



Photo © Rachael Murphy

### The Morgan Working Cowhorse

The Working Cow Horse event is exactly what the name implies, and shows the much-needed versatility of a working western horse. There are three components: reining, cutting, and fence work. A working cow horse has to perform a reining pattern, cut cows, and then show he can control a cow both in the open and along a fence line. The horse has to move the cow along the fence and then turn it the opposite direction at speed. Then the horse has to take the cow to the center of the arena and circle around the cow both directions, showing control.



Photo © Timothy Johnson

### Rodeo and Gaming

Rodeo and Gaming, as competitive sports, evolved from the hardworking lifestyle of the western cowboy. After driving herds of cattle to market, competitions between those working for rival ranches often developed. Some events sprang from everyday work, while others probably came from accepting a dare to do the almost impossible. The traditional rodeo events reflect this history. These are all timed events and include calf roping, team roping, barrel racing, goat tying, pole bending, break away roping, and many more. The athleticism of our Morgan horses makes them excellent partners in these events!



Looking for a non-competitive adventure on your Morgan horse? Try trail riding! Nature at its best as only seen from the back of a wonderful Morgan horse!

- AMHA Working Western Committee  
 George Arnold - Promotion/Trail Riding  
 Bobbi Blankenship - Working Cow Horse/RHV  
 Willow Brown - Team Penning/RH Versatility  
 Travis Fillpek - Reining & Rodeo/Gaming  
 Shery Jespersen - Ranch Horse  
 Gerry Paiva - Cutting  
 Christina Stewart - Reining/Website  
 John Hutcheson - Working Cow, Ranch Horse, Reining  
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Photo © Howard Schatzberg

### The Morgan Horse

An Excellent Alternative  
 For Your Western Fun!

Cutting

Reining

Trail Riding

Team Penning

Rodeo & Gaming

Working Cowhorse

Ranch Horse Versatility





### **The Morgan Reiner**

Reining is the newest explosion in the Working Western world! Reining is the only Western discipline to be recognized by the *Federation Equestre International* (FEI) and the first one slated for the Olympics. The governing body for the division, the *National Reining Horse Association*, has designed a judging system that gives all breeds an equal chance at being judged on an equal basis by unbiased judges. If your Morgan can do the job, he will be scored accordingly. It is no surprise that the Morgan can excel in the reining pen. Their great athletic ability, sound mind, conformation, and good work ethic make them an excellent choice for your next reining horse!

### **The Morgan Team Penner**

A timed event, the object of team penning is for a team of three riders to sort three assigned, like-numbered cattle from a herd of 30 and herd the three scored cattle into a pen at one end of the arena — all in less than 90 seconds. Morgan tractability, speed, agility, and love of the game makes them excellent penners!

### **The Morgan Role in the Historic West**

The Morgan played an integral role in the development of the West in the 1800s and early 1900s, carrying settlers to their new homes, working the cattle on their cattle ranches, packing their owners into the mountains to hunt, and playing rodeo games on their days off. Things have changed through the years, but these great horses are still doing all of the above (except carrying settlers to their new homes)! Never getting their share of the publicity, these western working Morgans are excelling at what they do. If you know of individuals or groups excelling as western working Morgans, let a member of the AMHA Working Western Committee know, we'd love to give them acknowledgment.



### **The Morgan Cutter**

The Morgan horse makes an exceptional cutting horse. Ranchers separated cattle for a variety of reasons and the Morgan proved to be a good partner. Separating stock for shipping, giving vaccinations, moving from pasture to pasture, all duties the Morgan loves. Cutting competitions are derived from this necessary work on the ranch and have become more of an art form. In cutting competition, the judge focuses on many different things; how the horse enters the herd, how difficult the cow is to handle, how well the horse makes the moves to keep the cow in front of the herd. Morgans have loads of cow savvy and love the challenge of working the cows!

### **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.



### **Morgans in Ranch Horse Versatility Competition**

The Ranch Horse Versatility Competition is a rapidly growing show discipline. The five components of ranching life that the average ranch horse must excel at daily are: Ranch Riding, Ranch Trail, Ranch Conformation, Ranch Working Cowhorse, and Ranch Cutting. These divisions challenge even the steadiest of horses. It requires cow sense, willingness to work, unflappable trail obstacle negotiations, and a comfortable ride to help the rider through a full day's work. The Morgan horse excels at each and his disposition and stamina make him a remarkable competitor.