

# Certified Public Horse Trainer

## TQA Industry Test

### **Scoring Criteria**

#### **I) Task Completions (25% of Score)**

1. Good to Catch
2. Lead
3. Stand to Saddle
4. Accept Bridle
5. Stand to get on
6. Lope in a straight line away from the barn
7. Open and close gate
8. Take a tarp off fence
9. Pick up feet
10. Load in trailer
11. Freestyle 1 (Catered to Discipline)
12. Freestyle 2 (Catered to Discipline)

#### **II) Foundation (25% of Score)**

1. Horizontal Direction
  - Walking, Trotting, Loping
2. Vertical Direction
  - Walking & Trotting
3. 4 Stages w/ Willing Submission
  - Stage 1: Standing
  - Stage 2: Standing, Walking Trotting, Loping
  - Stage 3: Standing
  - Stage 4: Standing and Roll Back (Whatever speed you can show correct maneuver)
4. Overall Willing Submission and Vertical Direction

**Horse Training Definitions:** Taken From MSU Research and TFTC LCC's TQA Standards

**A) WILLING SUBMISSION**– After an initial cue, the horse performs the task on a loose rein and with no leg pressure. “It is the horse’s idea.”

**B) DIRECTION** – When the slack is taken out of the rein, the horse puts the slack back in the rein with suppleness through the poll and loin.

a) **Vertical Direction** – (Atlas Vertebrae) – Up and down  
- Break in the poll vertically; nose should be perpendicular to the ground.

b) **Horizontal Direction** – (Axis Vertebrae) – Left to right

**3 Signs – Poll (By looking at the head)**

- 1) Break in the poll horizontally (hairline curves between the ears)
- 2) Nose directly underneath the eye
- 3) Should not see any white in the eye (looking back not forward)

**3 Signs – Loin (How they travel)**

- 4) Front feet and hind feet travel on same path as the nose
- 5) Poll and loin should make a perfect “C” around rider’s leg
- 6) Should be able to ride a perfect circle (“O” is half of a “C”)

C) **SOLID FOUNDATION OF MANUEVERS**- Ability to move the horse feet in any direction to accomplish any job.

**Four stages:**

**Stage 1 – Stop the inside front foot and walk the other feet forward around it.**

- (Disengage Hindquarters)

**Stage 2 – Hindquarters pulling the horse in a reverse motion.**

- (Stopping and Backing)

**Stage 3 – Lateral movement of front feet and hind feet together.**

- (Side Pass/ Two Track)

**Stage 4 – Stop the inside hind foot and walk the other feet forward around it.**

- (Spin/ Roll Back)

**III) Temperament (25% of Score)**

1. Fear/ Confidence
2. Resentment/ Willing
3. Nervous/ Calm
4. Sensitive/ Dull
5. Lazy/ Life

**IV) Client Education/ Interaction (12.5% of Score)**

- 1) Explanation of overall training program (Dollar investments and expectations)
- 2) Process of training (Foundation to Finish)
- 3) Follow up training and expectations when taken home
- 4) Answers to questions

**V) Horse Health and Welfare (12.5% of Score)**

- 1) Body Condition

- 2) Mane
- 3) Cuts of Scrapes
- 4) Housing Conditions
- 5) Feet
- 6) Teeth
- 7) Chiropractic

### **Timeline**

- **3 Month Testing Period**
- **40 Ride Minimum, 50 Ride Maximum**
- **If horse gets sick or becomes unsound during three months, may be given time off to get sound/healthy.**
- **If sickness or unsoundness continues may be given an extension, or may reschedule with another horse during another training period.**

### **Horses**

- **Not handled other than halter training**
- **May be halter broke but not introduced to any other training**
- **1-2 weeks of halter training**