



Therapeutic Riding Assoc of VA

**TRAV GOLD RIDING  
CERTIFICATE CRITERIA**  
Level THREE (Independent, Model to  
others)

Student \_\_\_\_\_

Instructor \_\_\_\_\_

**LESSON SKILLS**

**Grooming**

Grooms entire horse in sequential order

Picks out all four feet of horse

Wipes off bridle & reins using (saddle) soap & water after each lesson

Disassembles saddle into parts, wipes down all parts with (saddle) soap & water after lesson

Trims horse's muzzle & indicates areas that are clipped on a regular basis

Describes proper care of horse after winter & summer lesson ; gives reasons why

**Tacking**

Takes bridle on/off horse independently

Takes saddle on/off horse independently

**Safety Rules**

Demonstrates/ gives reason for moving to different area of ring when too close to another horse

Demonstrates/gives reason for an emergency dismount

Demonstrates /describes proper spacing for horse & rider when leading horse; maneuvering past fences, through gates, & around obstacles

Demonstrates/describes proper spacing for horse & rider when riding a horse and maneuvering past fences, through gates & around obstacles.

**Leading**

Performs walk/trot/jog/walk transition for 50 feet while leading the horse

Leads from left /right sides of horse

Halts horse with front feet square

Halts horse with both front &back feet square

**Mounting**

Demonstrates ability to adjust stirrup leathers/fenders to correct length using arm as a measurement

Demonstrates all steps of mounting independently

Gathers reins to appropriate length to establish contact with horse's mouth

**Dismounting**

Maintains contact with reins when dismounting horse

Uses hands& arms to lift his/her bodyweight off saddle for dismount

Runs up/places up stirrups independently after dismounting horse

**Knowledge**

Names/ locates (skirt, stirrup leather/ fender, & knee roll) of saddle

Names /locates (cheek pieces & keepers) on bridle

Names/ locates (fetlock, hock, knee, gaskin, flank, &pastern) on horse



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Explains reasons for different rations of feed (amount of work performed, size of horse)

Explains reasons for additional nutritional supplements (older horses, mares in foal, heavily worked horses)

**Riding Skills**

Cues horse (walk, halt, trot/jog and back up) for movement patterns

Completes figure eight (walk & trot/jog) without using obstacles for guidance

Performs posting trot (on correct diagonal)/ working jog (entire length of the ring, over cavelettis and over ground poles)

Changes direction (trotting/jogging across the ring, on a diagonal line, & half circle both ways)

Rides complete circle (sitting & posting trot ; jog/ working jog) in both directions

Maintains two-point position (trotting) entire length of ring

Demonstrates working walk (both directions)

Halts horse with front feet square (on rail & in center of ring)

Backs horse four stride lengths (in a straight line on trail & in center of ring)

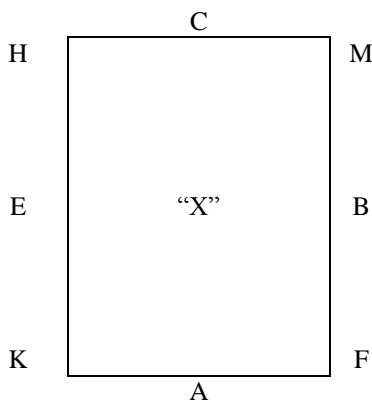
Rides horse (outside ring, up & down hills & through gates)

Retrieves stirrups (without using hands)

Maintains balanced, seated position (while riding bareback at walk)

Completes 12-step dressage pattern in correct sequence

Sample Pattern in the dressage ring:



- Start at X, Proceed at walk to C
- C Turn left
- H-E-K Continue at working walk
- K Sitting trot/jog
- A Circle left 20 meters through X
- A-F Continue sitting trot/jog
- F-B-M Posting trot/ working jog
- M Working Walk
- C-H Continue at working walk
- H-X-F Change direction
- F Sitting trot/jog
- A Circle right 20 meters through X
- A-K Continue sitting trot/jog
- K-E-H Posting trot/working jog
- H Walk
- C Halt

Center – Address - Phone – Email – Fax

Instructor Signature and Date: \_\_\_\_\_