

## Tips to Help Make Ratings a Success

Get out the standard for the next rating level you would like to achieve and review the requirements. Take honest assessment of your current knowledge and your riding capabilities at this point in time. Is it realistic to expect that you can meet the following rating requirements:

- learn the necessary stable management in sufficient detail
- bandage properly
- have your record book in top shape
- have your riding at the level (hopefully with help from instructors, DC etc.)
- tack spotlessly clean and in perfect repair
- present a polished, neat, safe look at turnout
- have a horse that is appropriate for your level and for use at the testing
- have been active in your club, supporting younger members and attending club functions
- have a ready to learn, mature and pleasant attitude (even when things go wrong)
- have practiced, and practiced some more answering the questions
- you can teach a lesson or skill if the rating requires
- have the confidence you need to pass the rating on the designated date

Remember you must work with the standards. They tell you exactly what you need to know. There should be no surprises. It doesn't just happen that you move up to the next rating, it requires work and effort. Sometimes those efforts aren't always successful, but that just means you may need to try again. You still are a worthy and valuable pony club member.

This year the region is offering several opportunities for you to get good instruction, geared towards helping you pass your rating. **The rest is up to you.** You need to get quality instruction in dressage and over fences (this probably means paying for lessons), you need to read and study and discuss stable management requirements with other pony clubbers, veterinarians, shoers, etc.

**Parents**, it is important that you support your candidate's decision to go for a higher rating. They need to know that pass or fail you are proud of their accomplishments. Sometimes ratings don't turn out like we want them to. It may be a bad day, or the candidate needs a bit more work in some areas. Please help them know that it is ok to not pass, and support them if they want to try again.

Remember that your role is to be a supporter and not a goal setter for your child. The RIC and other members of the Regional Instructional Council are there to help you. You have our names and phone numbers to call if you need more help. You also have a resource list of instructors you can call on your own and get help in the areas that you need it.

We wish you well. -- The Regional Instructional Council