

Why GS Competition Elements Are Important

The Gimme Shelter Trainers' Rally for Rescues was started to promote community awareness of The Horse Shelter, to promote the adoptability and trainability of rescue horses as well as promoting the trainers that volunteer their time and talents to train our rescue horses.

The friendly competition wraps up the Gimme Shelter challenge showcasing what each horse has learned during the 100 days of training. The first two years the trainers could show their horse in a freestyle type program of the trainer's choice. Feedback from adopters and potential adopters was they wanted to see basic things that would be more important to them: trailer loading, tying, saddling, picking up their feet; things they need to be able to do with a horse on an everyday basis. That is when we added the additional classes designed to show accomplishments each horse has made in three important areas of training.

The **In-Hand** portion shows the horse's training in basic ground manners, tying, standing quietly while being groomed and tacked up, trailer loading and this year will include some groundwork.

The **Obstacle Course** is designed to show how calmly a horse can handle new scary things like crossing a tarp that makes noise when stepped on, or putting on a slicker (rain coat). These are horse skills that can be tested when just riding on your own property. There are obstacles that represent possible situations when trail riding: dragging a fallen tree off a trail, backing or side passing your horse out of a tight situation.

The **Dry Work or Flat Work** demonstrates softness, willingness and control of the horse's feet, shoulders and hind quarters at all three gates (walk, trot and lope).

These things combined give each horse a solid foundation for their future adopter and/or their adopter's trainer. Please understand these horses only have a maximum of 100 days of professional training and they are still considered very green, meaning they will require continued training. Depending on an adopter's riding skill, THS may require a potential adopter to have a trainer under contract for lessons and or continued training before the adoption is approved. This is for the safety of the adopter and the horse. Each horse has a unique personality, some are easier to train than others. Our goal is to find good homes for our rescue horses and for the adopter to be successful and happy with their new horse.