



INFO SHEET - Effective July 1, 2010

About the Lesson Program:

Riders must wear boots or paddock boots (or shoes with a heel for first lessons). We provide helmets, but it is recommended that you purchase your own if you will be riding on a regular basis. Half chaps are recommended to wear with breeches or jeans.

Lessons are 45 minutes long .

If you (or your child) are still learning to groom and tack up a horse, the time set aside for your lesson will include this instruction. On the average, you will ride for 25 minutes and spend 15 minutes tacking up with 5 minutes at the end for assistance in untacking. As you grow comfortable tacking up, your riding time becomes longer.

Riders who can tack and untack on their own should allow at least 20 minutes before the start time of their lesson to groom and tack up, and will spend 45 minutes riding. Please allow at least 20 minutes after to cool out your horse, groom and clean tack. Please do not put a horse away hot or sweaty. All tack and supplies must be neatly put away. Please sweep out the cross tie area and barn aisle. Horse poop must be cleaned up immediately. If you are the last one to ride your horse at the end of the day, please make sure you put on it's sheet or blanket.

Please be on time! Lessons are scheduled in 45 minute blocks—if you are late, your lesson will still end at the scheduled time.

Learning the various aspects of horsemanship are equally important as learning to ride! Horsemanship lessons include grooming, tack cleaning, horse health, and horse safety. Wet winters give us a chance to focus on more in depth horsemanship and stable management such as grooming , tacking, nutrition, and confirmation.

As riding skills progress, riders who are ready to start jumping should work up to 2 lessons per week. Every rider who jumps must do one flat lesson every week. Riders must be able to sit trot without stirrups, hold the 2 pt easily in the trot and canter, canter confidently in a circle and state what lead they are on, before they are able to start jumping.

Tiny Tot lessons include 15 minutes of grooming time and approx. 15 minutes of riding time, as the child's attention span permits. Some children may only spend 5-10 minutes in the saddle and longer working around the horse on the ground. When riding, these riders learn the basics of walking and halting, and begin basic trotting on the longline. When our youngest riders are ready to do more trot work and have the ability and focus to start riding off the longline, they may join the regular lesson program.

Leasing:

Occasionally, lease situations become available for suitable horse and rider pairs. This enables a rider exclusive use of the leased horse on their lesson days. With our limited amount of lesson horses, leasing is a great way to become part of our program.

A half lease entails: 2 lessons per week for the \$375 half training rate, hacking the horse once per week as schedule allows. Most half lease situations entail paying half of the the horse's board, shoeing and basic vet expenses—these costs may vary as per owner of the horse. A half lease also enables you to show the horse if it can be worked out with owner and rider.

A quarter lease entails: 1 lesson per week for \$120/month at the, payable to the horse's owner. You pay a training rate of \$220/month for your 4 lessons. Additional lessons over 4 per month are charged at the rate of \$55/lesson, you must also pay your horse's owner an additional \$30/lesson. In some situations, you may be able to hack the horse once per week as well.

If a horse is leased that is not part of Ridgemark Farm's program, the owner may have different lease terms. Ridgemark Farm or the horse's owner will provide a lease agreement that suits the needs of both parties and explicitly explains each parties' responsibilities.

Sunday and Monday rides are available on the school horses at the rate of \$30 per ride as available.