



AQHA Dressage Class Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is dressage?

A: Dressage is a classical training method. Its purpose is to develop strength, rhythm, straightness, collection and impulsion. Dressage patterns, or “tests,” are designed to showcase the horse’s ability to demonstrate these strengths through various movements.

Q: Will dressage classes be held at AQHA shows?

A: No. Currently, AQHA-approved dressage classes will only be held concurrent with USEF/USDF-licensed shows. To find one of these shows, visit www.usdf.org/calendar/competitions.asp. The USEF/USDF-licensed shows must also be AQHA approved to host AQHA classes.

Q: How do I know if I am eligible to compete in an AQHA-approved dressage class?

A: To be eligible, the horse must be AQHA registered, and the exhibitor must have a current individual membership. Open, amateur and youth eligibility is based on criteria found in the AQHA Official Handbook. Exhibitors must pay an AQHA competition license fee of \$85 for the lifetime of the horse.

Q: Why should I participate in AQHA-approved dressage classes?

A: Showing in an approved class allows owners and breeders to gain recognition for their horses’ abilities while earning points toward year-end awards, the AQHA Incentive Fund and lifetime achievement awards.

Q: How will AQHA keep track of my scores?

A: The dressage system is based on a percentage score and will be transferred to a point value using the following chart:

DRESSAGE SCORE CONVERSION

	SCORES			
	60-65	66-70	71-75	76+
	POINT CONVERSION			
Training Level – Highest Test	1	2	3	4
First Level	1.5	3	4.5	6
Second Level	2	4	6	8
Third Level	2.5	5	7.5	10
Fourth Level	3	6	9	12
FEI	4	8	12	16

Q: Are there additional entry fees to participate in the AQHA dressage class? Or only the entry fee for the regular USEF-USDF class?

A: Exhibitors must pay a one-time competition license fee of \$85 to AQHA which lasts the lifetime of the horse. They must also pay all applicable membership fees. It is the show management's decision on any additional entry fee at the show.

Q: What are the requirements to be a judge for an AQHA approved class?

A: AQHA will accept USEF/USDF licensed judges **MUST** have current AQHA membership and abide by AQHA rule 438 for judges.

Q: How do I learn more about Dressage?

A: The United States Dressage Federation's website, <http://www.usdf.org/about/about-dressage/newtodressage.asp>, is a great resource for learning about Dressage.

Q: Will dressage ever be part of the AQHA World Show?

A: It's unclear at this point, it depends on a lot of factors including the popularity of the class.

Q: Do dressage points count toward AQHA awards such as a Register of Merit?

A: Yes. They also count towards the AQHA Incentive Fund and year end high point awards.

Q: How do I get AQHA classes at my USEF/USDF show?

A: Contact your show secretary and tell them you would like to see AQHA approved classes included in the show. An application will need to be submitted at least 60 days prior to the event.

Once an individual has earned 20 points in Training Level, or 20 points in First Level, or has earned 10 points in Second Level or 10 points in Third Level or 10 points in Fourth Level he/she will no longer be eligible to participate in that level and earn points in subsequent years, but may continue to compete in that Level until the end of the calendar year in which the afore-mentioned instances occurred.

AQHA high-point trophies will be awarded during each of the nine USEF/USDF Regional Championship shows. They are given to the three high-point registered American Quarter Horses competing in the championship class with the highest percentage score for open, amateur and youth divisions. Each entry must have a minimum 60 percent score to qualify for an award.