



Rider and Handler Experience Criteria

As the phrase 'beginner rider' can mean different things to different people, these criteria are designed to provide concrete definitions as to how CHR classifies beginner, intermediate, and advanced level horsemanship.

Beginner Rider/Handler:

- Just starting to learn about the equine language
- Starting to learn how to catch, halter, and lead a horse correctly
- Not able to halter, saddle, OR bridle a horse correctly and safely on his/her own
- Working to strengthen muscles needed to ride safely
- Establishing basic riding skills and aids: balance at a halt/walk/trot, steering, leg and hand cues

Intermediate Rider/Handler:

- Has a working knowledge of horse behavior and herd dynamics
- Able to catch, halter, lead, and saddle safely
- Has a working knowledge of the basics of movement on the ground
- Comfortable balanced in saddle at all gaits on a loose rein
- Can handle and correct occasional, minor spooking or misbehaving on the ground and under saddle

Advanced Rider/Handler:

- Able to read subtle cues from a horse from the ground
- Know and understand balance, impulsion, and feel as if it's second nature
- Able to identify problems (behavioral or physical) with the horse or rider while working, and able to correct them
- Can handle and correct frequent and/or severe spooking or misbehaving under saddle on the ground and under saddle

Trainer:

- Has an advanced skill set plus:
- Has several years of experience in successfully teaching multiple types of green horses