

Carriage Driving Seminar FHANA 2023

This two-day course will introduce and demonstrate the basics of training a horse to drive. Participants will learn techniques to start a horse to drive, basic safety involving harnessing and equipment, and descriptions of types of harnesses, carriages and driving styles.

Course Goals:

1. Starting the Driving horse
 - ~The importance of ground work, building a strong foundation of trust and respect with your horse
 - ~Teaching your horse to stand, the importance of the lunge, long lining, ground driving.
2. Harnessing 101
 - ~ Understanding the functions of the harness, the importance of a well-fitting harness, how to harness correctly, types of harness.
3. Driving Bits
 - ~ Understanding the functions of a driving bit and why those functions are important to a driving horse.
4. Driving whips
 - ~ Selecting a whip, why we use a whip and how we use a whip while driving.
5. Carriages
 - ~ Types of Carriages, selecting a carriage for your horse, four-wheel vehicles or two-wheel carts.

Day 1:

Morning Session: Preparing your horse to Drive

- *Ground Work starts with teaching your horse to stand
- *The importance of teaching your horse to lunge
- *Long Lining and Ground Driving demonstration

Afternoon Session:

- *Harnessing 101: the parts and function of a driving harness
- *How to harness safely and correctly
- *Types of harnesses

Day 2:

Morning:

- *Review of Day 1
- *Driving Bits: what defines a driving bit, types of bits, functions of driving bits
- *Driving Whips: Types of whips, how to select a whip, how to use a driving whip
- * Carriages: two vs four wheeled vehicles, selecting a vehicle for your type and style of driving

Afternoon:

- *How to safely put to (hitch up) and unhitch your horse
- *Types of driving competitions: Pleasure, Recreational, Combined Driving

Wrap up and review