CRTWH TRAINING LEVELS - Background

Effective May 21, 2025

The CRTWH Training Levels were developed to provide owners of Canadian Registered TWH, the opportunity to measure skills and set targets for their relationship between rider and horses. The Levels include Basic Skills in Hand, Trail Riding, Horsemanship, Driving, Horse Camping, Liberty.   Horse and riders are encouraged to participate in any activity desired.

In each activity entry begins at the lowest level which must be successfully challenged before the next level of the same activity is challenged. All activities are evaluated by people knowledgeable of and/or experienced with the particular activity and gaits of the TWH.

No matter the area entered, Basic Skills in Hand must be successfully challenged before any other activities can be challenged.

Currently Basic Skills in Hand is only 1 Level. Entry is limited to horses of at least 18 months of age.

Recently, the administrators of the Canadian Triple Challenge received a request to allow horses younger than 18 months to challenge Basic Skills In Hand. Recognizing the importance of skills for horses of any age, even those younger than 18 months, the following proposal was presented to the Board for discussion.

Skills currently included in Basic Skills in Hand

Catch the Horse – Stall – Paddock or Field

Halter the Horse

Tie the Horse – stands for 2 minutes – handler asks the horse to move in both directions

Groom the horse demonstrating you can – touch the head and body everywhere including ears, under tail and udder or sheath

Lift all feet while horse is either tired or free standing

Wash the face

Lead the horse with - Horse beside handler, Horse behind Handler. From the off side

Tasks while being led to simulate an obstacle course include in no order

Through an open gate, Through a closed gate – open and close

Up a slope, Down a slope

Through Mud, Around Mud

Around water, Through water

Around distractions - Around machinery or vehicles or bicycles (still not running_

Noise distractions of some type

Around a minimum of at least one other animal (horses, cattle, sheep, pigs, goats, cats, dogs, ducks, chickens etc)

Over and around a safe piece of plywood or tarp

Over poles or logs with uneven spacing

Move 6 steps to the left (light or no pressure)

Back a minimum of 6 steps

Doctoring

Hose legs, Show teeth

Dressing

Blanket (not necessarily a horse blanket)

Leg protection of some kind (polo wraps, shipping boots, splint boots, bell boots

Fly mask or slinky

Trailer Loading - Going in, coming off

Basic Skills in Hand Effective May 1, 2025

Basic Skills in Hand has been altered to allow younger horses to participate in Training Levels.   The basic skills have not been changed, but the difficulty of how that skill is performed has been altered to allow for 2 or 3 Levels of Basic Skills.

The proposed Basic Skills in Hand has been divided into 3 Levels determined by age.

Level 1 (Safety) Minimum Age 6 months

Level 2 (Growth) Minimum age 12 months

Level 3 (Graduate) Minimum Age 18 Months - combination of previous skills but with additional difficulty

Each Level will be evaluated using the same philosophy as the current Basic Skills but with tasks appropriate to the age of the of the entry.

Basic Skills demonstrates that the horse has been handled from both sides and is respectful of the handler and is respectful of the handler's space.

Any practice deemed unsafe or dangerous or abusive for either horse or handler/rider will result in disqualification.

A horse that does not respect the handler's space will be disqualified. In all tasks, perfection is not the goal.

Safety for both horse and handler, respect and willingness are what is being evaluated.

It is expected that some new circumstances may cause a horse to stop or refuse. It is not the stopping that matters, but how the situation is handled by horse or handler. It is to be expected that a horse will react to some stimuli, but the horse should also calm down and work through the situation.

Basic Skills in Hand – Level 1, Level 2, Level 3

	6 months Safety	12 months Growth	18 months or over Graduate
Catch	In field/paddock/stall with mare	In enclosed space (Paddock, corral etc)	Field or large corral
Halter	Rope simulating a halter which can be dropped safely Correctly fitting halter acceptable	Correctly fitting halter of any type with lead rope attached	Correctly fitting halter of any style with lead rope attached.
Lead	If using a lead rope, handler beside horse If not using a lead rope, then following the mare with handler beside.	Horse beside Handler Handler on the off side	Horse beside handler Handler on the off side Horse behind handler
Gate	Through an open gate as foal follows mare	Through an open gate	Through a closed gate (open gate, lead horse through, close gate).
Tie	Do not tie – horse stands quietly beside handler for 1 minute Handler asks horse to move 1 step to the right and 1 step to the left	Stands quietly for 1 Minute Handler asks horse to move to the right and to the left Respond to the ask – not a side pass – just move from pressure	Stands quietly for 2 minutes Response to pressure
Groom – **head, neck, belly, body, legs, tail, under tail, sheath etc.**	Freestanding With a light touch of the hand, touch all part of the body	Freestanding or tied Touch all parts of body with a soft brush	Freestanding or Tied Touch all parts of body with grooming brushes appropriate to the parts of the body

	Could be in paddock with mare		
Lift feet	While not restrained – tap all section of at least one hoof	Freestanding or tied Tap all sections of each hoof.	Freestanding or tied Lift and clean all hoofs.
Wash face, ears and legs	Face, ears Use a soft cloth without water rubbing all over the face and ears. Move cloth around lower legs below the knee	Face and ears Use a damp soft cloth rubbing all over the face and ears. Use dampened cloth to rub around all legs below the knee	Wash face using a wet cloth.
Doctoring	Rub outside and around mouth and rub nose Run hose with spray near the feet	Rub outside mouth and lift upper or lower lip Hose frongtlegs	Show Teeth Hose all 4 legs
Dressing	Cover back with a towel or a small horse blanket. Do not let straps or buckles hang Wrap one leg Fly mask if foal is familiar with one	Simulate a horse blanket Leg protection – wrap two legs Fly Mask if foal is familiar with one	Not necessarily a horse blanket – could be towel or ????? Leg protection – Put on and take off – polo wraps, shipping boots, splint boots, bell boots) Fly mask – put on and take off
L Tasks to simulate an obstacle course – no particular order	**OPTIONAL Either following mare or being led** Change in surface – grass	**Leading** Changes in surface – grass, gravel, water, mud Up and down a	**Leading** Through an open gate Through a closed gate – open and close Up a slope Down a slope

	to gravel or dirt to grass Through water (puddle) Up and down a gentle slope Around a group of trees or shrubs Around a vehicle not running Around another animal Over 3 randomly spaced poles or logs	slope Around a puddle or mud Through a group of trees or shrubs Around a vehicle Around 2 other animals Over a minimum of 5 randomly spaced poles or logs	Through snow Around snow Through Mud Around Mud Around water Through water Around distractions Around machinery or vehicles or bicycles (still not running_ Noise distractions Through water Around distractions Around machinery or vehicles or bicycles (still not running_ Noise distractions Around machinery or vehicles or bicycles (still not running) Noise distraction or some type Around a minimum of at least one other animal (other horses, cattle, sheep, pigs, goats, cats, dogs, ducks, chickens etc) Over and around a safe piece of plywood or tarp Over poles or logs with uneven spacing Move 6 steps to the left (light or no pressure) Move 6 steps to the right (light or no pressure) Back a minimum of 6 steps
Trailor Loading	Following mare or using a bum rope	**With handler leading -** may walk in, turn around and walk off	**With handler leading** Enter trailer and stand for 1 minute Horse leaves trailer either walking out or backing out