

# Pleasure VS Performance

Cheri Photos



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Why are we still talking about the differences between Paso Performance and Paso Pleasure? In reality, I don't know the answer. We have great judges, outstanding Paso Fino horses, excellent trainers, and owners that have improved the quality of the breed in many ways.

At the 2011 Judges and Stewards' Clinic, I was asked to present the differences between these two divisions. Since my background is in Education and I have taught both Elementary and College levels, I decided to use the Venn Diagram. We educators use the Venn Diagram as a tool, the same way that trainers use bits, halters, and training gear. My hope is that by presenting the information in this way, the two divisions will be better understood.

Our horses have evolved; they move in a more sophisticated way, and we must acquire the necessary knowledge to judge, train, and breed them. I cherish this breed. Judging them is my passion.

## PASO CORTO

### Performance

### BOTH

### Pleasure

- Forward speed and extension is animated and brilliant
- The horse is well collected
- Demonstrate pride, style, elegance, and enthusiasm

- Evenly spaced four-beat gait

- Forward speed is ground covering but unhurried
- Moderate extension and mild collection
- The horse's head carriage is natural and relaxed

## PASO LARGO

### Performance

### BOTH

### Pleasure

- Collected, bold, and animated with rapid forward motion

- Smooth, evenly spaced four-beat gait
- Rapid movement
- Good manners demonstrated
- Definite change of speed must be observed
- Loss of cadence, form, or smoothness due to excessive speed penalized

- Collection in a mild, relaxed manner, but extension and speed in gait rewarded
- Indication of bad manners are penalized
- Back straight, calm, and controlled
- Refusal to back receives disqualification

## PERCENTAGES AND TESTS

### Performance

### BOTH

### Pleasure

- 30% collected corto
- 30% collected largo
- 10% collected walk
- 20% appearance, conformation, and way of going
- 10% manners
- **Tests:** Judges may require a work-off for horses in close competition
  - Figure eight at a collected Paso Corto

- Evenly spaced four-beat gait
- **Tests:**
  - Serpentine at the Paso Corto
  - Perform Paso Corto gait only on the sounding board

- 20% corto
- 20% largo
- 20% flat walk
- 5% back
- 35% manners, conformation, attitude, and way of going
- **Tests:** Judge's discretion
  - Dismount/remount from the left side, either in line-up or along the rail, except in youth classes
  - Back on the board
  - Back on the rail