

# Western Dressage



The goal of Western Dressage is to develop a partnership between a happy equine working in harmony with his rider. A system of progressive training produces a horse that is physically strong, balanced, supple, and flexible. This equine athlete also demonstrates a calm, confident, attentive attitude and is happy to do his job.

A Western Dressage horse achieves this goal by using the principles of classical Dressage training while emphasizing the lightness and harmony with the rider, which is a hallmark of a Western Dressage horse. The Western Dressage horse demonstrates free-flowing, comfortable strides. The gaits

are free, regular in cadence and rhythm, consistent in speed and tempo. The horse presents a balanced appearance. The Western Dressage horse's head and neck are carried in a relaxed, natural manner; head and neck carriage are dictated by conformation and serve as a balance arm to facilitate proper movement. The Western Dressage horse engages his hindquarters; uses his back freely, and lifts his forehead. These characteristics of framing and movement are more pronounced as the horse advances in his training and development.