

AHA Faculty:

Bonnie Cunningham, PT, HPCS

Bonnie is a licensed Physical Therapist in the states of New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. She holds a Bachelor of Science and a Master of Arts in Physical Therapy and Master of Public Administration. Bonnie is a NARHA Registered Therapist, a NARHA Certified Riding Instructor and Certified as a National Assessor for riders interested in competing in National Events and the Paralympics. Bonnie is a Board Certified Clinical Specialist in hippotherapy, Coordinating Faculty for the American Hippotherapy Association, has taught internationally and presented at national conferences. Bonnie is practicing hippotherapy as part of a therapeutic riding program and in private practice.



Hippotherapy

Hippotherapy is a physical, occupational and speech therapy treatment strategy that utilizes equine movement. Hippotherapy is utilized as part of an integrated treatment program to achieve functional outcomes.

In hippotherapy, the patient engages in activities on the horse that are enjoyable and challenging. The therapist directs the horse's movement and carefully grades sensory input. In a PT, OT or Speech treatment session the patient benefits from a foundation which is established through the movement of the horse to improve neurological function and sensory processing. This foundation can be generalized to a wide range of daily activities.



American Hippotherapy Association (AHA)

www.americanhippotherapyassociation.org

Therapy professionals trying to acquire Level 1 status **may waive taking the Equine Skills Level 1 course if they have documentation of horse skills** such as: Pony Club Levels, NARHA Registered Instructor, USDF Bronze medal. In addition, an applicant may submit a skills list, signed by a horse professional that shows basic equine skills. This form can be obtained from High Horses and will be reviewed by AHA to determine if Level 1 Equine Skills can be waived.



High Horses
Therapeutic Riding Program

Presents

AHA Inc. Approved Level I Treatment Principles Course

July 22-24, 2011

This 3 day course is mandatory to become eligible for NARHA Registered Therapist Status
\$375



Treatment Principles Course Description and Objectives

This **3 day** course is designed for entry level therapists utilizing hippotherapy as a treatment strategy and those in or working with hippotherapy teams. Hands on practicum are available in this course. **Participants MUST have passed Level 1 Equine Skills** or send a waiver to faculty for review.

Objectives:

- Know and understand the definition of Hippotherapy.
- Understand how the horse's movement affects human systems - A System's Approach.
- Describe possible responses of a patient to the movement of the horse's walk.
- Describe the unique contributions of the horse's movement as a treatment strategy and potential benefit for the patient.
- Understand the importance of the hippotherapy horse's suitability and movement.
- Describe the appropriate methods of horse handling during a hippotherapy session.
- Describe the selection and use of hippotherapy equipment for the horse and patient.
- Identify all factors that contribute to safety in the hippotherapy session.
- Identify key considerations for patient selection for hippotherapy including specific contraindications and precautions.
- Describe the key elements of patient evaluation and treatment planning.
- Describe safe methods of transitioning on and off the horse.

Treatment Principles Course Description and Objectives

- Describe methods of maximizing effects of hippotherapy, including school figures and movement progressions.
- Have a working knowledge of potential emergencies and appropriate procedures.
- Describe the roles of the hippotherapy team members.
- Understand the business aspects related to hippotherapy including documentation, record keeping, reimbursement issues and insurance.



Treatment Principles Course:

Fee: \$375.00

Date: July 22-24, 2011.

Refunds, minus a \$50 administration fee, will be granted only upon written request.

During the course you will be on and/or working directly with horses. You will be asked to sign a release of liability for High Horses. For mounted activities, a helmet will be provided. Wear closed toe shoes/boots for safety.

Registration Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/ State/ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Profession & License # _____

NARHA Instructor__ Horse handler__

Administrator__ Other _____

Treatment Principles - (**Prerequisite** for the Treatment Principles is **completion of Equine Skills or a signed waiver**. The approved waiver must be submitted with registration).

Check- Please make payable to High Horses

Credit Card: Name _____

Card # _____

Expiration date _____

• **AHA Course Manuals, lunch, and snacks are provided.**

• **Must have completed a Level 1 Equine Skills or have a waiver approved by AHA**