

# **"Basic Horsemanship Skills Taught at Free Clinic on Equestrians With Disabilities Classes Given by AQHA Professional Horsemen"**

From 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 9, 2010, the American Quarter Horse Association's (AQHA) Professional Horsemen in conjunction with Therapeutic Horsemanship Wentzville will present a free clinic on the AQHA Equestrians With Disabilities Classes at the National Equestrian Center in Lake St. Louis, MO.

While the AQHA Equestrians With Disabilities classes are designed for individuals with physical or mental disabilities, the basic horsemanship skills taught at this clinic are the foundation for all riders. Therefore, this clinic should be viewed as a learning experience for all equestrians.

The clinicians will preview each class, work through the AQHA designated patterns and provide guidance as to how to prepare to compete in these classes, with emphasis on the horsemanship aspect of each class. In addition, the clinicians will provide information on how to select the "right" registered quarter horse; one that will support therapeutic riding as well as perform for the competition team.

The Equestrians With Disabilities competition classes are:

- Showmanship
- Trail Horse (walk and jog)
- Western Horsemanship (walk and jog)
- Western Horsemanship (walk, jog, and lope)
- Hunt Seat Equitation (walk and trot)
- Hunt Seat Equitation (walk, trot, and canter)

The newest AQHA approved competition (Equestrians With Disabilities) is open to individuals with physical or mental disabilities and provides an arena for everyone to enjoy the rewards of hard work, determination and perseverance.

Many therapeutic riding centers have registered quarter horses and several centers already participate in the AQHA Equestrians With Disabilities classes.

For those riding centers that already participate in these classes, this clinic will provide an opportunity for both the exhibitor and the instructor to view each class as it is presented by the clinician, to "brush up" on their horsemanship skills, and a chance to learn from the Professional Horsemen who actually judge these classes.

For riding centers that currently don't have a competition team or a team that competes in AQHA classes, this will give the riders and the instructors an opportunity to learn from the "ground up." This is especially true for classes like showmanship and trail that might be new to some attendees.

Continued support from AQHA Professional Horsemen is only a click away at [www.aqha.com](http://www.aqha.com).

Founded in 1975, Therapeutic Horsemanship (TH) is one of the nation's oldest and most respected therapeutic riding programs. Therapeutic Horsemanship, located in Wentzville, is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization and is nationally accredited by the North American Riding for the Handicapped Association (NARHA). TH currently offers classes for horse lovers of all abilities, including a new driving program and summer camp. For additional information on TH riding programs please contact them at 636-332-4940 or at [www.thstl.com](http://www.thstl.com).

For additional information regarding this clinic please contact Sandy Huebner at 636-474-9308 or online at [SHuebner@prodigy.net](mailto:SHuebner@prodigy.net).