

USIHC Trainer Code of Ethics

The USIHC requires that all trainers certified by the USIHC and FEIF abide by the following code of ethics. The recognition and practice of these ethical principles is vital to creating and maintaining a happy, healthy and pleasurable environment for all involved.

I. **Respect and Equality**

- a. Show respect to each individual you encounter, regardless of gender, age, race, nationality, religion, ethnicity, physical disabilities, or sexual orientation.
- b. Attend to the welfare, safety and health of all horses you work with, and treat all horses with dignity, regardless of gender, age, breed, ability, physical condition and use.
- c. Behave in a courteous manner and display good sportsmanship, following the guidelines of the USIHC, FEIF and applicable animal welfare laws.

II. **Honesty**

- a. Be open, honest and fair, and conduct business affairs with integrity and sincerity.

III. **Responsibility**

- a. Take responsibility for your own actions, exercising sound judgement and professional competence.
- b. Take responsibility for all humans and horses in your care.
- c. Commit to responsible training techniques
- d. Keep the age, ability, fitness, and well-being of both horse and rider in mind when training and teaching.

IV. **Education**

- a. a. Always seek to expand your knowledge, and perform continuing education to improve skills. Be aware of any new FEIF guidelines as well as best practices regarding teaching, training and the wellbeing of horses.
- b) Know applicable FEIF rules and guidelines, and keep apprised of any updates and changes.
- c) Promote knowledge of the Icelandic Horse and its correct use as a riding and competition horse in accordance with the policies of FEIF and the USIHC.

V. **Stewardship**

- a. Protect humans and horses in your care from unethical, incompetent or illegal practices.

VI. **Example**

- a. Every trainer and riding instructor is a role model for their clients. Be aware of your influence and act in ways that demonstrate best practices, and guide students and clients towards the same goal.
- b. Encourage those under your supervision to abide by ethical standards.

VII. **Welfare of the Horse**

- a. The welfare of the horse must be considered above all other interests. This includes both physical and mental wellbeing, which is paramount.

- b. Trainers should provide the highest standards possible in maintaining horses under their care, taking into consideration the natural needs of horses as herd and flight animals.
- c. When training horses, and using them for equine activities in leisure or competition, trainers should consider their talent, abilities and psychological well-being.
- d. No horse deemed unfit should be ridden or worked. Veterinary advice must be sought if there is ever a question concerning a horse's fitness for the proposed activity.
- e. Abuse of a horse using natural or artificial aids (e.g. whips, spurs, etc.) will not be tolerated.
- f. Horses must be transported in a manner that minimizes the potential for illness, injury, fear, stress or undue suffering and be allowed suitable rest periods during and following transport.
- g. Horses must be given adequate food, water, and health care and properly handled in an environment appropriate to their use with thoughtful consideration of their species-typical biology and behavior.
- h. Horses should be cared for in ways that minimize fear, pain, stress and suffering.
- i. Horses should be provided protection from injurious heat or cold and harmful weather conditions.
- j. Horses used in competition, spectator events, exhibitions, motion pictures and television should not be subjected to the fraudulent use of drugs, non-nutritive agents, equipment or procedures intended to alter performance, conformation or appearance.
- k. Horses shall be treated with respect and dignity throughout their lives and, when necessary, and at the appropriate time, be provided a humane death.