

Dressage for Walking Horses

USDF and NWA work together to educate Walking Horse owners about the benefits of dressage training.

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Walking Horses are getting some dressage instruction. The United States Dressage Federation (USDF) and the National Walking Horse Association (NWA) have joined forces to educate Walking Horse owners about dressage and provide members of both organizations with information about education opportunities.

"There has been a tremendous surge in interest from our members about using Walking Horses for dressage, and we thought it important that our members receive the correct information about this discipline," says NWA executive director Don Vizi.

"While we recognize that Walking Horses will not compete in United States Equestrian Federation-licensed and USDF-recognized dressage shows, this versatile breed can benefit from the fundamentals of dressage, no matter what discipline the owner pursues," Vizi adds.

Both organizations have agreed to share educational event dates and information including educating Walking Horse judges using the USDF learner judge program; educating Walking Horse instructors using the USDF Instructor Certification program; and educating current USDF "L" program graduates regarding judging Walking Horse dressage tests.

"USDF has many educational opportunities available. We hope to share everything from clinic auditing to books and materials from our bookstore to encourage Walking Horse owners to take up dressage," says Karin Glassman, USDF director of education and programs.

For more information about USDF membership or programs, visit www.usdf.org. For information about the National Walking Horse Association, visit www.nwaha.com.