

2010 NEPtHA Sweetheart Competition Rules

1. She must be a member in good standing of both NEPtHA and PtHA throughout the contest & during her reign.
2. Sweetheart Contestants must be 11 years old or under as of **January 1, 2010**.
3. Sweetheart contestants must submit an original photo (4X6) and essay (approximately 125 words about yourself), along with application to Michelle Hunting by April 15th, 2009. Club members will vote on **Photogenic** and **Personality** based on the photo and essay. These will be on display at every show and on the website for our members to view.
4. Contestants must make arrangements for a mount to be used for the Sweetheart **Equitation** pattern, which will be a walk-trot pattern. Lead-liners may participate, but must trot and complete the same pattern. It can be ridden English or Western. Contestants do not need to own the horse, but it must be a registered colored pinto (no breeding stocks). Contestants are not allowed to share mounts.
5. A **Horse Knowledge Test** will be conducted based on simple terms from the PtHA rule book and basic horse knowledge questions.
6. A **Personal Interview** will be conducted, where contestants will be asked a few questions in front of a panel of impartial judges.
7. We will be conducting **Speeches**, where contestants will be presented and asked one question, and the club members will vote based on your answer.
8. Contestants will be judged on **Appearance** at all times by secret judges, and club members will vote on appearance at the Speeches. You will be wearing sashes that you make to identify yourself as a Sweetheart Contestant (details will be in your packet and available online under "Royalty Handbook").
9. Contestants must conduct themselves in a manner befitting the title of Miss NEPtHA Sweetheart. You are a role model for younger members. Please review the rules for conduct in the "Royalty Handbook".
10. The Sweetheart may enter, free of charge, all applicable Equitation classes at the NEPtHA show during her reign. (Exception: if she's paying an all day fee).
12. Once crowned Sweetheart, responsibilities include, but are not limited to: helping distribute walk trot & lead line awards, futurity awards and banquet awards, dressed appropriately with sash and tiara and assisting with Queen fundraisers. The Sweetheart is encouraged to attend the Equine Affaire in West Springfield, MA in November at some point during the 4 days.
13. If the Sweetheart chooses to attend the World Show in Tulsa, OK, she may help to act as an ambassador to New England Pinto.

Scoring and Awards

1. Each category will be judged and scored individually. The categories are:
Equitation - Horse Knowledge
Personal Interview - Personality – Photogenic - Speeches - Appearance
2. Contestants will be placed as follows:
Miss New England Pinto Sweetheart
First Runner –Up
Second Runner- Up
Third Runner Up
3. Once crowned, The New England Pinto Sweetheart will reign until the coronation of the next Sweetheart.
4. Each contestant will receive a score sheet of the new Sweetheart, 1st, 2nd and 3rd Runner-Ups, as well as her own scores.

ALL CONTESTANTS WILL RECEIVE A DETAILED PACKET AFTER YOUR APPLICATION IS RECEIVED & IT IS AVAILABLE ONLINE TO VIEW. PLEASE REVIEW BEFORE SIGNING APPLICATION. RULES WILL BE ENFORCED BY QUEENS COMMITTEE. ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE

2010 NEPtHA Royalty Competition

Hi Everyone! For those of you who don't know me, I am Michelle Hunting and will be your 2008 Queen' Committee Chairperson. I was the NEPtHA queen in 1998 & 1999 and past Queen's Committee Chairperson 1999 – 2008. Please take the time to read all the rules and requirements carefully. The applications will not be due until April 15, 2009, but I encourage you to get them in as soon as possible so I can send each of you a detailed information packet on exactly how you will be judged, which can also be found online under "Royalty Handbook". Below you will find a schedule of events. We will be awarding the titles of Queen, Princess and Sweetheart this year. Due to the recent change in the dates the national applications for Queen must be submitted, we have modified our contest year. This year, our new royalty will be crowned at the September show on horseback in the ring. I would love to make this the best year yet with as much participation as possible. I absolutely loved being part of this experience and think every young girl should have this opportunity. It is a great confidence builder and allows participants to interact with club members. Remember, the queen's competition is not just for youth! Help promote pinto and have fun doing it!

Sincerely,

Michelle Hunting

NEPtHA Queen's Committee Chairman

Please contact me with any questions!

Phone: (413)461-6884/(413)277-9906 Email: rabidash04@aol.com (this is the best way to reach me!)

Schedule of Events

April 15th : Application Deadline

May Show: *Personal Interviews* will be conducted on Saturday

July Show: *Horse Knowledge Test* will be taken Saturday & *Equitation patterns* will be ridden

Sunday

August Show: *Speeches* will be conducted on Saturday

September Show: Coronation of the new royal court Saturday

Photos and essays will be on display at every show, as well as online, to allow all members a chance to vote on photogenic and personality

Categories

1. Appearance
2. Personality
3. Photogenic
4. English Equitation*
5. Western Horsemanship*
6. Horse Knowledge Test
7. Personal Interview
8. Speech

* Sweetheart contestants only have to complete one W/T Equitation pattern English or Western*

Scoring

All categories will use the following scoring system. If you do not compete in an event for any reason, you will receive a zero for that particular event; if you notify me you cannot attend, it will not result in a disqualification. Failure to show up for an event without notifying the Queen's Committee without notification may result in disqualification. The tiebreaker for all categories is the horse knowledge test.

#of Entries	1 st Place	2 nd Place	3 rd Place	4 th Place	5 th Place	6 th Place
6+	6	5	4	3	2	1

5	5	4	3	2	1	0
4	4	3	2	1	0	0
3	3	2	1	0	0	0
2	2	1	0	0	0	0
1	1	0	0	0	0	0

2010 Royalty Application

Name: _____

Age (as of January 1, 2010): _____

Address: _____

Email Address: _____ Tel #: _____

PtHA #: _____ NEPtHA #: _____

Are you running for:

Queen _____ Princess _____ Sweetheart _____

Please sign below after thoroughly reading and understanding all of the contest rules.

Contestant signature: _____

Parent/Guardian (if under 18): _____

Please mail application, ORIGINAL photo and essay to:
Michelle Hunting
126 North St
Ware, MA 01082

PLEASE RETURN NO LATER THAN April 15, 2009

2010 NEPtHA Royalty Competition

Hi Everyone,

Again, for those of you who do not know me, my name is Michelle Hunting.

I am the 2009 NEPtHA Queen's Committee Chairperson. I am a 2 time pastNEPtHA Queen and represented the club in Oklahoma in 1998 & 1999. I served as Queen's committee chairperson from 1999 – 2005, 2007-2008. Also serving on the committee is past NEPtHA queen Lee Connors. We are here to help you. If you have any questions, problems or concerns, you can always feel free to contact me.

Please review the schedule of events in the General rules, as the format of the contest has been slightly altered. The new royalty will be crowned at the September show, while on horseback this year due to a change in the National deadline for the Queen's Contest.

Just a quick reminder, even if you are the only one in a category, you still must complete all the required categories. On the following pages you'll find details of each event and what I expect from you. I hope you all find this to be an enjoyable experience. This contest is something I feel passionate about, and if there is anything I can do to help you along the way, please let me know!

General Contest Information

- ❖ All general contest rules will be enforced.
- ❖ Each contestant will be asked to wear a sash so people can identify you as a royalty contestant. You can either make one or purchase one. We will be using different colors for each of the contests: blue for queen, purple for princess and pink for sweetheart. The only requirement for the sash is that you have your name on it. Other, than that, you can decorate it as you wish and choose any shade of the colors mentioned above. You should wear them at all times when you are not in the ring showing. If there are any questions about the sashes, please ask!
- ❖ I am going to ask that all royalty contestants be dressed appropriately at all times. This does not mean show clothes, but I ask that you appear neat and clean: no short shorts, no belly shirts and no low cut shirts with bra straps showing. I understand that when not showing you want to be comfortable, but please do so wearing appropriate clothing. An example of what the queen's committee finds inappropriate: flip-flops, untucked or dirty tee shirts, dirty clothing in general, appearing disheveled (i.e. hair totally messy or just sloppy appearance in general). You are role models for the younger members, and some people may find some of this stuff offensive, such as the short shorts. I know this may seem like a silly rule, but for those of you who may be preparing to eventually run for queen; this is to get you to think and act in a professional manner.
- ❖ Make yourself known to other club members. This is how people get to know you. Offer to help others whenever possible. This will reflect well on you. I cannot stress this enough.
- ❖ Get involved in the club. This is your club, and the club you aspire to represent. Try to attend meetings, get involved in fund-raisers, the youth club, whatever. If this year's royalty needs help with lead-line and walk-trot awards, offer to help present them. Help with setting up obstacle classes – this helps you to get known and seen by other club members.
- ❖ During the show season, I am going to work on establishing a royalty fund – not just for the queen, but to buy new crowns and sashes as we need them, as well as to support the queen when we have one attend the World Show. I may be asking for your help through the year.
- ❖ The little details matter. There are secret judges at all shows. Please be mindful of your conversations and language you use. You never know who may over hear. Again, appearance is a biggie. At all the shows, you will be judged. You do not need to look perfect, but act professional and please be friendly to each other and club members. Unsportsmanlike behavior will not be tolerated.
- ❖ Ask questions and Have fun!!!!!!
- ❖ Once crowned, royalty will be expected to attend shows and Equine affaire as outlined in the General Contest Rules – Please review this.

Individual Categories

Horse Knowledge Test

- ❖ This will take place at the July show on Saturday. I will let everyone know the approximate time hopefully by Friday night of the show. We may be able to do it on one of the breaks.
- ❖ The sweetheart test will only include basic horse knowledge such as saddle parts, parts of the horse, and basic pinto knowledge, such as types of pintos and color patterns. If you need help reading the questions, someone will help with that
- ❖ The Princess and Queen's test will include basic horse knowledge including common illness & injuries, breeds, colors, unsoundness & blemishes and other general information.
- ❖ You are responsible to be familiar with the NEPtHA general show rules and rules for entry, which can be found on the NEPtHA website: www.nepinto.com.
- ❖ Additionally, you are responsible for the content in the national pinto rule book (the sweetheart test will just have a couple general questions from the book). Here are some hints!!! Know your types & registration requirements for horses, ponies and minis. Know your National officers and NEPtHA officers and BOD members. Be familiar with what appointments are appropriate for different classes. Review requirements and scoring for individual performance events such as, jumping classes, dressage, gymkhana, trail, western riding and reining. Anything is fair game, but this just gives you a general idea of some of the topics I may address. If you do not have a rule book, you can request one from the PtHA office, or go online to www.pinto.org and view the rule book under the "forms and downloads" page.
- ❖ Questions will be multiple choice and fill in the blank.
- ❖ Just take your time and do your best!

Equitation Patterns

- ❖ Sweetheart contestants will perform their equitation pattern on Sunday Prior to the Walk Trot Equitation 11 & under class at the June show. Remember, even if you show lead-line, you will be required to trot the pattern (with a handler). The pattern will be posted one hour prior to the class – if the judges use a walk-trot equitation pattern for the actual walk-trot class that is the pattern that will be used.
- ❖ Princess and Queen Contestants: You will perform an English Equitation pattern following the Youth 14-18 English Equitation class on Sunday at the July Show, and your Western Horsemanship pattern after Youth 14-18

Western Horsemanship class on Sunday of the July show. We will be using the Youth 14-18 Equitation patterns posted by the judges.

- ❖ You do not need to own the horse that you are riding. You may use a different horse for your English and Western pattern. The horse must be a colored pinto – no breeding stocks. (sorry!)

Personal Interview

- ❖ At the May show, we will be conducting the personal interview.
- ❖ You will be asked 2-3 questions in front of a panel of 3 impartial judges in private. The questions may be personal questions about you and your involvement with horses or related to a current issue in the horse industry.
- ❖ You will be judged on your response as well as your appearance.
- ❖ I expect everyone to dress professionally in either show clothes or dress pants/skirt and a collared shirt, and make sure to wear your sash!
- ❖ Hint: if you do not know the answer to a question, it's okay – just say you do not know the answer!!! Take a deep breath and relax! I know – it's easy to say, but I've been there in your shoes! Try to practice talking one on one with someone and try not to use the words “um” and “ah” too much – again easier said than done!

Speeches

- ❖ At the August show, you will do your Speeches.
- ❖ These will be conducted in the ring prior to the start of gymkhana.
- ❖ All of the contestants will be in the ring together. You will be asked one question by me. We will be using a cordless microphone (as long as the technology at Falls Creek is cooperating!). The questions are easy for this one!
- ❖ All club members will have the opportunity to vote on both the answer to your question, as well as your appearance.
- ❖ Again the dress is the same as above for the personal interview.

Photogenic

- ❖ I will be displaying your essays and photos at all of the shows, starting in may, as well as have them posted on the website (hopefully before the show).
- ❖ All club members will have the opportunity vote on which photo they like best. Voting will continue through the end of the last show.

Personality

- ❖ All club members will have the opportunity to vote on personality based on your essay.
- ❖ Secret judges, as well as the queen committee, will judge personality based on your ability to get to know other people and participate in events. Try to be as outgoing as possible! This is a good time to practice talking to new people, because if you win, you are an ambassador for the breed and expected to be able to talk to people and promote the pinto breed.

Appearance

- ❖ You will continually be judged on appearance by secret judges and the queen's committee, as well as at your interview and at the speeches. All 3 scores will be averaged to score this category. Secret judging - these secret judges (not

related to candidate) will evaluate contestants at the NEPtHA shows and NEPtHA sponsored events. Qualities evaluated are: Personality, appearance, involvement, helpfulness, poise, attitude towards parents, treatment of horse, presentation in show ring, presentation out of show ring, cooperation, sportsmanship.

- ❖ You are strongly encouraged to help with setting up trail, jumping, gymkhana, etc, or helping out in any way during the show season. This will be taken into consideration with the secret judging.
- ❖ Again, no short shorts and no belly shirts – please review the general rules above! Dress neat and clean at all times. Wear your sashes so you can easily be identified.
- ❖ Make yourself known.

Ok guys, so I think that's all I have to say now!!! For those of you who don't know me, I ramble on. Hopefully you find the information helpful, and if anyone has **ANY** **questions or concerns, LET ME KNOW!!!!** The biggest thing is to have fun!

Michelle Hunting
2009 Queens Committee Chairman

I can be reached easiest via email: rabidasho4@aol.com
My cell number is: 413-461-6884 and
my home number is 413-277-9906.

Please read all general rules and Royalty Handbook before signing. By signing this, you agree to abide by the rules.

Contestant Signature: _____

Parent/guardian (if under 18): _____

Date: _____