



Professional Association of Therapeutic
Horsemanship International

"Ensuring excellence and changing lives through equine-assisted activities and therapies"

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NARHA Adopts New Name

Denver – NARHA, formerly the North American Riding for the Handicapped Association, is proud to announce that it is now officially the Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International.

For many years there has been an ongoing dialogue regarding limitations and issues with the name NARHA. The name, which served its purpose exceptionally well since the Association's inception in 1969, was deemed obsolete because the word "handicapped" is inappropriate and outdated terminology; because the name did not convey the breadth of the organization and its disciplines, previously limited to "riding"; and because the name didn't include the mental health field. The board of trustees appointed a name change task force to explore new names with the input of the membership and to test them through research. The ultimate objective was to create a more appropriate and effective name for the organization, especially as it grows and develops in the future.

Based on clear and concise findings, the board of trustees approved the name Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International.

PATH Intl. is the leading professional membership association dedicated to creating, maintaining and improving quality and safety standards for the equine-assisted activities and therapies (EAAT) industry. The industry itself offers physical, cognitive and emotional benefits for people with special needs, including at-risk youth and injured veterans and service personnel. A variety of horse-assisted programs, such as therapeutic riding, carriage driving, interactive vaulting (similar to gymnastics on horseback); equine-facilitated learning; equine-facilitated psychotherapy, ground work; and stable management are provided. The organization promotes and ensures excellence in the EAAT industry through the certification of instructors and the accreditation of centers.

PATH Intl. is excited to move forward with the new name. "We are proud to be an organization that offers safe, ethical and humane practices in the field of EAAT," said CEO Kay Green. "People can rest assured that PATH Intl. and its centers are trusted and operating within business best-practices. We look forward to continuing to be a leader in the EAAT industry."

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About PATH Intl.:

Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International (PATH Intl.), formerly NARHA, was formed in 1969 to promote equine-assisted activities and therapies for individuals with special needs. At more than 800 member centers, a total of 42,000 children and adults

find a sense of independence through involvement with horses. These member centers range from small, one-person programs to large operations with several certified instructors and licensed therapists. In addition to therapeutic equitation, a center may offer any number of equine-assisted activities including hippotherapy, equine-facilitated mental health, driving, interactive vaulting, trail riding, competition, ground work or stable management. Through a wide variety of educational resources, the association helps individuals start and maintain successful equine-assisted activities and therapies for individuals with special needs. There are more than 24,000 volunteers, 2,000 instructors, 5,700 therapy horses and thousands of contributors from all over the world helping people at PATH Intl. centers.