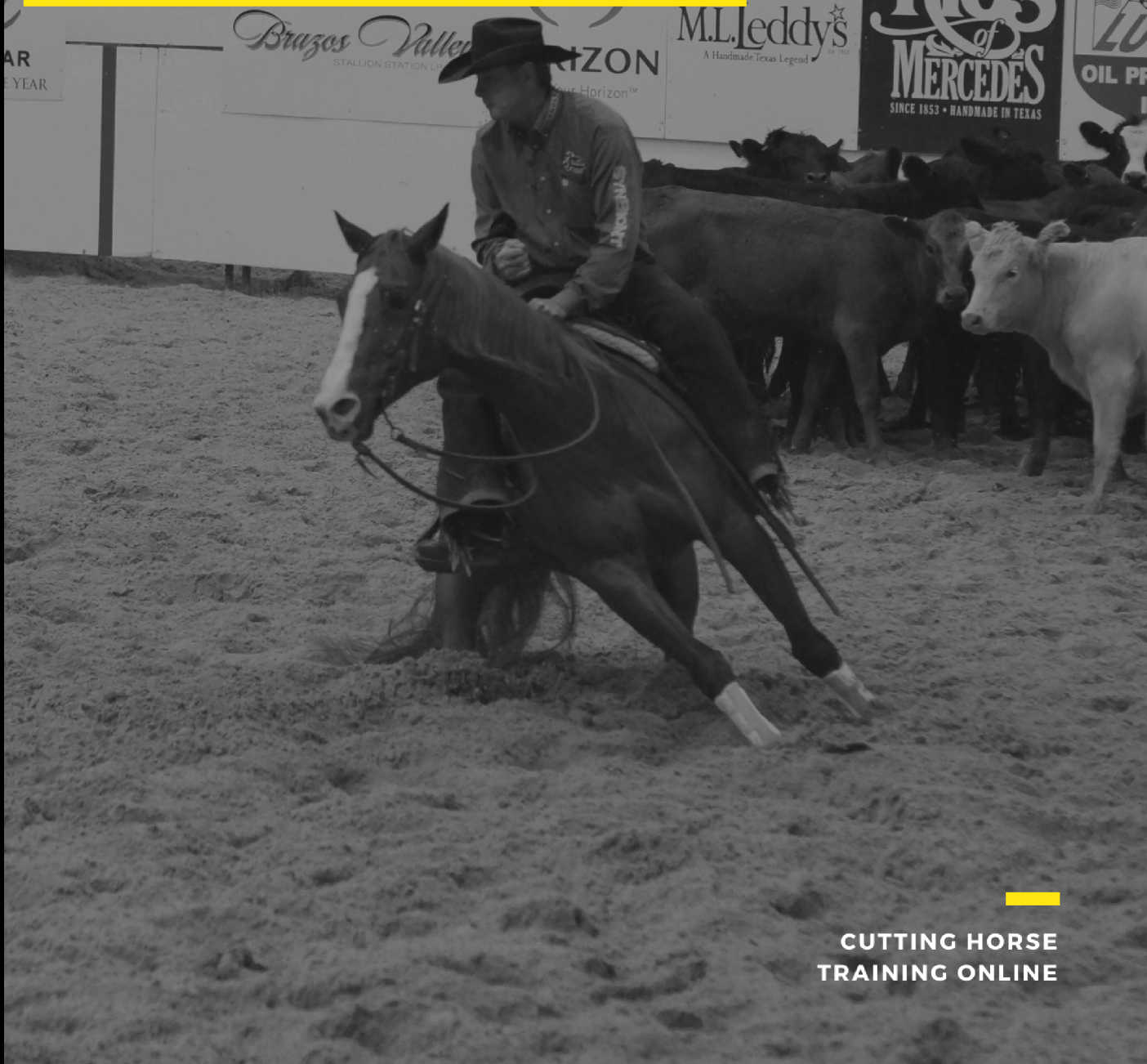


GUIDE TO SHOWING FOR AMATEURS & NON PROS

AT THE BIG 5 AGED EVENTS



**CUTTING HORSE
TRAINING ONLINE**

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Goal Setting, Budgeting, Event Calendar, Equipment Checklist

Aged Events Cutting...

Stepping into the Aged Events is a different world than weekend cutting. Competition is tougher, expectations are higher and more is at stake. But the advantages of a 5 judge system, better quality and consistency of cattle and the thrill of advancing a young horse cannot be diminished. With young horses the playing field is often more level among Amateurs and can be a very rewarding experience.

Goal Setting...

➤ *Set your goals for the year.* Determine what you would like to achieve or get done. Write it down. Plan out the shows you need to do with your trainer if you have one. Make sure you are also going to plenty of weekend shows to get practice for the big shows.



[Video on setting goals](#)



[Goal Setting Worksheet](#)

Budgeting...

➤ *Budget your costs and schedule your show payments.* Don't miss a show payment, the penalties will hit you hard. Click the NCHA payment schedule link in the yellow column to the right. Put the deadlines into your phone or organize scheduled payments from your bank account. Estimate your monthly costs to feed, maintain and show your horse. Making a budget will help ensure you can pay for the year without having to cancel any shows and reduce stress. It's always a good idea to have a contingency account for any unexpected expenses which often occur. CHTO has created a unique budget tool for cutting that

Schedule Your Shows



➤ Plan out the shows you want to attend for the competition year. Use the links below to add them to your calendar. Then go to Budgeting and use the spreadsheet tool on the following page to cost it out.

[NCHA Aged Event Calendar](#)

[Mercuria Calendar](#)

[NCHA Show Payment Schedule](#)

➤ *Calculate and plan for the amount of time away from home.* The big 5 shows go for weeks and you need to take in consideration when your go rounds are and when the finals take place.

Show Arena Tips

- Familiarize yourself and your horse with the arena. Take your horse into the show arena the night before or for a few nights before you show to get used to the space. Get a feel for the surface and depth of the sand. Dry work your horse in the arena. The main arena at the Fort Worth Coliseum has curved walls & can cause a young horse to drift away from the cow. Be aware of this, really trying to focus on cutting in the middle. Use herd side leg to hold your horse up in position.
- Be mindful of arena etiquette when dry working or loping your horse or working the flag in the practice pen. Tensions can be high and negligence in the warm-up areas can add undue stress on everyone and the horses. A lot of lopers are there for the entire show and have many horses to care for each day. Smiles and thank-you's go a long way!



[Watch Video with Practice Pen Manager Donna Jay](#)

allows you to easily record expenses and winnings so you know exactly where you are at.



[CHTO's Budget Planner](#)



- *Equipment and safety check.* Make one last check through your trailer for bits, saddle, pad, chaps, wraps, a cooler sheet if needed, and a water bucket. Make sure you have your hat and long sleeved shirt, you can't show without them. Finally, do a safety check on your trailer, hookup, tires, your horse and how it's tied up in the trailer, etc. CHTO has compiled an excellent list to help you remember equipment and stay safe on the road.



[Click through our Trailer and Equipment Checklist](#)

- *Organize stalls in advance if you wish to have them assigned to you.* They need to be pre-paid. Otherwise you can get stalls once you arrive but they must be paid before you leave the show.



Fill out Form

[To assign stalls click HERE for the form.](#)

What To Do At The Show...

- *Plan your time at shows.* Be strategic about when you need to practice. Discuss this with your trainer if you have one. When do you need to flag your horse, when do you need to practice pen your horse? You get priority in the practice pen if you show that particular day.
- *Spend extra on shavings for your horse.* Your horse may be in a stall with concrete floors for many days at aged events. Getting extra shavings will help avoid soreness.

➤ *Be aware of the drug rules.* If your horse is on medication, always check dosages with your vet and confirm if you are required to submit a medication report to the NCHA. Consult a vet about your horse's needs and amounts that they can legally use. Drug testing is conducted randomly on horses.

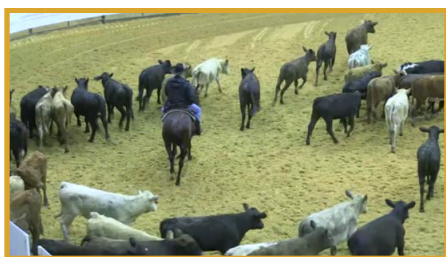
[Click HERE for the Medication Report](#)



[Click HERE for the NCHA Medication Policy](#)

Show Tips...

- *Get mentally prepared to show.* Have a plan for getting focused on the job of showing. Practice is important, so is warming up, but mental preparation to compete at your best is crucial. If your mind is not in the game, if you are not focused and know how to manage your nerves, then the game is lost. Always make a plan for getting in the zone, create a routine and habits that allow you to do this easily. Read the advice from coach Tonya Johnston on the right.
- *Organize your help well in advance.* Avoid any conflicts trainers may have in the practice pen and when you show by asking them to help you days before you show.
- *Be aware of the 1-minute clock.* You have one minute to get the timeline once the previous competitor has finished or you will be fined.
- *Watch your cows with your trainer* if you have one or with your help. Make a list of all cows and tell your help which cows you have chosen or discuss your options with them BEFORE you cross the timeline. Save a seat for your trainer in the cow box. Remember they are often running from helping one client to another or in the practice pen.



[Watch How To Identify & Remember Cows video with Gabe Reynolds and Cullen Chartier](#)



Tips From Equestrian Mental Skills Coach, Tonya Johnston



[Click HERE to read some tips from Equine Coach Tonya Johnston.](#)

(If you are a gold or platinum member, you can listen to this interview in the CHTO podcasts which goes into greater detail - [CLICK HERE to listen.](#))



➤ Tonya's article on Developing a Mental Skills Toolbox.

[Click HERE to read](#)

➤ Tonya's article on what are thinking moments before you show?

[Click HERE to read](#)

Study Your Judge's Card

Study your judge's card. Keep track of your scores. Photograph your judges card and store in a folder in your phone so you can see things you are consistently getting penalized for and things you are getting rewarded for. Another great habit to develop is always look at the judge's card in the classes before yours to see what the judges are awarding points for and in particular what they are penalizing for. This can vary so it's a show-smart thing to do to prepare for your run.



[Watch Morgan Cromer Explain The Judge's Card](#)



[Watch Jonathan Rogers and Steve Oehlhof explain how to pick a good cow](#)



More Tips...

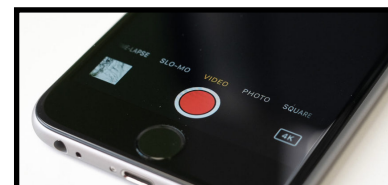
- *Time management.* Do you want to be reminded of how much time you have left? When exactly do you want the time call? Who should tell you? Plan this out beforehand.
- *Be prepared to step up your showing.* Judges will expect more at the Big 5 Aged Events. You will need to be more technically correct with your horse and watch your penalties. Your goal to progress to the next round is essentially to have mistake-free runs.



[Matt Gaines 2016 Futurity-Winning Run is a great example of a mistake-free run](#)



- *Pace yourself.* Many new amateurs and Non Pros make the mistake of going for a large score in the go-rounds, especially if someone else had a super run. When you try harder in the go-rounds for extra points, many amateurs make fatal mistakes. Remember, you are on a young horse still often advancing in skill and rating cows. Nine times out of ten, a clean, correct run, working the herd, setting your cow in the middle will make the bubble and put you into the finals. That is where you can shine if the cows let you.
- *Video yourself* (get someone to video your run or your practice/training at home). Watch it many times to see the small things you are doing or NOT doing. You can also send you video in to CHTO and use our Get Coached service to have a top trainer coach you using your video. See more details about Get Coached on the following page.



After Showing...

- *Be prepared to give interviews.* If you win a major event, the media will often require an interview with you. Try to give detail answers about the horse's background, your run, your help, and what the win means to you etc.



[Watch Non Pro & Amateur winners being interviewed by CHTO](#)



- *Thank your help.* While it's not expected, many competitors like to give their herd help gifts or tips for helping them. A heartfelt thank you goes a long way. Gift examples include a photograph of the trainer showing their horse, a bottle of their favorite alcohol, a piece of tack you know they would use, a jacket etc.



- *Take your horse out for leisure riding in the warm-up areas.* This helps them decompress from the sights, sounds, and extra pressures that come from the show. Your horse should be your number one priority at any show. Being fed regularly, groomed, clean stalls, and exercise, mimicking as much consistency as at home will keep your equine athlete, healthy, happy, and focused.
- *Get your trainer to watch your video or anyone more experienced to give you advice.* This is key to getting better. It's what all competitors in all sports do to improve. To really fast-track your progress, get virtual coaching by using our Get Coached service. Just choose a world class trainer and send us your video. They will analyze it and coach you so you know exactly what you need to do to achieve your cutting goals.
- *Most importantly, have fun, enjoy the camaraderie of being with others that enjoy the sport, camping, and socializing inside and outside the arena.*

Get Coached!



For the first time ever in the cutting horse industry, cutters can now get personally coached by a top trainer of your choice, regardless of where you live! It's called Get Coached! It will revolutionize your cutting horse experience.

Simply send us a video of yourself training at home or showing at a competition.

You choose from our selection of world-class trainers who you would like to get coaching from. we'll and that's all you need to do until we send you your video with your critique, advice and instructions from the trainer, all personally tailored to YOU!



[Click HERE to Use Our Get Coached Service](#)

Checklist for Big 5 Aged Event Showing:

- Set your cutting goals and write them down
- Estimate costs/budget
- Schedule show payments
- Organize stalls
- Schedule your practice times on flag and practice pen with trainer
- Familiarize yourself and your horse with the arena, dry work your horse
- Organize your help well in advance
- Watch cows with your trainer. Make sure your team knows which cows you want
- Be aware of time management when showing, time calls?
- Check your horse's drug dosage if required
- Watch the class before yours to know the cattle
- Study your judges card
- Organize someone to video your run (or purchase it)
- Lope your horse thoroughly
- Watch your own cattle
- Thank and/or tip your help
- Warm your horse down adequately
- Watch the rest of your herd
- Keep your feed/grooming routine as close to home routine as possible
- Keep focused on getting to the next round not trying to win the event before you make the final