



## COMPETITIVE TRAIL CHALLENGE

(also known as Trail Trials)

Although this competition is not strictly for Western riders, the majority of competitors are riding in a comfortable Western seat. These events run about 6 miles in length, generally with six to eight judged obstacles. Most of the sanctioning organizations (e.g., ACTHA, ATTA) offer several divisions based on age and/or experience. There are also Obstacle Challenge events, usually held in an indoor or small field, often during the winter months when trails are unavailable for Competitive Trail Challenge events. Judges score the horse on its level of calmness, willingness, obedience, and bravery. Riders are judged on balance and non-interference with the horse. These competitions are just about perfect for riders who want to get out and trail ride their Morgan with friends and make new trail friends.

## COWBOY MOUNTED SHOOTING

Cowboy Mounted Shooting is a fast-growing sport. Mounted contestants compete in this fast action timed event using two .45 caliber single action revolvers each loaded with five rounds of specially prepared blank ammunition. The Cowboy Mounted Shooting Association (CMSA) has a variety of levels of competition for everyone, ranging from novice levels to the seasoned professional. Some horses take to this sport easily, others do not. It is up to your horse's temperament and your desire to train him to get used to shooting, turning, and going fast. Some riders will use earplugs for themselves and their horses. Riders are scored on time and accuracy. There is a 5-second penalty for each missed balloon, a 5-second penalty for dropping a gun, a 10-second penalty for not running the course correctly and a 60-second penalty for falling off your horse. Speed is important; however, accuracy is usually more important than speed. The sport is currently dominated by quarter horses, but Morgans have been successful as well.

## AMHA OPEN COMPETITION PROGRAM

The American Morgan Horse Association has two awards programs for registered Morgans competing in events against all breeds—the AMHA Year-End Award and the Morgan Medallion Award. Horses are automatically entered in both programs when they submit an application and pay either an annual fee or a fee for the lifetime of the horse.

Working Western points may be earned in sanctioned or unsanctioned events. All competition events described in this brochure are eligible for these awards. Classes must be governed by an accepted organization to be included in the sanctioned event category. More information is available in the *Open Competition Program Guidelines* in the Programs section of [www.morganhorse.com](http://www.morganhorse.com).



### Partial List/Web Sites of Organizations for These Events

**National Morgan Reining Horse Association**  
[www.nmrha.com](http://www.nmrha.com)

**US Team Penning Association**  
[www.ustpa.com](http://www.ustpa.com)

**National Cutting Horse Association**  
[www.nchacutting.com](http://www.nchacutting.com)

**ARHA Competition Program**  
[www.americanranchhorse.net/file/arhcprogram.htm](http://www.americanranchhorse.net/file/arhcprogram.htm)

**National Versatility Ranch Horse Association:**  
<http://nvrha.org>

**National Reined Cow Horse Association**  
[www.nrcha.com](http://www.nrcha.com)

**American Competitive Trail Horse Association**  
<https://www.actha.us>

**American Trail Trial Horsemen's Association**  
[www.attatrailtrials.com](http://www.attatrailtrials.com)

**Cowboy Mounted Shooting Association**  
[www.cmsaevents.com/index.cfm](http://www.cmsaevents.com/index.cfm)



**American Morgan Horse Association**

4037 Iron Works Parkway, Suite 130, Lexington, KY 40511  
(802) 985-4944 • [www.morganhorse.com](http://www.morganhorse.com) • [info@morganhorse.com](mailto:info@morganhorse.com)

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# THE MORGAN HORSE

An Excellent Choice  
for **Western**  
Fun and Games

Reining • Team Penning • Ranch Sorting • Cutting  
Ranch Horse • Reined Cow Horse • Competitive Trail  
Cowboy Mounted Shooting  
Rodeo & Gaming



**MorganHorse**

*The Horse That Chooses You.™*

## THE MORGAN REINER

Reining is often described as a Western form of dressage. It requires the horse to be responsive and in tune with its rider. Judges score the horse on its ability to perform a set pattern of movements. The horse should be easily guided with little or no apparent resistance. Reining is the only Western discipline to be recognized by the Federation Equestre International (FEI), and may be included in future Olympic sports. Although stock horses currently dominate the sport of reining, the National Reining Horse Association has designed a judging system that gives all breeds an equal chance to meet their standards of performance in fun-filled, family-oriented atmosphere. It is no surprise that the Morgan can excel at reining. Their great athletic ability, sound mind, conformation, and willing work ethic make them an excellent choice for your next reining horse.



## MORGANS FOR TEAM PENNING AND RANCH SORTING

Team Penning and Ranch Sorting are timed events that involve speed, precision and strategic planning in order to quickly and accurately cut and pen groups of cattle. In Penning, teams of three horse and rider combinations separate particular cows and herd them into the penning area in under 60 seconds. With acquired skills, horses and riders can find their specified cow, separate it from the herd and move it to the penning area. Ranch sorting requires two riders to move a herd of ten cattle in numerical order from one round pen into a separate adjoining pen in 60 seconds or less. Morgan tractability, speed, agility, and love of the game makes them excellent penners and sorters.



## MORGAN CUTTING HORSES

Out on the ranch, riders gather cattle to brand, castrate, and vaccinate, and sort them in preparation for shipping. Mounted cowboys keep the herd contained, while one rider calmly rides his cutting horse into the cattle herd to cut out a single animal from the rest of the herd. His horse must have loads of cow savvy to keep the selected calf moving out from the herd.

In the competition arena, each contestant is allowed two and a half minutes to cut at least two cows from the herd. The rider must bring at least one calf out from deep inside the herd. The contestant is assisted by four riders. Judges score the horse on his demeanor entering the herd, how difficult the calf is to maneuver, and how well the horse moves to keep the calf out in front of the herd. Morgans have done well in this sport and have a good bit of cow savvy and, above all, they seem to love the challenge provided by working cattle.

## MORGANS IN THE AMERICAN RANCH HORSE COMPETITION PROGRAM

The American Ranch Horse Association (ARHA) is a national association that offers a family oriented, friendly yet competitive atmosphere for those that are dedicated to the true versatile ranch type horse. ARHA-sanctioned shows are only open to certain stock-type breeds, but the association provides Morgans and other breeds the opportunity to participate in classes and earn recognition in the American Ranch Horse Competition (ARHC) Program. The ARHC shows offer a wide variety of Ranch Horse classes, including Ranch Horse Trail, Working Cow Horse, Roping Events, Barrel Racing, Team Penning, and Ranch Sorting, and many others. The variety of classes in the program will show the other breeds the agility, versatility, and intelligence of the Morgan horse.

## VERSATILITY RANCH HORSE COMPETITIONS FOR MORGANS

The primary mission of the National Versatility Ranch Horse Association (NVRHA) is to raise awareness of and appreciation for the versatility of the ranch horse and to foster the preservation and enhancement of western culture and heritage by increasing ownership and ridership of the ranch horse through educational programs and engaging the public. The association hosts educational clinics led by professional ranch horse trainers to teach basic and advanced methods for improving the performance and health of the versatile ranch horse. Competitions for participants showcase the skills learned in clinics and heighten the awareness of ranch horses in a fun and learning atmosphere. Classes offered at these competitions include Ranch Riding, Ranch Trail, Ranch Cutting, Working Ranch Horse and Ranch Conformation. Placings and points are awarded in each class. The horse and rider team with the highest average score wins the Versatility Ranch Horse competition. All breeds are eligible to compete, and what better horse to compete than a Morgan!

## THE MORGAN RANCH HORSE

Ranchers have long known that their Morgans excel at ranch work. Many notable ranches introduced Morgan blood into their working stock to improve the quality of their herds. Some of the working ranches used, and still use, Morgans exclusively for their ranch work. Reliability, dependability, and all-around great service is what you can expect from your Morgan ranch horse! Used for generations on our working cattle ranches in the west, the Morgan excels at ranch chores and makes a wonderful companion for the long ranch day.

## THE MORGAN REINED COW HORSE

Reined cow horse competitions are based on traditional Spanish vaquero training. The training included numerous phases to have a horse capable of performing all requirements of ranch work and cattle roundups and drives. The phases of competition include herd work (essentially cutting); rein work (a reining pattern); cow work (essentially penning or sorting). Some competitions include steer stopping, which is fashioned after the rodeo event of steer roping. All breeds are eligible to compete.

