



## Job Focus: Trainer

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HOW MANY WEEKS A YEAR DO YOU WORK?

Normally I take two weeks off each year. We try to go away for a week, and over the Christmas holidays we take a few easy days.

WHAT IS THE PAY RANGE FOR A TRAINER?

There are a few variables. It depends on the program that a trainer operates, and how many horses or riders they have in training. In a way, with unlimited space, a trainer can take on as many horses and riders as they can, which means a higher income. I am just guessing, but I think there are part-time trainers that keep up with it as a hobby more than anything, all the way up to really huge operations with 50 horses that go to the horse shows every week. The latter can make quite a lot of money!

WHAT DOES A PERSON NEED TO DO TO BECOME A TRAINER?

There really isn't a fixed system for this. The national governing body of the sport offers coaching programs and accreditation, but it isn't a requirement for starting a training stable. This means that people can have no formal education and yet operate a very successful training stable. It's possible that people with the national accreditation may not have nearly as much experience or knowledge as someone with no accreditation at all. It really comes down to the individual's own unique experiences. Certainly time spent as an apprentice with an influential horseperson will add a lot of value and create a foundation for training. Trainers will recall their own experiences showing, coaching, learning and training with their mentors to develop their own programs.

WHAT ARE THE POSITIVES AND NEGATIVES TO BEING A TRAINER?

Being able to train horses for a living is a dream for a horseperson. There may be other careers that are more stable, with more predictable and regular upward mobility, but traveling the world, working with, and developing these amazing animals is something special. There is a real sense of accomplishment when a horse you have trained learns something new or applies its training in the show ring, or even when they are sold to people who will love and appreciate them as they deserve.