

The LH Hoof Care Certification Program For Zoo Professionals

How Do I Begin?

The 5-day Gateway Clinic (GC) is the starting point for the Liberated Horsemanship, LLC (LH) hoof care certification program for zoo professionals. The GC is held once a year in the United States, although in the past we have also held multiple clinics in Canada, Italy, Spain, and the United Kingdom.

GC participants receive extensive hands-on trimming instruction under the supervision of internationally known instructors. Importantly, however, the GC is a hoof care clinic, not just a trimming clinic. Hoof health is determined by many factors. Trimming is one important factor. But hoof health and shape are also significantly influenced by Life Factors, i.e., management practices and environmental conditions. Deficiencies in these areas can undermine the efforts of even the most highly skilled trimmer.

It is imperative that hoof care providers understand this basic premise and, importantly, know that problems caused by Life Factors cannot be fixed by trimming, the application of artificial devices, or invasive procedures. Instead, the Life Factor deficiency must be fixed. Then, proper trimming can facilitate healing. Consequently, during the GC participants receive extensive practical and theoretical information about how Life Factors affect hoof health and shape.



Field Instruction

Students seeking certification in the LH Zoo Hoof Care Certification Program are required to complete two days of field instruction: one day with Ann Corso (606-224-0466 or anncorso@me.com) in Missouri or Kentucky. Then one day with either Steve Hebrock (330-813-5434 or steve@enlightenedequine.com) in Ohio or one day with Dora Hebrock (505-803-2319 or dora.hebrock@icloud.com) in the southwest US.

Field instruction is designed to help you transition what you learned at the GC to working with live animals. It is an opportunity to hone your trimming skills under the supervision of a highly-skilled professional trimmer with years of field experience. Field practicums are also a time to gain practical information about every aspect of hoof care, including safe practices when working up-close with a live animal, and tool use and maintenance.

You can register for field practicums at <http://liberatedhorsemanship.com/fieldinstruction/>. Please contact the instructor to schedule your training date before registering online. The fee for each field practicum is currently \$300. You are also responsible for your travel costs.

On-site Coaching

After you have completed the two required field practicums, Cindy Hall, CZHCP will travel to your zoo to spend a day of instruction and consultation with you about the animals in your care. Cindy is not only an excellent trimmer and instructor; she also understands the best practices in training, safety, and handling currently in use at zoos. LH is the only hoof care training program with a career zoo staff member who is also a Certified Zoo Hoof Care Professional on staff.

The fee for this day is \$950 plus the cost of travel and accommodations.

Final Field Assessment

The final assessment requires a second on-site visit by Cindy Hall at least 90 days after the first visit. She will spend a day evaluating your skills and the hooves of five animals for which you have been the sole hoof care provider since her last visit. If the evaluation is satisfactory, you will be awarded the credential of Certified Zoo Hoof Care Professional (CZHCP). You will receive a Certificate of Accomplishment stating you have successfully completed the LH training program for Zoo Hoof Care Professionals and you will be listed as such on the LH website as an acknowledgment of your accomplishment (there is no fee associated with this listing).

The fee for this visit is \$950 plus travel and accommodations.

Scheduling and Cost

It is possible to complete the program in six months. However, there are no time constraints, and participants can move through the program at their own pace.

Fees can be paid at each step of the program. However, some sponsoring organizations prefer to pay for all phases of the program up front for budgeting purposes. If this is the case, please contact Bruce Nock at brucenock@me.com or Ann Corso at anncorso@me.com to arrange for invoicing.