

Taking the Reins

Certified Horsemanship Association (CHA) Level III

Knowledge alone will never make you a good horseman, yet knowledge with a lot of horse experience will put you on the road to becoming a Level 3 rider. In this level, you can look forward to learning many things that will equip you to be a horse owner, including what kind of riding equipment you'll need. Your riding ability should enable you to obtain diagonals and correct leads, to jump higher and smoother, and to pass through or around obstacles with ease and increased speed. You will find this level a great challenge and a lot of fun.

Specific Skills include but not limited to:

- ❖ Ride with good position, balance and control for Level 3 at the: walk with and without stirrups. Sitting trot or jog with and without stirrups, posting trot on correct diagonal, demonstrating change of diagonals (optional for western). Jumping position (English) or standing (Western). Canter or lope in both directions on the correct lead, identifying lead.
- ❖ Demonstrate the following aids and explain what they ask the horse to do: leading rein, direct rein of opposition, indirect rein, neck rein or bearing rein(optional English), pulley rein, both leg aids used in normal position near the girth, one leg aid used in normal position near the girth, one leg aid used three or four inches behind the girth, seat aid (weight aid)
- ❖ Show Level 3 form and control while riding through the following movements: circle at a sitting trot or jog, figure 8 (large or small), smooth transitions (walk to jog/trot, walk to canter/lope, trot/jog to stop, canter/lope to walk), serpentine or alternate riding pattern, change of direction on the diagonal, turn back on the rail (western only)
- ❖ General Requirements: identify types of bits and how they work, check the adjustment of your horse's bridle, saddle and correct any problems, clean a saddle and bridle, identify two kinds of roughage and four kinds of concentrates and assist with feeding horses
- ❖ Pass written test

- ❖ Trail Requirements: Check our horse, tack and equipment before trail ride, Demonstrate good trail gaits at a: long striding walk, jog trot, long stride trot, and canter. Demonstrate how to pass another rider and how to handle the horse when passed. Give 5 rules for being a responsible trail rider.

- ❖ Jumping Requirements (Jumping is NOT required to pass any CHA level. It is mandatory that riders pass the level 3 jumping test before beginning level 4 jumping) Demonstrate a secure jumping position with heels down, body in balance, eyes up and a correct release in elementary jumping exercises by: trotting over cross-rails and a trotting grid, cantering over a line of fences approximately 12" high, Canter over a single fence (not to exceed 2' high) Demonstrate ability to turn horse accurately and line up with a single fence or line of fences(not to exceed 2'). Ride over a simple course as a trot or canter with good form and control. Jump a fence that varies from simple post and rails (brush, coop, panel or other type) not to exceed 2'. Demonstrate or tell how to handle a refusal or run-out.

