

Western Dressage Division

The Western Dressage classes would offer a place for the western rider and horse to improve themselves as individuals and as partners through the use and discipline of dressage. By using dressage principles the western rider will help their horse in multiple ways such as cadence, balance and carriage to name a few. The use of dressage will help the western horse to again work off his rear end allowing for lightness in the front end with a more natural head set. Dressage itself will also help greatly to maintain the soundness of the horse for many years.

It is important to keep in mind that Western Dressage encourages and will look for "lightness." In keeping with the Western Tradition the "western" allows the "dressage" to have a much lighter contact, not always seen in competition dressage.

If you are a dressage rider none of this is new, but too many western riders these teaching have been out of reach or practice for them. It is a "comfort zone" many in the past have felt that "western" is not a part of. We feel that the time is right to open the dressage doors to the western division. The competitive bar will be raised as well as the personal satisfaction in knowing that "good" is being done for both horse and rider. These classes will also offer a place where the western rider can compete on a scoring system that allows them to move "up" at their own level. It is not just a competitive format but an educational one as well. For women who wish to compete in reining but can't this is a perfect division as an alternative.

The Western Dressage classes also give a mature western horse (5 and over) a place to be re-schooled with the use of a snaffle. It is also a place that a sour rail horse can still be good competition horse. It is a very good entry level for individuals who wish to learn to ride and show and riders returning to competition. Plus it educates!!!

It is not the goal of the Western Dressage classes to use Dressage Horses under western tack. It is the goal of the Western Dressage to maintain the integrity and lightness of the western horse and western traditions through the use of dressage. This is very important. A western horse moves different, Western Dressage can just help it move "better".

Western Dressage is all about being the best western horse and rider you can be...

Dressage is not about the outfit or the tack.....it is about the horse (face it, we are all riding the same animal) and if the western public wants to participate let's give them the opportunity. The rider wins, the horse wins and the show industry wins as well.