

2025 Second Qtr

April - June

SCDCTA Board

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Clinics – Marcy Hippey

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Nominating – Lisa Hinkle

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Volunteers – Marcy Hippey

Year End Points & Volunteer
Hours – Julianna Lucarelli

TRACKING UP



.If you would like to help or serve on a committee, please contact Marcy Hippey or one of the other Board Members.

Our 2025 SCDCTA recognized schooling shows are listed on the website calendar. The link to the calendar is under Events.

<https://www.scdcta.com/calendar.html>

We are very pleased that you have joined our South Carolina Dressage and Combined Training Association [SCDCTA]. Our members encourage and support the growth of equestrian dressage and combined training in and out of the State of South Carolina and promote, support, and organize equestrian competitions and training sessions. All our events benefit our community and promote wonderful camaraderie among our group members.

The SCDCTA has numerous awards for members to compete for at the year-end awards Gala held in January. Each discipline dressage, combined training and eventing is split into schooling shows and USDF/USEA shows. Each discipline is further split by adult amateurs, Junior/Young Riders and Professionals.

Contact Us

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SCDCTA

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Hartsville, SC 29550

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843-857-6229

Email

info@scdcta.com

Website

<http://www.scdcta.com>

Upcoming Events

The South Carolina Dressage & Combined Training Assoc. has a full year of events in 2025. Come join us for the L Program Part I, Jr/YR Clinic, Summer Schooling Show, Adult Clinic, and the new Oktoberfest Dressage (USDF/USEF) Show.

USDF L Program Part I

Session B - Judging criteria for gaits & paces, movements & figures-July 18-19
Session C - Collective marks, equitation, rider biomechanics and basics-August 22-23

Part I Sessions have Participants and Silent Auditors. Participants have met the prerequisites for the program and plan on officiating at schooling shows or who would like to become a USEF licensed judge. Auditors are silent and are those who do not plan on judging, but who want more information about evaluating dressage performance. Email frelighc2805@gmail.com or missourifreligh@yahoo.com for more information. Participant applications are found on the SCDCTA website and our Facebook Page under Events.

Jr/YR Clinic

June 28 & 29 at the South Carolina Equine Park located at 443 Cleveland School Rd. Camden, SC 29020

For more information contact Marcy Hippey at president@scdcta.com.

SCDCTA Schooling Show & Adult Clinic

August 1 - 3 at the South Carolina Equine Park located at 443 Cleveland School Rd. Camden, SC 29020. The schooling Show is August 1st and Prizelist is on the SCDCTA Facebook under Events and on the SCDCTA website. For more information contact Carol Freligh at email frelighc2805@gmail.com. The Adult Clinic is August 2 & 3. For more information contact Marcy Hippey at president@scdcta.com.

SCDCTA Oktoberfest Dressage (New USDF/USEF Dressage Show)

October 18 & 19 at the South Carolina Equine Park located at 443 Cleveland School Rd. Camden, SC 29020

Entry information, classes and accommodations are in the Prizelist. The prizelist will be on our website and at <https://www.horseshowoffice.com/>.

SCDCTA Springtime Dressage I & II

The SCDCTA recognized dressage shows held April 26 & 27 at the South Carolina Equine Park in Camden, SC. SCDCTA would like to thank all the sponsors that helped make the shows a success. Results for the classes can be found on the Horse Show Office website,

www.horseshowoffice.com.

SCDCTA Springtime Dressage I Award Results

Score%	Horse	RiderLast	RiderFirst	ClassNo	Class Description	Qual Div	BreedName	Award
66.528	SF Spirit Luck	Sharpe	Sarah	131	NDPC First Level through Fourth Level TOC	Open	German Riding Pony	SCDCTA Member Open High Score
66.528	SF Spirit Luck	Sharpe	Sarah	131	NDPC First Level through Fourth Level TOC	Open	German Riding Pony	NDPC Champion
65.278	Soul Man	Hewitt	Danielle	109	USEF First Level Test 3	Adult Am.	Oldenburg	SCDCTA Member AA High Score
64.200	Hoosier Boy	Carnahan	Molly	105	USEF Training Level Test 3	Adult Am.	Thoroughbred	Thoroughbred Incentive Program (TIP) High Score
62.187	Woodberry's Hautelist	Fuchs	Robin	130	NDPC Introductory through Training Level TOC	Adult Am.	New Forest Pony	NDPC Reserve Champion
61.857	Lucky Charm	Gasperson	Alyssa	135	USEF Second Through Fourth Level TOC	Jr/Yg Rider	Andalusian	SCDCTA Member Jr/YR High Score

SCDCTA Springtime Dressage II Award Results

Score%	Horse	RiderLast	RiderFirst	ClassNo	Class Description	Qual Div	BreedName	Award
66.562	Woodberry's Hautelist	Fuchs	Robin	230	NDPC Introductory through Training Level TOC	Adult Am.	New Forest Pony	NDPC Champion
66.538	Hoosier Boy	Carnahan	Molly	203	USEF Training Level Test 1	Adult Am.	Thoroughbred	SCDCTA Member AA High Score
66.538	Hoosier Boy	Carnahan	Molly	203	USEF Training Level Test 1	Adult Am.	Thoroughbred	Thoroughbred Incentive Program (TIP) Wknd Champion
62.917	SF Spirit Luck	Sharpe	Sarah	231	NDPC First Level through Fourth Level TOC	Open	German Riding Pony	SCDCTA Member Open High Score
62.917	SF Spirit Luck	Sharpe	Sarah	231	NDPC First Level through Fourth Level TOC	Open	German Riding Pony	NDPC Reserve Champion
62.727	Oksana SR	Di Salvo	Ava	208	USEF First Level Test 2	Jr/Yg Rider	Trakehner	SCDCTA Member Jr/YR High Score



Molly Carnahan and Hoosier Boy-TIP Champion



Robin Fuchs and Woodberry's Hautelist-NDPC Champion

Adult Amateur Corner: Finances

Written by: unknown

I think we all know that equestrian sports are not cheap. Even as an adult amateur who has a full time non-equine related career, juggling finances to continue my passion for riding is a constant struggle. There is the cost of board, lessons, showing, tack, supplements, body work and let us not get started on talking about hefty vet bills! And these are just your equine expenses. Don't forget we have what I like to call "normal people bills" like rent/mortgage, car payment, gas, food, etc. And many of my friends, including myself, also have debt especially from student loans we are diligently trying to pay off. With the cost of everything rising, it seems I have had more and more conversations recently with my adult amateur friends where they are highly considering letting go of their equestrian hobby simply because they cannot afford it.

Here are some tips to help keep finances in check while trying to pursue horses:

Keep Track of Your Finances:

I keep track of all my expenses (equestrian and non-equestrian) as well as my income. While there are many APPs and programs that can help to do this, I use the good old Excel spread sheet. In this I have multiple sheets where one is a current tab of what I have in the bank and plans for the next few months. It goes by date, and I put each bill or expense I know I have coming up, as well as, when I will receive income and keep the running tally. This way I can plan and know what months are going to be tight and what months I may have more flexibility. The other tab is a tally of what I spent in each category for the year. This way I can compare my spending year to year, see quickly what I am spending most of my money on, and where I can possibly cut my spending.

Side Hustles (Equine and Non-equine):

Unfortunately, my full-time job is not enough to pay for both my personal and equestrian bills. And I know many other adult amateurs are in the same boat. Therefore, many of us take on side hustles, equine and non-equine related.

For non-equine related side hustles: I have friends who have graphic design skills and create logos and websites for businesses. I have friends that are free-lance writers and editors. Some are creative and sell artistic products or homemade goods. Some provide services such as cleaning houses, pet sit or baby sit.

However for a lot of equestrians, their main skill is well, horses. However, being an adult amateur and trying to have a horse-related side hustle can be difficult due to the USDF adult amateur restrictions. While the rules have been updated to be less restrictive, I will leave the full rules here

<https://www.usef.org/compete/resources-forms/rules-regulations/rulebook> as we could write a multiple page article going through each rule. A big rule is that adult amateurs cannot be paid to ride. Unfortunately, this rules out any sort of riding gig whether it be ponying polo ponies on sets, hacking, or exercising horses for owners. However, there are other ways to have equestrian side hustles. These include grooming at horse shows, doing barn chores like feeding and mucking, braiding, cleaning tack, clipping, etc. Again, before starting any side hustle and if you plan to compete in USDF competitions, check the USDF rules to be safe!

Take Advantage of Grants:

A fairly simple way to secure funds for riding is grants. Unfortunately from my experience, not enough people utilize this resource. Many national and local organizations help fund grants for riding and training. Look into your local riding organizations to see if they offer grants and do not just look in your state as you can be a member of multiple GMOs. Look at your national organizations like USDF, USEA, USEF, breed organizations etc. Another great resource is The Dressage Foundation, (<https://www.dressagefoundation.org/grants-and-programs/apply/grants-and-programs.html>), that offers multiple grants. There are grants for junior riders, professionals, adult amateurs, volunteers and more! While it can take time searching, writing, and collecting recommendation letters, it can be well worth it if you receive a grant! I have seen adult amateur grants range from \$300 to \$5,000!

Shine the Light on those Young Horses and their Owners!

by Marietta Juillard



Kiara Lutzen and Natan SW

How many of us have dreamed about starting our own young horse and developing that lifelong relationship? Many riders in the SC dressage community are doing just that and enjoying every step of the process.

Back when I was 10, living on a small island in the Dutch Caribbean, my mare had a foal. She got pregnant while running loose one day; apparently no one had noticed one of the horses was a stallion! It was the 90s in the tropics, what can I say?

I wish I knew then what I know now about riding and training young horses. We really did our best, my mom and I, entrusting our young gelding to a Colombian trainer with what we now would consider unacceptable training methods. We also thought we made the best choice selling him to an “expert” horseman from the island next door.

But now I cringe, as I know we probably didn’t do right by him.

Many young horses now are lucky enough to be taken under the wings of knowledgeable and caring riders. And not only professionals, but also many adult amateurs in our community are raising their dream horses. With so many resources available—from access to phenomenal coaches and trainers to online content—young horse owners understand the time and skills it takes to train their young partners.



Toodles and Amie Osment

Trust equals success

Amie Osment, who has owned seven-year-old Toodles, a Dutch Harness/KWPN gelding, for almost four years, knows how important it is to win the young horse’s trust.

“Toodles is extremely talented but a hot and anxious type. My success with him has grown over time in overcoming his past experiences prior to owning him,” she tells *Tracking Up*. “He has become much more confident and stronger in his body. Feeling his trust grow over the years to allow me to advance him me has been the greatest success.”



Omni and Amie Osment

Osment's careful approach means putting in extra time to ensure the young horse gets what they need. As a result, she adds, "Toodles is a bit behind in his training, but that is because she has allowed him to have an easier life as a young horse!"

A very special moment is the first time a young horse experiences a rider on their back. Osment knows that feeling well. Aside from Toodles, she also owns Omni, a six-year-old Dutch Harness/KWPN gelding she has had for almost five years.

"I was the first person to ever sit on [Omni] and get him started. I prepped him with ground work and followed all the steps for a positive experience," she says. "This was a life goal of mine, to raise my own young horse."

Bumps in the road happen

Robin Fuchs can relate to that feeling. She has owned Woodberrys Hautlist, aka Pinky, a four-year-old New Forest Pony cross, since the mare was a mere 10 months old. Though the road has been bumpy, Fuchs and Pinky are well on their way to become great partners.

"We almost lost Pinky last year after a spider bite to her pastern which caused her to develop a massive abscess and run the risk of losing her entire foot," recalls Fuchs. "Luckily, with excellent vet care plus wound care plus stalling all for more than a month as a three-year-old (she was an excellent patient), she recovered fully with only a small scar remaining."

Despite that setback, Pinky shows a lot of promise. Just three days after turning four, she did her first rated dressage show and won all her intro classes. She was reserve champion in the National Dressage Pony (NDPC) cup classes on Saturday and champion in the those classes on Sunday.

"We also took her to an obstacle clinic at three years old," says Fuchs, "and she was the only horse to complete all the obstacles. We took her out fox hunting in third field (just walk/trot) last fall/winter and she really kept her head about her. All around, it feels like every time I work with this pony, we have success!"

Celebrate success, focus on weak spots

Successes are always to be celebrated, especially with young horses. Kiara Lutzen has owned Natan, a six-year-old KWPN gelding since July 2024.

"We had our first horse show together this year—and his first show ever—and he was such a good boy!" Lutzen says. "We won high point both days and he behaved like a gentleman. He was very calm and acted like he had done this before."

But when it comes to bringing along young horses, every good moment still comes with a lot to work on. That means young horse owners often have an extra layer of goals with each ride.

Fuchs, for instance, notes that Pinky needs to work on her lack of boundaries, while Lutzen highlight's Natan's willingness and respectfulness towards his human. Osment's Toodles and Omni have similar goals.

"With Toodles, we are working on him being more accepting of my aids and my position as his rider and his trainer. Toodles has very big emotions accompanied by large displays of these emotions!" she explains. "With Omni, we are working on accepting aids and willingness. His favorite opinion is his own!"

Embrace playfulness

Young horses have a tremendous sense of play, which can spur many funny moments, much to the delight of their owners.

“Pinky **loves** to be the center of attention,” recounts Fuchs. “She will often take things if you are fixing fencing and not paying attention to her. She has run off around the pasture with my husband's tools and gloves more than once!”

“Natan had a funny young horse moment once when we were in the warm-up ring at a show,” Lutzen recalls. “All the horses had left and when he realized we were by ourselves he went on a bucking spree. Luckily, I stayed on!”

As for Osment, she often observes funny moments when her two young horses play together in the pasture.

“One time, they were going in a ring-around-the-rosy type manner until they collapsed on their front knees,” she says. “Omni, who has always sucked his tongue since he was a yearling, often does it after eating meals or treats and he will even let you grab his tongue.”

So what’s in store this year for Pinky, Natan, Toodles, and Omni?

For Toodles, the goal for 2025 is to confirm the aids and the basics and horse and rider are ready to step it up a notch. For his pasture mate Omni, Osment hopes to get him going under saddle again after ulcer treatment.

Natan will continue to work on his willingness and respectfulness with Lutzen.

And Fuchs hopes to continue getting Pinky as much exposure to different things as possible so that she grows into a well-rounded horse.

We sure wish them all the very best for the years to come, and if you see them around at a horse show, be sure to say hi!



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LEGIS: Hometown Focus with National Scope

#HorsemenInsuringHorsemen



In 2022, LEG Insurance Solutions opened its doors in Aiken, SC after relocating from California. “We consider ourselves more of a family than a company,” says co-owner Marnye Langer, “and we want to be in a community where we can be involved and know our neighbors.”

Aiken, with its thriving and varied horse community fits the bill and the LEGIS Team has grown by adding local area Team members. “Being able to hire young people with horse knowledge and then giving them training in insurance and risk management is really rewarding,” explains co-owner Sarah Rajoy. “We are proud of the career track we provide and some of our staff are either in the process of buying their first house or are new homeowners.”

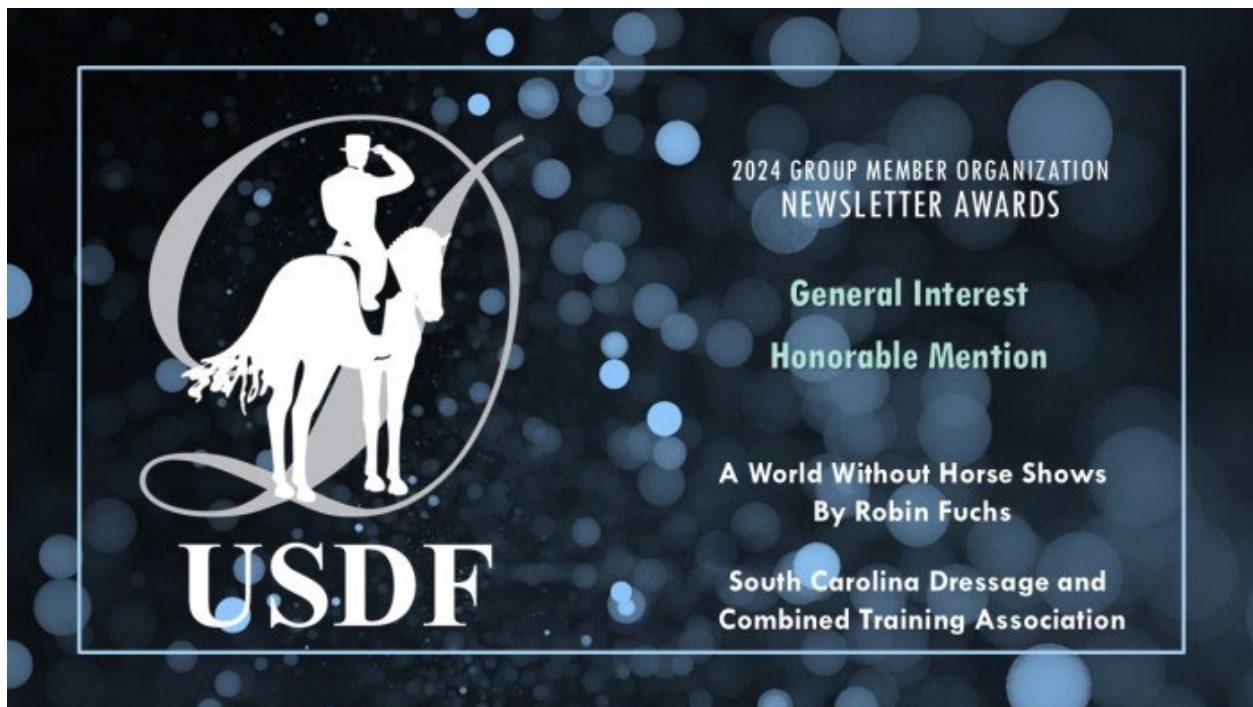
LEGIS specializes in insurance and risk management solutions for horse-focused businesses, farms, homeowners, and horse owners. In addition, the boutique agency is adept at ancillary coverages for workers compensation, auto, and clubs and associations. To meet these needs, LEGIS works with almost a dozen top rated insurance carriers. This allows the Team to help clients find the best possible options.

“We don’t see ourselves as selling insurance,” says Sarah. “We take the time to meet with people and understand their business and lifestyle. We present people with options, help them understand the choices, and participate in guiding them to decisions that best meet their needs.”

The LEGIS Team has quickly immersed itself in the local horse community. In addition to many of the Team members riding and showing, LEGIS has shown its support to various shows and facilities, like Highfields and The Vista.



Everyone on the LEGIS Team enjoys talking about horses, community, and the wonderful country life that makes Aiken and surrounding areas so special. Give us a call at (866) 780-3713 and let’s meet over a fence post or at a show for a cup of coffee. We live our motto of #HorsemenInsuringHorsemen.



By Robin Fuchs

This article received an honorable mention in the 2024 [GMO Newsletter Awards](#) for general interest articles for GMOs with 175-499 members. It appeared in the September 2023 [South Carolina Dressage and Combined Training Association](#) newsletter, Tracking Up.



VOLUNTEER TO PREVENT DOOMSDAY

Imagine, if you will, that you have planned for this upcoming show from the beginning of the season. Whether you are attempting to get your final scores for regionals, pursuing scores for your next medal, debuting your fantastic new horse, retiring a beloved show partner, or showing for the only time this year, this show is one of the most critical of the season. You HAVE to show at this event. You have now spent a great deal of time, not to mention money, on training, grooming, putting together a killer new show outfit, and signing up/paying the fees (so many fees!) for the show. You are ready, or as ready as you possibly can be, for the big event.

Once you arrive at the show grounds and park your trailer, you head up to the show office to check in. When you arrive at the office, you notice there are shockingly few people to assist; and those who are there seem harried, trying to help an ever-growing group of competitors. After waiting for what feels like

an eternity, you finally receive your competitor's pack.; but upon inspection, you find it to be empty except for your number. You, again, wait in line, and are eventually able to obtain the other necessary materials. As you head back to your trailer where your horse has been waiting patiently to be removed from this inexplicably long confinement, you see a couple people running around appearing to be still setting up the arenas and the other event spaces. Things should run smoother tomorrow... right?!

The following day, as the sun starts to rise and you are putting the final touches on the most perfect button braids you have ever seen in your horse's mane, you feel confident that this show you have prepared so diligently for will go off without issue. Once you finish tacking up your horse and donning your fabulous show outfit, you make your way down to the show ring to check in and warm-up.

Unfortunately, where you expect to find the show underway, you find chaos. It appears as if the show has not started and all the riders, grooms, and coaches look confused. You ask a nearby rider what is going on and they explain that apparently, the show is short scribes so the rings have not started. On top of that there are no ring stewards to inform riders when it is their ring time. All told, it is pandemonium. After you walk your horse around the warm-up arena for ages, you hear that from some depths of the show grounds, that scribes were found and the show is starting, albeit much later than what was planned. However, there are still no ring stewards perpetuating the discord as riders go into the show rings out of turn. By the time you are able to enter the ring to show, your, and your saint of a horse's, nerves are fried. You put out the best test you possibly can

under the circumstances, but you know it was not up to your usual standards and you are more than a little dismayed. You and your horse make your way back up to the stalls. On your way, you see someone whom you thought was a scribe, running an armload of tests to the show office. No test runners either? Are you serious?! After reversing your routine from earlier, albeit in a much fowler mood, you make your way over to the boards where your scores should be up by now. You storm into the show office to find that you are behind in yet another que of less than pleasant competitors all asking after their scores. Even more frustrated, you stomp back to your stall. You wait until the evening spending your time listening to the other people complain about how, "if the show had only gotten more volunteers, none of this would be happening." You cannot help but agree. You make your way back to the score boards for the umpteenth time, but this time your score is up. You have done worse than you thought. You retrieve your test and see the judges remarks of "capable pair but tense and appearing anxious today." Well, no kidding! You spent so much time and money to get to this show and now you have not even had the outcome that you had worked for so hard. Maybe you should just stop showing dressage altogether? Maybe underwater basket weaving could be fun...

Calm down, this is just a story, not real life; but could it be our future? Is this what the end of dressage showing as we know it might look like? Well, it doesn't have to be, but it is up to us as an equine community to band together. Whether competing in equestrian sports is your "thing," or you prefer to enjoy your horsey counter parts in a more relaxed environment, as equestrians we should be supporting each other's hopes and dreams, even if they are not our own, for the better of our people as a whole. Especially for those of us who do compete and rely on volunteers to make the shows happen for us, we should make sure we are giving back by volunteering ourselves to make shows happen for others. However, for those of us who are still asking, "Well, what's in for me specifically," let us look at the benefits for the individual. To begin, volunteering can help a person better learn the rules in relation to competing in dressage. If you are someone who competes you will be better able to make sure you are not violating any rules and being disqualified for something simple. You can even learn finer points of the sport when you scribe for a judge. I have even had judges review what they are looking for through entire tests which I have been able to utilize in my own competitions. Easy extra point? Yes please! And no matter what volunteer role you take at a dressage show, you often can use those hours to go towards various year end awards in addition to grants to further your dressage goals. More ribbons and prizes! Again, yes please! If nothing else, volunteering at shows is a fantastic way to not spend an arm and a leg to be a part of the dressage community with like-minded people who love our equine partners. Do not get me wrong, it can be difficult to find the time to volunteer between all of our regularly scheduled activities (I mean we are all horse people after all), but if we want our dressage communities to continue to grow and thrive, then we ALL must do our part to help out. After all, only YOU can prevent horse show doomsday.

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FRELIGH DRESSAGE





South Carolina Dressage and Combined Training Association

Membership Application

Membership Year: 2025
December 1 - November 30

*Please fill out the application completely.
Missing information could result in member NOT being eligible for year-end awards or other benefits.*

- New Member
- Renewing Member

SCDCTA # _____ USDF # _____ USEF # _____ USEA # _____

- Senior
- Junior/Young Rider
- Business

\$60/year
\$45/year (must be U 21 years old as of Jan 1, 2024) \$100/ Date of Birth _____ (JR/YR)
year (Must be at least 18 years of age)

Status:

- Adult Amateur
- Professional Dressage
- Junior/Young Rider Both Eventing/Combined Training

Membership Name (Please Print Clearly)

Farm or Business Name

Complete Address

()

Email (Please Print Clearly!)

Telephone Number

Alt Number (fax, barn, cell, etc.)

Website

Volunteer Interests

Lifetime Horse Registration \$100

Horse must be registered for rider to receive year-end awards. Horse Show Name

Owner _____ Horse USDF # _____ Horse USEF # _____ Horse USEA # _____

Height _____ Color _____ Breed _____ Gender _____ Date of Birth _____

Update: _____ Deceased (no fee) Sold (\$5) _____
Horse SCDCTA # _____ New Owner _____ Date _____

Mail to: Carol Freligh, 1621 Middendorf Rd., Hartsville, SC 29550.
Form can also be emailed to membership@scdcta.com. Payment can made by check; made out to SCDCTA or through the website Paypal options.

A 3.5% fee is added when paying via Paypal or Credit Card.
Date of membership/horse registration is determined by date payment is received. Membership questions should be asked via email at membership@scdcta.com