

## McDonnell Performance Horses - A Brief History

I started McDonnell Performance Horses in 1999. I had 2 horses in training and I was a newcomer to East TN. In the beginning I gave a lot of riding lessons. Today the business has grown to over 20 horses and encompasses all aspects of the horse industry. From boarding to training to breeding, my business offers a wide variety of services.

The main focus of MPH is showing all-around horses. I have had many successes in the show arena. MPH has produced World Champions in Trail, Western Pleasure and Western Riding. This year I showed a horse in the finals of the AQHA World Show in Jr. Trail. However I am most proud of the girls that I coach. I believe that my students should know how to ride and show their horses. As a result of this conviction my clients have placed at the Congress and won numerous high point titles. This year I had a novice youth earn 185 ½ points, in eight different events, with AQHA.

## The Apprenticeship

This apprenticeship is designed to teach the participant what a horse trainer really does. I love my job but it took many years as an assistant trainer before I was ready to go on my own. In this industry assistant trainers work very long days for very little money. I think that the first job I had, as an assistant, I made a \$1.25/hour. But on the plus side I learned about horse training. This experience revolutionized my training program and my life. I spent the next 5 years working for various different trainers.

The following list outlines the duties of an apprentice. It is important to know that you will not be expected to perform all of these tasks everyday, without assistance. However by the end of your apprenticeship you will have the knowledge and skill to perform all of these tasks.

- Clean stalls
- Turn out horses
- Give riding lessons
- Ride training horses
- Groom, saddle and lunge horses
- Clip, band/braid and wash horses
- Prepare for a show
- Coach at a show

Below I have listed some of the skills that are non-horse related that every horse trainer should know. By the end of this program you will understand and be able to implement these skills.

- Time management
- Customer relations
- Develop a Marketing Plan
- Project costs and expenditures
- Learn the legal aspects of the industry

The length of this program is 12 weeks and the cost is \$1000, payable in advance. I provide a small trailer for you to live in with heat, air and satellite. I pay all of the utilities, except for telephone. You will be expected to pay any long distance charges that you incur. I will then pay you a \$50/week living allowance. I also pay for all of your expenses when we travel to a horse show. If you are accepted as an apprentice and decide that you want to leave before your 12 weeks are up you will forfeit your payment. There are no refunds. Upon completion of this program I will try to assist you in finding an assistant horse trainer position if you so desire.

This is a youth oriented facility. I have a very strict no illegal substances rule. Random drug testing is not unheard of. Alcohol is permitted, in moderation, provided that you are of legal drinking age.

**Core Competencies**  
**Behaviors Expected of All Apprentice Horse Trainers**

Below is a list of core competencies that are important in performing the duties of a Horse Trainer. Please indicate your judgment of the applicant's qualifications by checking each item in the appropriate column.

	Excellent	Above Average	Average	Below Average	Poor	Unknown
Initiative						
Punctuality						
Self-discipline - <i>determination to fulfill personal obligations</i>						
Patience						
Ability to budget time						
Enthusiasm						
Optimism - <i>belief that the outcome of activities will be favorable</i>						
Self-Esteem						
Good Judgment - <i>ability to evaluate situations and make the most appropriate decisions</i>						
Communication skills						
Tact - <i>sense of what to do or say to avoid offending others</i>						
An Open Mind- <i>willing to consider new or different ideas or opinions</i>						
Acceptance of Criticism						
Teaching Ability						
Willingness to learn						
Adaptability to change						
Ability to deal with a crisis						
Ability to set priorities						
Resourcefulness						
Honesty						
Integrity						



5. Please list your educational history.

6. Please list your last 3 places of employment.

7. Please list any other relevant information (i.e. 4-H membership, scholarships etc.).

**In order for you're application to be complete you must return this questionnaire, four completed reference forms and a video or DVD that shows your current riding abilities.**

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

Please list five words describing the applicant.

Do you think that the applicant would be a good horse trainer? Why?

Describe the nature of your contacts and the capacity in which you have known this person.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_