

Please try to arrive 1 hour before your scheduled lesson time. Look on the board in the Upper barn for assigned ride and check in with Staff.

BEFORE CATCHING YOUR HORSE:

Pick up your tack and grooming kit from tackroom and claim an area in the Lower barn aisle. Set up your equipment. Please do not set up your equipment where someone else has left their halter/lead tied at the rail.

You will need:

SADDLE, be sure it will fit you

SADDLE PAD, several horses require extra padding

BOUNCE PAD, thick foam for under the saddle

GIRTH, be sure it will fit the horse, they are 42 to 48"

BRIDLE (and MARTINGALE if needed, this keeps a horse from tossing the head)

GROOMING KIT: hoof pick, mane comb, soft and hard brushes, curry

HALTER and LEAD ROPE

RIDING CROP

Go with your class to catch your horse in the pasture. Feel free to bring carrots or apples as treats. Horses that are difficult to catch require a knowledgeable person to assist you the first time. If you are not sure about identifying your mount, please ask for assistance. Lead from the left side and try to avoid stopping for a bite of grass on the way to the barn.

TIE ALL HORSES TO A BALE STRING WITH A SLIP KNOT SO THERE IS NOT TOO MUCH SLACK.

Horses get nervous too—so a soft voice and gentle pats on the neck will help you both to relax.

GROOMING

ALWAYS THOROUGHLY GROOM THE AREA WHERE THE SADDLE AND GIRTH FIT.

CURRY in a circular motion starting at the head and working back to remove visible dirt and mud.

HARD BRUSH with short strokes that flick off the dirt, going from the head to the tail.

SOFT BRUSH the face and legs gently with the same short flicking strokes.

PICK FEET stand with your shoulder next to your horse away from his head, bend down and run your hand closest to the horse down the back of the leg to the hoof. Pick it up when they lift it. You may lean on the horse a bit to ask for the foot. Remove all the dirt and debris without hitting the triangular frog by starting on the outside near the shoe and working inward.

COMB the mane, forelock and tail, remove burrs and such as needed.

NEVER CUT OR PULL ANY HORSE'S MANE OR TAIL

PLEASE LET THE STAFF KNOW IF YOU FIND ANY SWELLING, TENDERNESS OR WOUNDS ON THE HORSES

TACKING UP

WORKING ON THE LEFT SIDE OF THE HORSE:

BLANKET or THIN SADDLE PAD is placed at the base of the mane

BOUNCE PAD is put over the saddle pad also at the end of the mane

SADDLE is *gently* set on top with one hand on the front (POMMEL) and the other on the back (CANTLE)

MOVE TO THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE HORSE

ALWAYS ATTACH NON-ELASTIC SIDE FIRST, ON THE RIGHT. Elastic side goes on the left for ease of tightening. The GIRTH buckles to the 1st and 3rd straps underneath the flap of the saddle on the 2nd or 3rd hole.

MOVE BACK TO THE LEFT SIDE

Buckle the elastic end of the girth to the straps. Try to have the girth on the same holes on both sides.

The BRIDLE should be held by the very top with the right hand. Stand next to the head facing the same way as the horse with the BIT in your LEFT hand and your right arm under the neck, place the bit at the mouth and ask them to take it. Once the bit is in place, put the top over the ears one at a time and fasten all the buckles on the left side:

THROAT LATCH

NOSE BANDS

FLASH NOSE BAND, a thin strap that goes around the nose in front of the bit

MARTINGALE (as needed)

Check that everything is even on either side and fits well. A finger should be able to fit under all straps.

Before leaving the farm, the following must be completed:

1) Remove the bridle and saddle, brush off the saddle area on the horse's back and pick the hooves again. In hot weather, the horses are hosed off at the wash rack and a sweatscrape is used to remove excess water. Be sure to replace any cribbing straps before turn out.

2) Lead the horse back to the pasture. You may offer a treat once you are in the gate and remove the halter. Leave halters on the horses as directed. (Ellie, Gretta)

3) When you return to the barn, collect your tack and **clean the bridle and saddle as directed by staff**. Put the equipment away neatly in the tackroom. Please hang wet or damp saddle pads upside down so they will dry.

4) In the barn, pick up any manure left by your horse and put it in the wheelbarrow. Use a bucket of water to wash away urine, then thoroughly sweep the aisle clean. Put all trash and hair in a trashcan. The wheelbarrow should be emptied when full by walking it out to the pasture behind the barn and spreading it around the grass.

Thank You!