

WESTERN DRESSAGE ASSOCIATION®

OF AMERICA

WHAT IS WESTERN DRESSAGE?

Western Dressage integrates the historically validated principles of dressage with the best of western stock horse tradition. It is a systematic and progressive system of training for the western horse and rider, in traditional stock tack with the purpose of enjoying a safe, pleasurable, versatile and useful working horse.

The hallmarks of the Western Dressage Horse are:

- Usefulness
- Rideability
- Willingness
- **SAFETY**
- Pure Gaits
- Lightness
- Calmness
- Steadiness

The hallmarks of the Western Dressage Rider are:

- Attentive, tactful rider
- Clear, effective, subtle and light aids
- Confident seat
- Light, responsive hands

The Western Dressage Partnership should exhibit:

- Impulsion, originating from deeply engaged hindquarters transmitted without resistance through a supple topline to a light, soft contact with the rider's hand(s).
- Willingness to work off the hindquarters, allowing the horse to move freely forward, laterally, and to the rear which enables the western horse to be a useful working partner.

A Western Dressage Partnership should culminate in a happy, harmonious, horse and rider relationship.



*We honor the horse,
We value the partnership between horse and rider,
We celebrate the legacy of the American West.*