

OZARK COUNTRY ENDURANCE RIDERS  
FINISHING CRITERIA

Finishing criteria for endurance rides is portioned into three areas based on the concept of Fit to Continue.

STATED PULSE RECOVERY

Within 30 minutes of completion of the event, the equine must recover to a pre-stated, resting pulse such as 64 bpm or other stated parameter.

METABOLIC STABILITY

The equine must demonstrate, by its hydration factors, attitude and physical state that it is fit to continue. Obviously, equines that are cramping, tied up, colicky, thumping, etc., are not fit to continue. The need for medical treatment is a cause for failure to complete the event.

LAMENESS

The horse should have no gait aberration that is consistently observable under all circumstances such that it causes pain or threatens future athletic performance. This evaluation should be done in conjunction with the other post-ride evaluation within an hour of the completion of the event. Lameness shall be evaluated at the trot without prior flexion or deep palpation. Terrain permitting, the trot out will be done in a straight line, out and back.

GENERAL PHILOSOPHY

The endurance equine should complete the ride with the capability of continuing on if asked. The veterinary examination does not preclude the use of the equine, but is biased against the concept that the equine should be used up. Therefore, the concept of fit to continue at the finish is consistent with the evaluation done at all pre- finish checks by the same veterinarians involved with these evaluations.

The exception to this concept is that at the finish, except for meeting pulse criteria, the equine has to meet these criteria within one hour while at most checks it must demonstrate this ability within thirty minutes. Lastly, the concept of fit to continue is not designed to unjustly pull riders and equines after crossing the finish line for that event. It is aimed toward protecting the equine and setting a standard of excellence which should be commonplace for endurance events