

Doctor Wes Elford

I have known Doctor Wes Elford since 2005 but his involvement with the sport of Endurance Riding goes a lot further back than the ten years I've known him. It is hard to pin point exactly when Doctor Wes became involved in his first endurance ride, since AERC does not track this statistic, but as a starting point let us say circa 1996 somewhere in the state of Wisconsin. Since the beginning he has been outstanding ambassador for the sport through riding, vetting, volunteering or legislating rides and committees in nearly every region within the US. He has accumulated more than 2,600 riding miles. He has vetted nearly 100 different rides. He has introduced and mentored nearly 30 different veterinarians into the sport. He has been active in multiple executive committees at the local, regional and national levels. He is an active member of a thriving vet practice in Mayville Wisconsin and trains and conditions his own endurance horses – Suzy Q and Malik. That is just part of the recorded history on Doctor Wes's involvement in the sport. Here is how he impacts others and the sport in a more personal and character fashioning way. Something we are most familiar with:

Teacher – Wes takes time to explain rules to anyone who asks no matter the level of experience, or age or talent of the rider.

Mentor – He is constantly looking for new opportunities to bring veterinarians into the sport.

Rule interpreter – He understands all the endurance disciplines and knows the rules for each. He can be counted on for sound guidance in everything from competitive trail, to endurance; from competitive driving to multiday pioneer rides; from novice to FEI level competition.

Rule enforcer – Wes is no respecter of persons meaning he treats everyone the same, with the utmost respect, equality and dignity. He always plays by the rules which emboldens the integrity of the sport to all.

Care giver – He constantly checks on every equine being completed on before, during, and after an event; often asking to see horse before departing the grounds for home.

Controlling agent – He routinely gives out helpful suggestions to the equine's owner, rider, or handler with the ultimate goal of making for a successful completion for the horse and rider.

Encourager -- Wes is always ready with a kind word of encouragement and a hearty handshake for all participants.

Experienced – As of today there are no veterinarians with more ride and vet experience than Doctor Wes within the country.

Doctor Wes has dedicated his time, effort and resources to help make this sport what it is today. That man who is a consummate professional in any environment, during any scenario, and sometimes under very stressful circumstances. Doctor Wes Elford a righteous man who takes care of his animals. –Gerald Cummings