



Therapy Horse Certification

To be certified as a therapy horse through Mini Whinny Therapy Horses, the horse must demonstrate the following abilities for each level.

Level 1 Therapy Horses: Certified to visit residents of assisted living centers, nursing homes, and similar facilities

Skills required:

- Horse must be either potty trained or wear a potty bag
- Horse must wear some type of covering on their hooves for sanitary purposes
- Horse shows no signs of kicking or biting people
- Horse must stand with ease on both left and right sides for grooming:
 - Give all four hooves to be picked
 - Body brushed with curry comb
 - Mane and tail brushed and handled
 - Face rubbed all over with washcloth
- Horse can be led with ease from both the left and right sides
- Horse responds to commands for walk, stop, back, stand, step forward one step, step backward one step, yield forequarters one step on both sides, and yield hindquarters one step on both sides
- Horse stands calmly while rope is thrown with gentle force all over body, neck, hindquarters, and around all four legs
- Horse remains calm while being approached with erratic and noisy movements by an adult and a child from all four sides (left, right, front, back)
- Horse remains calm while being petted and hugged by an adult and child on both the right and left sides
- Horse remains calm when approached from all four sides by a group of five or more people talking loudly and using wild arm and hand movements
- Horse stands for 2-3 minutes calmly while being petted awkwardly by an adult and child on both the right and left sides: ears, face, all four legs, rump, tail
- Horse remains calm when approached by a dog
- Horse walks with ease through regular doorways and automatic doors

- Horse remains calm while walking indoors with changes in lighting
- Horse remains calm when walking on changes in flooring, such as carpet, tile, vinyl, or hardwood
- Horse remains calm when navigating around the following obstacles:
 - Walking through tight spaces between rows or columns of chairs
 - Moving wheelchair
 - Moving walker
 - Moving cane
 - Rolling metal cart
 - Moving oxygen tank, tubing, and cart
 - Flapping plastic bags, both large and small
 - Garbage can lids opening and closing
 - Slamming door
 - Beeping sounds, both quiet and loud
 - Fire alarm
 - Emergency siren
 - Going up and down 2-4 stairs
 - Vacuum
 - Loud television and music
 - Metal shovel banged on floor loudly 2-3 feet away from the horse from all four sides