

Working Equitation Clinic



Working Equitation

In the mid 90's Working Equitation originated in the Southern European working styles, which have their roots in Spain, Portugal, Italy and France. This international sport showcases the equitation/riding techniques developed in countries that use horses to do ranch work. The United States is relative newcomer on the world-equestrian stage, working equitation debuted in the United States in 2008.

There are 4 trials (phases) in Working Equitation. The first is Dressage, performed in a 20 x 40 meter arena. Phase 2 is the Ease of Handling trial. This is a course of 10 – 15 obstacles which are judged and scored 1 – 10 on each obstacle, and also given collective scores much like in dressage. Trial 3 is Speed. This is the same obstacles but a timed course. Trial 4 is the Cattle trial, which is an optional phase.

In the USA, all breeds are welcome, and a variety of tack is acceptable. There are 7 levels starting with Introductory and topping out with the Masters level.



Clinician: Kim Hillyer

I began my Working Equitation journey in 2018 with my first introductory clinic and schooling show. In 2019 I achieved a top 5 national standing and Reserve Regional standing. In 2020, USA Working Equitation was formed by combining the 2 national WE organizations. As a USA Working Equitation competitor, I have earned multiple Eastern Zone championships at level 2 – 4, and have been in the top 10 National Year-end standings multiple times. I have a background in hunters, combined training, and dressage. I also earned my USPC A rating at age 16, and I have been teaching for over 50 years.

I love the horsemanship aspect of working equitation, and find that the obstacles really compliment dressage training.