

Attributes of an ASHA Clinician

- 1. As an ASHA Clinician, you should want to help people ride a better horse. You must have a genuine concern for people and their horses. If it appears that you are there for personal gain, people in the clinic will readily pick up on it and you will not be effective as a teacher. Not all great horsemen or great trainers make good clinicians. The ability to teach and help folks make progress, regardless of the level of their skill or their horse's ability is an acquired skill, which is attained only with experience, practice and a good attitude toward others.**
- 2. Accept people and their horses for where they presently are, and try to move them forward. A condescending attitude will turn people off before you even get a chance to help them. Be positive! Even small increments of improvement may have a significant impact on some riders or horses.**
- 3. By the very fact that people have signed up for your clinic is an indication they are looking for help and want to get better. They expect you to help them.**
- 4. As you begin to teach them, try to avoid overusing the "I" or "me" words. Some personal experiences may be necessary and good, but people need to know that what you are teaching is not just your personal opinions, but are accepted techniques throughout the industry. Using the statement that "most good horsemen would do it this way" is good and helps establish your credibility.**
- 5. Teach what you know. Everybody can help somebody.**
- 6. Teach a lot of basics before going to the more finished techniques. Realize that excellence is simply having a real mastery of the basics.**
- 7. Try to incorporate the improvement of rider skills such as the correct use of hands, legs, feet and body position into your lessons. Assure people they are on the right track and will get where they want to be, with time, if they will only give the system a chance. Using a personal reference to somebody you have seen develop and become a good horseman, over time, is always good. Testimony by that person is even better.**
- 8. Be careful when recommending that people need a better horse. This may be true, but people came for help on the horse they own. Very seldom is a horse so bad (safety excluded) that a rider can't learn something by trying to improve the horse. If they do eventually wind up with a better horse, they will be better prepared to use it as a result of what they learned with the first one. Publicly recognize the smallest improvement.**
- 9. People enjoy and learn from riding with others. Assure attendees that you have come to ride with them and to have fun! Lecturing and demonstrating by the clinician only, with minimal riding, make dull and ineffective clinics. Learning and improvement is intoxicating.**
- 10. Remind attendees that although some improvement will occur on clinic day, real behavior change takes time and is directly related to the amount of correct practice and repetition that they do at home.**