

American Hippotherapy Association, Inc.

How To Host

Approved Course Listing
And
Hosting Facility Requirements



"Treatment with the Help of a Horse"

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AHA Approved Course Listing

Level I Equine Skills

A 1 1/2 day curriculum designed for 12 -25 participants with no experience in the ground and handling skills of horses. It is open to volunteers, administrators, therapists, programs directors. There are no prerequisites.

- Participants – Limited to groups of 3:1 ratio per horse for up to 4 groups. Requires an AHA Faculty Coordinator and Associate, Adjunct, or Apprentice Faculty to assist. (4 groups would require 2 AHA Coordinating Faculty Members). Facility horse staff may be required to assist with practicums.
- Level I Equine Skills is a prerequisite to Level I Treatment Principles. This course may be waived by AHA Faculty based upon completion and approval of the Level I Equine Skills Waiver Form.
- Successful completion of this course is required for NARHA Registered Therapist status.

Intended Audience:

Anyone who is interested in how to care, groom, tack up, and lead a horse. This course is open to the beginner volunteer, instructor, parent, therapist, administrator or anyone in your program who does not have horse knowledge and wants to learn the basic skills and care of the horse.

Level I Treatment Principles

A 2-2.5 day curriculum designed for 20-30 participants who are nationally register and/or state licensed Physical and Occupational Therapists and/or Assistants or Speech Language Pathologists. Instructors and administrators who are part of a hippotherapy team and/or program may attend along with the therapist in their team.

Prerequisites for this workshop are completion of Level I Equine Skills or a waiver by AHA Faculty.

- Participants – Requires one AHA Coordinating Faculty for the first 10-15 participants and then one Associate, Adjunct or Apprentice Faculty for each 10-15 participants thereafter.
- Successful completion of this course is required for NARHA Registered Therapist status.

Intended Audience:

Therapists interested in learning about HPOT, those already working in HPOT and want to learn the basic applications. Therapists and their HPOT Team, Graduate Student's in PT, OT and SLP.

The Treatment Principles workshops are designed for Physical Therapists, Occupational Therapists and Speech and Language Pathologists. Registration from individuals outside of these disciplines are required to be cleared by the AHA Inc Coordinating Faculty scheduled to teach that workshop. It is the Hosting Facility's responsibility to contact the AHA Inc Coordinating Faculty.

Level II Equine Skills

A 2 day curriculum designed to improve horsemanship knowledge and relate that knowledge to hippotherapy. It offers standardization in the approach to training and a common hippotherapy horse language. This course applies the training techniques for the hippotherapy horse and how it relates to a successful hippotherapy treatment. It is open to PT/PTA's, OT/COTA/s and SLP's, HPOT Teams, Trainers, Horse Handlers, Barn Managers and Instructors and Administrators.

- Participants – Limited to groups of 4:1 ratio per horse. Requires 2 AHA Faculty Coordinators.
- Prerequisites: Successful completion of Equine Level I, or AHA waiver, NARHA Registered Instructor status, USDF, USPC or other national certification of horsemanship. Participants should be able to groom, tack up and lead a horse safely. It is recommended that they can ride independently at a walk and trot.
- Successful completion of this course is required for NARHA Registered Therapist Status.
- There are no waivers out of this course for those therapists planning on taking Level II Treatment Principles, this is a mandatory prerequisite for the Level II Treatment Principles course.

Intended Audience:

Horse Handlers, Instructors or Volunteers or anyone interested in learning about the training and daily needs of the horse in hippotherapy. Participants must have taken Level I Equine Skills or obtain a waiver from the Level I Equine Skills course from the Coordinating Faculty teaching the Level II Equine Skills Course. (See Above for list of Required Documentation to waive out of Level I Equine skills). ** FOR THERAPISTS ONLY: The Level II Equine Skills must be taken before the Level II Treatment Principles.

Level II Treatment Principles

A 2.5 day curriculum designed to provide and facilitate a problem-solving approach with the Conceptual Framework For Hippotherapy, Clinical Reasoning, and Motor Learning Principles and Neurodevelopmental Facilitation Theories as they are applied and relate to the treatment strategy of hippotherapy. It is open to licensed PT's, OT's and SLP's.

- Participants – Limited to a maximum of 16 participants with no more than 4 participants per treatment group. Requires 2 AHA Faculty Coordinators.
- Successful completion of Level I Equine and Treatment Principles and Level II Equine Skills Course
- Currently practicing hippotherapy. A minimum of 100 hours of one to one treatment of hippotherapy patients or six months following the completion of Level I Treatment Principles and incorporating hippotherapy into treatment sessions.
- Successful completion of this course is required for NARHA Registered Therapist Status.

Intended Audience:

Intended Audience: PT's, PTA's, OT's, COTA's and SLP's who have taken the Level I Equine Skills and Treatment Principles and have 2 years clinical experience in their field treating and handling patients in a non hippotherapy environment and have 100 hours or 6 months of treating with hippotherapy after completing the Level I Curriculum

The Treatment Principles workshops are designed for Physical Therapists, Occupational Therapists and Speech and Language Pathologists. Registration from individuals outside of these disciplines are required to be cleared by the AHA Inc Coordinating Faculty scheduled to teach that workshop. It is the Hosting Facility's responsibility to contact the AHA Inc Coordinating Faculty.

The Horse Connection: Long Lining - Maximizing Your Horse's Potential

This 2.5 day advanced level hands-on course is designed for the horse handler involved hippotherapy sessions as well as the equine specialist or owner interested in learning how to teach a horse to long line. The horse handler can be a NARHA Instructor, equine specialist, horse trainer, therapist or volunteer who is part of the hippotherapy team or horse person who has basic lunging and ground skills. The curriculum may be used only under conditions set by AHA Inc.

Intended Audience:

Horse Handlers in HPOT Programs, NARHA Instructors, Equine Specialists, Horse Trainer, Volunteer, Therapist or any horse person with basic ground handling and lunging skills.

Faculty to Contact

- Lisa Harris, PT, HPCS email: lharris@gx.net
- Lori Garone, PT, HPCS email: lgarone@americanhippotherapyassociation.org
- Bonnie Cunningham, PT, HPCS email: bdc1m@aol.com
- Leslie Lautenschlager, OTR/L, HPCS email: llautensot@yahoo.com
- Karen McPhail Gardner, MOT, OTR, HPCS email: mcgard@flash.net

The Core Connection: The Link Between Hippotherapy and Core Control

Postural Control and Core Stability are believed to be crucial for normal function, whether it is balance, reaching or walking (typical PT goals), upper extremity control or ADL performance (typically OT), or speech production and oral motor control (typical areas for SLPs). Without good trunk control, even attention, arousal or interaction with the immediate surroundings is made more difficult. Listed amongst the many benefits of Hippotherapy is the ability to influence Postural Control and Core Strength. After all, the horse directly impacts the pelvis and spine when we sit on his back. His movement brings sensory information proximally and causes motor responses at the pelvis and trunk.

In this course, we will explore the concept that there is an inevitable Connection between Hippotherapy and the horse's influence on the Core. We will also look at the immediate Connection between postural control and the functional improvements we are looking for in our patients, whether we are looking at it from a PT, OT, Speech or transdisciplinary focus. This AHA one-day course is open to all therapists and therapy assistants who use Hippotherapy as a treatment strategy; intended as an advanced course following the AHA Level II curriculum. Lecture, video and discussion will guide us to explore these very key Core Concepts and Connections. The curriculum may be utilized only under conditions set forth by AHA, Inc.

Intended Audience:

PT's, PTA's, OT', COTA's, SLP's who incorporate hippotherapy into their patients plan of care

Course Objectives

- Describe the terminology related to Core Stabilization.
- Describe the neurophysiologic basis of Core Stabilization (sensory and motor control required for Core Stability) and the basic developmental process which leads to Core Stability.
- List some of the common conditions in which Core Stability is impaired.
- List some common indicators of poor Postural Control and reduced Core Stability as related to impaired function.
- Describe how human function is influenced by Core Postural Control using Dynamic Systems Theory.

- Describe the influence of equine movement on the Core – sensory and motor.
- Discuss how we can impact function of the Core using equine movement.
- List five specific strategies for impacting function through the Core using Equine movement.
- Describe why influence of the core can impact so many domains of human function.
- Develop treatment options using Hippotherapy to improve patient function related to Core Stability.

Faculty to Contact

- Joann Benjamin, PT, HPCS email: joannbenjamin@vdm.com
- Ruth Dismuke- Blakely, CCC, SLP, HPCS email: skylinetherapy@aol.com
- Lori Garone, PT, HPCS email: lgarone@americanhippotherapyassociation.org
- Bonnie Cunningham, PT, HPCS email: bdc1m@aol.com

The Business Connection: Business Aspects of Hippotherapy: How to set up a Practice Incorporating Hippotherapy

A non-mandatory course to provide therapists with the initial information for setting up a therapy practice which incorporates hippotherapy. This course will cover initial business plans and budgets, selecting a location, equipment, staffing, legal and ethical issues and marketing as well as developing CPT code rates, and reimbursement and other subjects necessary to opening up a private practice.

- Participants - Administration Directors, Clinical Directors, and therapists who are interested in starting a therapy practice either at an existing facility or as a new endeavor.

Intended Audience

Program Directors, Administrators will benefit from attending this course as it also will discuss options for riding programs who are interested in offering a PT/OT or SLP Therapy program which incorporates HPOT as a treatment strategy on site.

PT's, OT's and SLP's incorporating hippotherapy into treatment and are interested in setting up a practice or who already have a practice and want more guidance.

Faculty to Contact

- Lori Garone, PT, HPCS email: lgarone@americanhippotherapyassociation.org
- Terri Barnes, PT, HPCS email: teresa.barnes@pueblocityschool.us
- Becky Lundeen, CCC, SLP, HPCS mail: jimnbeck@citizens-tel.net

The Communication Connection: Maximizing Communication for the Non-SLP

This course is designed to provide a more comprehensive understanding of speech and language systems, breakdowns in communication, and effective strategies for improved communication with special needs populations in the hippotherapy setting. Participants will participate in practical exercises designed to facilitate better understanding of communication.

The curriculum may be utilized only under conditions set forth by AHA, Inc.

Intended Audience

This course is intended for Physical Therapists, Occupational Therapists, Therapeutic Riding Instructors, Medical Professionals, Horse Handlers, Parents, Volunteer.

Course Objectives

Participants will:

- Demonstrate an increased awareness and understanding of communication
- Demonstrate a basic understanding of the anatomy and physiology of speech and language systems
- Identify communication breakdowns and strategies to address them
- Understand the impact of equine movement on communication
- Learn how to achieve effective communication

Faculty to Contact

- Meredith Bazaar, CCC, SLP, HPCS, email: <mailto:meredith@msbtherapy.com>
- Ruth Dismuke- Blakely, CCC, SLP, HPCS email: skylinetherapy@aol.com

The Sensory Connection: Sensory Concepts, Theory and Applications in Hippotherapy

This 2 day course applies sensory integration theory, reviews neuroanatomy, covers horse selection and use of the environment in HPOT & EAT treatment sessions. Evaluation tools used to determine sensory processing and sensory interventions will address the patient's impairment and functional limitation and how to incorporate HPOT into the sensory patient's Plan of Care to address the functional outcome. Participants will be provided an opportunity to engage in hands-on EAT activities and HPOT clinical reasoning. Video of children with sensory processing dysfunction and emotional / behavioral problems that are affected by the child's sensory processing or sensory integration impairment will be discussed. Round table and interactive discussions will be incorporated for participants to gain an understanding of treatment for children with sensory processing dysfunction in the HPOT / EAT environment.

Intended Audience

This course is intended for Physical Therapists, Physical Therapy Assistants, Occupational Therapists, Occupational Therapy Assistants and Speech and Language Pathologist.

Course Objectives

1. Describe appropriate populations for sensory based HPOT treatment
2. Identify key elements in patient selection
3. Define current sensory terminology
4. Understand how the horses' movement affects the sensory systems
5. Utilize clinical reasoning for creating HPOT treatment planning for clients with sensory processing dysfunction
6. Utilize techniques to achieve effective treatment with HPOT for the patient with SPD

Faculty to Contact

- Claudia Morin, OTR/L, HPCS email: cmorin515@aol.com
- Gina Taylor, OTR/L, HPCS email: equitherapy@gmail.com

Equine Assisted Therapy- PT/OT/SLP

Pilot to be ready by Fall/ Winter 2009

This will be a series three courses one for the Physical Therapist, one for the Occupational Therapist, and one for the Speech and Language Pathologist who is interested in incorporating the equine environment into treatment sessions. These will be non mandatory courses for therapists to learn a variety treatment techniques and ways of using the barn and surrounding area to work on therapy goals and functional limitations.

The Patient with Neuro Motor Dysfunction and the Application of Hippotherapy Principles

Pilot to be ready by Fall/ Winter 2009

This will be a 2 day course applying the principles of neuro motor theory and techniques to the patient in hippotherapy sessions. A variety of patients with neuro motor dysfunction will be addressed through DVD, Video and lecture material. Case studies and facilitation will be discussed.

PROCEDURES FOR HOSTING A WORKSHOP

1. Faculty – For every AHA Approved Course there must be a minimum of one AHA Coordinating Faculty. The assigned faculty member will have the option to request additional faculty to assist.

The recommended ratio of faculty to participants is 1:10 for Level I courses with a maximum ratio of 1:15.

The recommended ratio of faculty to participants is 2:16 for the Level II courses and the Long lining in Hippotherapy course.

Level II Treatment Principles requires two Coordinating Faculty for up to 16 participants and a third for more than 16.

An Apprentice or Associate Faculty Member may join the Level I, II and Long Lining in Hippotherapy Courses

2. Manuals – The hosting facility is responsible for reproducing and binding the course materials for each participant.

A master copy of the course materials will be provided by the AHA faculty member and will be returned to the faculty member upon the completion of the workshop.

A copyright permission form, specifying the number of copies to be reproduced will accompany the master copy of the course materials.

The AHA Coordinating Faculty may choose to provide the manuals for the workshop. The hosting facility will then be required to reimburse the faculty member for that expense.

3. Registrant Fee – The hosting facility will be responsible for a fee of \$30/per person (in US dollars) for the use of the curriculum for each participant per course. If a participant takes both courses the fee is then reduced to \$50/per person (in US dollars) for participation in both courses.

i.e. One participant takes only the Level I Treatment Principles Course – the registrant fee would be \$30. If a participant takes both Level I Equine Skills and Treatment Principles courses – the registrant fee would be \$50.

Payment of this fee is required at the completion of the workshop and should be given directly to the AHA Coordinating Faculty at the end of the course.

The fee will then be forwarded by the AHA, Inc. Faculty Coordinator directly to the AHA office within seven business days of the completion of the course.

The fees are to be paid for by check, made payable to American Hippotherapy Association, Inc. and attached to the Payment Form.

Exception: For Canadian workshops, the per-registrant fee will be \$30 Canadian dollars. However, the check sent for the total amount by the hosting facility must be converted to US Dollars before being sent to the AHA Office.

HOSTING FACILITY RESPONSIBILITIES

Level I Equine Skills

1. Secure the use of an arena, barn area for cross tying or securing horses for grooming, appropriate horses, horse handlers, tack, and equipment, ground poles, cones, jump standards.
2. Enclosed outdoor or indoor arena, at least 120' x 60', is preferred.
3. Four to six trained and conditioned horses (or a number appropriate to the number of participants - ratio of one horse/three participants) as well as a back up supply of 3 – 5 horses who will stand for grooming and tacking up, if needed. All horses should be suitable for the beginner horsemanship student.
4. Ramp and Mount Block
5. Tack for each therapy horse, including halters, lead ropes, saddles, pads and bridles
6. Additional tack, including: side reins, lunge lines, long lines, a variety of bareback pads, a variety of surcingles (lungeing, anti-cast, vaulting), dressage, and lunge whips
7. Helmets for riders
8. One staff, on hand, for each horse to assist with leading and ground management
9. Secure use of classroom, other equipment needs.
10. Chairs and tables for participants
11. Name tags for participants
12. Audio/Visual Equipment to include, but not limited to:
 - a. VHS/DVD player and monitor
 - b. Flip Chart, easel, paper and pens
 - c. Microphone/Podium (optional)
 - d. Wireless Microphone for practicums (optional)
 - e. Slide Projected (optional)
 - f. LCD Projector for PowerPoint Presentation (optional)
13. Secure AHA Coordinating Faculty from Approved Faculty listing
14. Reproduce and bind course materials or reimburse Faculty member for course materials.
15. Submit a description of horses to be used, as well as a participant list to include discipline, experience, height, weight, etc. to the Coordinating Faculty member
16. Secure General Liability Insurance Coverage for hosting the workshop, including verification of general liability coverage for or by the guest faculty.

NOTE: These are only recommendations. Additional responsibilities and final agreement upon responsibilities should be determined by the faculty and the hosting facility.

HOSTING FACILITY RESPONSIBILITIES

Level I Treatment Principles

1. Secure the use of an arena at least 120' x 60' is preferred a covered outdoor or indoor arena is recommended.
2. Four to six trained and conditioned horses (or a number appropriate to the number of participants - ratio of one horse for three participants). All horses should be suitable for the beginner horsemanship student.
3. Ramp and Mounting Block
4. Tack for each therapy horse, including halters, lead ropes, saddles, pads, bareback pads, surcingles, bridles and dressage whips or riding crop or bats
5. Helmets for riders
6. One staff horse handler for each horse to assist with leading and ground management
7. Secure Patients
 - a. Two to three patients presently receiving HPOT as part of their PT/OT or ST treatment
 - b. Completed Medical History/Physician Release Forms for each patient.
 - c. Signed Patient Registration Forms with Liability and Photo Releases for each patient.

The facility should have a specific Course Liability Release Form for each patient participating in the demonstrations. The release should mention that there are risks inherent in having different therapist treat the patient and no guarantee is made that the patient will receive any benefit fro participating in the demonstration, as it is for education purposes only.
8. Secure use of classroom, A/V required by faculty, other equipment needs.
 - a. Classroom should have chairs and tables for participants
 - b. Name tags for participants
 - c. Audio/Visual Equipment:
 - VHS/ DVD player and monitor
 - Flip Chart, easel, paper and pens
 - Microphone/Podium/ Wireless Microphone for practicums (optional)
 - Slide Projector or LCD Projector for Power Point (optional)
9. Therapy Equipment
 - a. Portable treatment table or mat
 - b. Green gymnastic ball
 - c. Carpeted barrel or bolster
 - d. Vaulting barrel
 - e. Rag Doll or NDT Therapy Doll
10. Secure AHA Coordinating Faculty from the list of Approved Faculty
11. Reproduce and bind course materials or reimburse Faculty member for course materials.
12. Submit a description of horses to be used, as well as a participant and patient list to include discipline, experience, height, weight, etc. to the Coordinating Faculty member

NOTE: These are only recommendations. Additional responsibilities and final agreement upon responsibilities should be determined by the faculty and the hosting facility

HOSTING FACILITY RESPONSIBILITIES

Level II Equine Skills

1. Secure the use of an arena, barn area for cross tying or securing horses for grooming, appropriate horses, horse handlers, tack, and equipment, ground poles, cones, jump standards.
2. Enclosed outdoor or indoor arena, at least 120' x 60', preferred.
3. Four to six trained and conditioned horses as well as a back up supply of 3 – 5 horses who have the ability to be lunged and/or long lined . All horses should be suitable as a HPOT Horse and trained regularly for the HPOT program. All horses must produce a regular symmetrical walk with appropriate physical characteristics for hippotherapy and suitable for both adults and children.
4. All Horses must be completely sound
5. Ramp and Mount Block
6. Tack for each therapy horse, including halters, lead ropes, saddles, pads and bridles
7. Additional tack, including: side reins, lunge lines, long lines, a variety of bareback pads, a variety of surcingles (lungeing, anti-cast, vaulting), dressage, and lunge whips and a vaulting barrel.
8. One staff, on hand, for each horse that can assist with leading, long lining, lungeing and ground work.
9. Secure use of classroom, other equipment needs.
10. Chairs and tables for participants
11. Nametags for participants
12. Audio/Visual Equipment to include, but not limited to:
 - a. VHS player and monitor
 - b. Flip Chart, easel, paper and pens
 - c. Microphone/Podium (optional)
 - d. Wireless Microphone for practicums (optional)
 - e. Slide Projected (optional)
 - f. LCD Projector for PowerPoint Presentation (optional)
13. Secure AHA Coordinating Faculty from Approved Faculty listing
14. Reproduce and bind course materials or reimburse Faculty member for course materials.
15. Submit a description of horses to be used, as well as a participant list to include discipline, experience, height, weight, etc., to the Coordinating Faculty member prior to the course.
16. Secure General Liability Insurance Coverage for hosting the workshop, including verification of general liability coverage for or by the guest faculty.

NOTE: These are only recommendations. Additional responsibilities and final agreement upon responsibilities should be determined by the faculty and the hosting facility.

Level II Treatment Principles

Course participants work with actual hippotherapy patients. To maximize these interactive, experiential courses, and provide a safe working environment for both patient and participants, the host facility must meet the following requirements:

Administration:

1. Be a program currently providing hippotherapy
2. Provide evidence of hosting an AHA Introduction to Classic Hippotherapy or Level I Treatment Principles Course.
3. Satisfactorily complete the AHA Approved Course Application.
4. If the facility is not a NARHA Accredited Operating Center providing hippotherapy, the course organizers must provide sufficient evidence of high operating standards, with

particular emphasis on safety and specific requirements for a disabled population. Each application will be individually assessed, with final approval at the discretion of the AHA Coordinating Faculty.

5. Advise participants they must have proof of Professional Liability Insurance in order to participate in “hands on” work with real patients during the workshop.

Facility:

1. Indoor or covered arena – recommended minimum size 100’ x 160’
2. Arena footing of sufficient depth and resiliency to meet industry standards
3. One mounting ramp and one mounting block
4. Adequate classroom/lecture accommodation for up to 25 people
5. Access to audio/visual equipment to include a TV/VCR & DVD (individual faculty may have other specific requirements)
6. Access to a minimum of two video cameras and experienced operators
7. Appropriate area for patient evaluations (up to 3 evaluations may be done concurrently)
8. Optional LCD projector for PowerPoint- please check with Faculty Coordinator

Horses/Equipment:

1. Minimum of six well-trained horses with appropriate physical characteristics for hippotherapy and suitable for both adults and children
2. All horses must be completely sound and have a regular symmetrical walk
3. A minimum of two of the six horses must either be trained to long line or be regularly long lined for hippotherapy treatment sessions
4. A variety of horse equipment that includes bareback pads with appropriate under padding, plain training surcingles anti-cast surcingle, vaulting surcingle, or modified 2-handled surcingle, long lines, side reins, short whips with leather poppers, dressage whip, variety of saddles,- all fitted with appropriate safety stirrups
5. A variety of therapy equipment/toys to include pelvic belt, balls, rings, bubbles, music, wedges, etc.

Horse Handlers:

1. Minimum of four horse handlers with the necessary training and skill to produce a quality walk when leading and/or long lining.
2. Horse handlers must be familiar with the personalities and characteristics of the horse used in the practicum’s

Patient Selection/Availability/Documentation:

1. Patient population that demonstrates diversity of age, diagnosis, and functional abilities. Diagnoses should be preferably include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Cerebral Palsy – hemiplegia, quadriplegia, and or diplegia
 - b. Hypotonia
 - c. Cerebral Vascular Accident
 - d. Traumatic Brain Injury
 - e. Multiple Sclerosis
 - f. Autism/ ASD
2. Patient documentation must be current and include the following:
 - a. General Liability Release
 - b. Photo/Video Release
 - c. Medical Emergency Release
 - d. Physician Referral/Prescription

e. Specific Workshop release (sample enclosed)

3. Facility staff must be able to guarantee patient participation in treatment practicum's on two consecutive days.

Video Requirements:

1. Select five appropriate patients and two alternatives (in the event of a last minute cancellation). Submit a video that includes a short clip (2-3 minutes) on each patient, clearly showing level of mobility, sitting/standing balance, transfers, ambulation with or without assistance or assistive devices, and general functional skill level, e.g. single limb stance, catching and throwing a ball, running. Please do not include a PT/OT or SLP evaluation on the video. A short written profile must accompany the video (sample profiles enclosed).

2. Select four horses and two alternatives and submit a video that clearly illustrates these horses and their handlers during actual hippotherapy sessions (handlers should preferably be those chosen to participate in the course). Video must show both leading and long lining techniques with and without patients. The following school figures must be clearly delineated:

- a. Straight lines
- b. Small and large circles, both directions
- c. Serpentine
- d. Figure of Eights
- e. Half halts
- f. Changes in tempo
- g. Halt
- h. Leg Yielding (optional)

3. A short written profile of each horse must accompany the video (sample profile enclosed). This profile must include:

- a. Age
- b. Breed
- c. Height
- d. Width
- e. Gender
- f. Weight carrying capacity
- g. Temperament
- h. Idiosyncrasies/personality traits
- i. Degree of leading/long lining training

Therapist Requirement:

For each patient participating in the practicums, the patient's Regular Treating Therapist must be in attendance to supervise "treatments".

Sample of Patient Profile:

"Amy"
D.O.B.: 7/11/84
DX: CP Spastic Diplegia, diagnosis @ 10 months
Medical History: Selective posterior Rhizotomy 9/30/88
Prone to chronic low back pain, especially with prolonged sitting.
Current Therapies: PT, Hippotherapy 1x/week

Patient Strengths: Socially mature, bright and interactive
Extremely well motivated
Loves horses and wants to “ride”
Patient Problems: Chronic low back pain

Sample of Patient Profile:

“Buck”

Temperament and Individual Characteristics:

Chestnut, 18 year old 15.1H Quarter Horse gelding of moderately narrow build. The experienced professional of the team, he has a wonderful work ethic and prides himself on knowing his job, occasionally to the point of disagreeing (albeit mildly) on a particular chosen temperament. 100% trustworthy, he has rarely spooked in 7 years. He gives a very clear signal of anything mildly out of place such as an unseen movement in the distance. The signal, which never varies, is a sudden alertness, slight lifting of his head, and ears very pricked.

Movement:

His movements result in mild to moderate amplitude of movement in all three planes of the rider's pelvis and trunk. His natural tempo is quite slow and very regular. He can increase his tempo but does not like to sustain it for long periods. He can, however, slow his tempo right down and will happily sustain a slow tempo for as long as necessary. His half halts are smooth and regular and his lateral work is even and rhythmical. He is not suited to heavy, asymmetrical patients or patients with extremely poor balance. He will constantly try to position himself underneath the patient in an effort to keep himself perfectly balanced.

Preferred Method of Handling:

He dislikes being led and consequently produces a poor walk. He is at his best when long lined.