

Ability Award (Adaptive Riding) *NEW

The Year End award for Ability (Adaptive riding) is for those riding students with a disability that are enrolled in a Professional Association for Therapeutic Horsemanship, PATH International, (pathintl.org) riding program. Throughout the world, thousands of individuals with disabilities experience the rewarding benefits of horsemanship. A disability does not have to limit a person from riding or caring for horses. Dressage offers the opportunity for riders to show a judge, parents, friends and helpers what has been achieved during the riding sessions. These riders may develop their skills and continue into para dressage.

This can also help an instructor to set goals, allowing the riders to demonstrate often hidden reservoirs of determination to achieve and can vividly show the benefits of previous instruction.

The Ability Award Guidelines are:

- Follow guidelines of ECRDA and in addition,
- Trainer must be a certified PATH riding instructor
- Tests are based on the rider i.e. "Starter Rider". Horses are trained for their work in their programs.
- Tests are "stand alone" meaning there will be awards for each Test.
- Multiple tests are available. At this time, utilizing the Introduction to Dressage tests with their corresponding Scoresheets located near the bottom of this website: Riding for the Disabled Association (RDA). This is based in the United Kingdom. The website (myrda.org.uk)

For example:

RDA Introduction to Dressage Test 2 (2018) walk only (with leader)

RDA Introduction to Dressage Test 3 (2016) walk & trot with or without leader

RDA Introduction to Dressage Test 4 (2018) walk & trot (with leader)

- Please note that the arena has to be fenced to meet PATH Intl. Standards.

This is new for our association so we will grow and learn from the addition of this year end award. We look forward to your input as we move forward. If you need additional information, please contact Kathy Taler at (908) 930-9894.