

# Writing a Letter of Reference For A Recommended Professional Candidate

In writing a letter of reference for an individual wishing to achieve Recommended Professional status with the International Horsemanship Association (IHA), you are asked to describe to the the IHA's Board of Directors why you appreciate this applicant's talents in communicating with horses and people. The purpose of this document is to familiarize you with the IHA and to offer a few helpful tips for writing a letter of reference for a Recommended Professional Candidate. Please visit the [IHA's website](#) for additional information.

## About the IHA and the Recommended Professionals Program

The International Horsemanship Association (IHA) is a non-profit corporation formed in 2018 for the purpose of promoting and highlighting Relationship-Based Horsemanship around the world. Equine professionals who embody the IHA's values, mission, and vision are encouraged to become Recommended Professionals. Achieving this status will recognize the professional's Relationship-Based approach and awards them various benefits including access to the IHA Learning Management System, business support resources, public listing on the IHA Professional Directory, and more. The Directory will provide horse enthusiasts around the world with a central platform for finding IHA Recommended Professionals to support them and their horses.

### Our Values

#### *Safety and Humane Treatment of Horses*

We practice and encourage the highest standards of safety in all horse activities. We also support humane training philosophies and techniques for a happy horse and a happy rider.

#### *Respect for the Nature of the Horse*

We believe that once we can understand our horses' innate behavior and psychology, their capacity to bond with us and to perform with joy is limitless.

#### *Supporting Our Members*

We celebrate in our members' successes.

#### *Good Horsemanship is Good Horsemanship*

We believe that any Relationship-Based method of being with horses is valuable, no matter the tack, program, or discipline.

#### *Commitment and Integrity*

We honor our commitments to our colleagues, our community, and our horses, and strive to be at our best every day.

### Our Mission

- Define quality standards of Relationship-Based Horsemanship and training, from foundation through to the artistic level
- Certify equine professionals and facilities who support the highest level of excellence in this pursuit
- Create a community of horsemanship enthusiasts to honor and advance the level of horsemanship worldwide.

### Our Vision

Become the world's first choice for Relationship-Based Horsemanship training, resources, education, competition and information. We seek to recognize and promote excellent horsemanship, no matter the discipline, breed, or tack.

## **Structuring a Letter of Recommendation**

- Address your letter to IHA Board of Directors.
- Short and to the point is the goal (no longer than one page in length).
- State that you are offering a recommendation for this person for IHA Recommended Professional status.
- Describe how long you have known this person, and the nature of your relationship.
- Include the reasons you believe this person is qualified to hold the status of Recommended Professional. Include an anecdote that exemplifies your description.
- End by stating that you recommend this person to be approved by the IHA as a Recommended Professional.
- Sign, and place your name and contact info, including telephone and email, below the closing.

The IHA appreciates your generosity in taking the time to write a letter of reference in support of a Recommended Professional Candidate. The utmost care will be taken by the IHA to recommend professionals who believe in Relationship-Based Horsemanship and who practice the ideals upon which the IHA was founded.