



2025 Calgary Stampede Princess Contest

Horsemanship Competence Statement

The Stampede Princess Contest, and ultimately the internship for the successful contestant, is designed to assess the skills of the contestants and then further develop these skill sets in numerous areas, including horsemanship (riding ability, safety, animal care, teamwork and willingness to learn).

During their reign, the Stampede Princess will attend events both with and without the Stampede Royalty horses. Safety is the top priority of the Calgary Stampede when working with and around animals. The Stampede Princess will attend parades, rodeos (which may include grand entry), round-ups, trail rides and so forth. They will be in arenas with many other animals, fireworks, loud noises, commentators, 30,000 cheering guests, children, and people, in many different locations, and in many different environments. They will be riding the Stampede Royalty horses at all Stampede events, which may act differently than horses the contestants are used to.

While the Stampede Princess will receive training, we require the contestants entering the contest to have a certain level of skill and to demonstrate an ability to handle the horses in a safe manner at all times. This means they need to be able to react and maintain control over their horse as proficiently as possible to ensure the safety of all. Accordingly, this Horsemanship Competence Statement is the first step in helping to assess the existing skill set of the contestants and ensuring a great, safe experience for all.

We require each contestant and a bona fide equestrian trainer to attest to the following statements pertaining to horsemanship and riding ability.

Contestant Name: _____

I, _____, am a bona fide equestrian trainer and attest that the following statements are true for the equestrian abilities of _____, a contestant in the 2025 Calgary Stampede Princess Contest.

I attest that the contestant named above is safe and competent when working with and riding horses.

Trainer Initial: _____

Contestant Initial: _____

I attest that the contestant named above is able to safely and competently perform a walk, jog, lope, gallop, rein-back and halt on horseback without assistance.

Trainer Initial: _____

Contestant Initial: _____

I attest that the contestant named above would be capable of performing the aforementioned horsemanship skills on an unfamiliar horse, in a safe manner, without assistance.

Trainer Initial: _____

Contestant Initial: _____

I attest that the contestant named above is knowledgeable about arena and horseback riding safety and etiquette and would be safe and competent riding at all gaits amongst horse traffic. See commentary above.

Trainer Initial: _____

Contestant Initial: _____

I attest that the contestant named above has basic knowledge of horse behavior and body language.

Trainer Initial: _____

Contestant Initial: _____

I attest that the contestant named above is confident and competent while riding one-handed at a full gallop, and amongst horse, other animal and human traffic.

Trainer Initial: _____

Contestant Initial: _____

I attest that the contestant named above is able to respond appropriately and safely in stressful or unpredictable situations involving horses. Though these incidents are rare, contestants need to be able to handle the following conditions: spook, buck, rear, downed horse or rider nearby, fall, crow hop, bolt, etc.

Trainer Initial: _____

Contestant Initial: _____

I attest that the contestant named above is able to quickly react and regain control when difficulties arise with the horse or in a horse-related scenario.

Trainer Initial: _____

Contestant Initial: _____

Trainers, please provide a brief overview of your qualification and/or experience as an Equestrian Trainer:

Equestrian Trainer Signature: _____

Date: _____

Contestant Signature: _____

Date: _____