

4-H Equine - Project Options - About Driving

About Driving

In the sport of driving, drivers can compete in "*pleasure driving*" or "*combined driving*" and can compete with single horses, pairs or a four-horse team.

Combined Driving

In **combined driving**, drivers complete three phases: dressage, marathon and cones.

- In the **dressage** phase, horses are judged on their gaits, impulsion and presentation.
- The **marathon** phase requires the drivers to travel a maximum of 27 kilometers, crossing various terrain and encountering hazards (obstacles). Faults are assessed based on the amount of time required to complete the hazards.
- The third phase is the "**cone**" phase in which drivers have to maneuver their teams between cones with balls on top. If the driver hits the cone, the ball falls and penalties are assessed. Time is also a factor, with speed breaking ties between entries with the same number of faults.

Pleasure Driving

Pleasure driving is a show ring competition, which may include various kinds of classes. The focus may be on turnout, which can be antique, reproduction or any style of carriage.

Some classes emphasize the horse's performance, while the driver's skill weighs more heavily in the reinsmanship classes.

Classes may be offered for ponies, horses, mules, donkeys or very small equines (miniatures) for various categories of carriages, and for a variety of hitching configurations including singles, pairs, teams (four in hand) and tandems.

Shows may include different kinds of obstacle classes, some combining aspects of a carriage driving show with a casual cross-country drive.

In all classes drivers must follow road safety rules and practices, and carry equipment that would be necessary in the event of a breakdown, weather change or accident.

For additional information the sport of Driving, visit:

Drive Canada <http://drivecanada.org/>

Alberta Carriage Driving Association <http://www.albertadriving-acda.ca/>

American Driving Society <http://www.americandrivingsociety.org/>

Carriage Driving Net <http://www.carriagedriving.net/>

Western Canadian Wheelwright's Association (WCWA) <http://www.wcwa.ca/>