

## A Reason to Spend Time with Your Miniature



I rush back into my house, a little out of breath from the warm temps outside and the recent bending and stooping of grooming and unharnessing my mini after a great afternoon drive. I make a beeline to my computer and eagerly log the hours spent that day.

A few days later, after a lengthy training session with others from my horse club, I again record the hours spent with each horse I worked with that afternoon. What could possibly be so important that I hurriedly record each and every minute that I spend outside with my horses? I can't wait to track my progress in the AMHA Mini Hours Program. My latest log sheet reveals I've now reached the 500-hour milestone level and earned another award!

As a middle-aged amateur of modest means, it isn't always easy to find the time or the budget to attend horse shows. This creative solution for others like me to earn rewards for the time they spend with their horses encourages equestrians like myself to get involved with activities outside the show ring. The only requirements to enroll in the program are AMHA horse ownership and membership- two things that are easily accomplished and hours can be logged with multiple horses during the same time period. And if a relative or friend helps you with your horses, they can also earn hours with that horse if they are a current AMHA member.

This incentive program is perfect for me as I am goal oriented and driven to achieve each new milestone. The program inspires me to practice and not only encourages me to work toward a useful goal, but it's also fun! I find I push myself a little more and the enjoyment of a little competition between friends who are also enrolled make it that much more challenging. Milestones begin at as little as 100 hours and continue to 5000 and more. Prizes can range from stickers, T-shirts to halters with engraved plates, wall plaques or saddle bags.

Reaching a milestone can bring awards just as meaningful as a horse show ribbon that not only allows you to promote your breed but also your accomplishments.

Now if you'll excuse me, I'm off to start working on my 1000 hour milestone!