

WESTERN DRESSAGE

by Tanis Lane, President of WDASA

Western dressage uses the principles of classical dressage to show case stock type horses - but is not limited to these breeds - in traditional western saddles and gear. Demonstrating a harmonious partnership with the rider. Lightness and harmony are emphasized as the horse and rider complete patterns based on the level of training.

WDA A
It's about the journey

MYTH VS REALITY

MYTH	VS	FACT
Only certain breeds can do western dressage	01	All breeds are welcome—every horse can benefit from the fundamentals
It's just like traditional dressage	02	While it shares a foundation, western dressage emphasizes a different frame, connection, and way of going
You have to be an advanced rider to start	03	There are levels for everyone, from beginners to experienced competitors
It's all about perfection	04	It's about progress, partnership, and correct development over time
It's too intimidating to start	05	It's one of the most welcoming disciplines



Western Dressage Photo Credit: Deana DeBruyn, Vice President of WDASA