



Our Lesson Program

Riders brand new to us are asked to complete an evaluation lesson. Evaluations are 45 to 50 minutes total in time. Riders new to horses in general will be shown how to tack up, and will be taught barn rules and all around lesson safety. Riders with experience will be assessed for their level of horsemanship, and shown where horses are pastured, tacked up and where their tack is located.

A short tour of the facility will be given to parents and riders before the start of the assessment, and parents are encouraged to join in the groundwork and horsemanship evaluation so that they can become familiar with our practises.

The riding, or mounted portion of the evaluation will be 30 minutes, during which the student's level of riding will be assessed so we can ensure an optimum fit into an appropriate lesson. Post evaluation, students will be assigned to mounts appropriate to their level of riding and will be matched with students of similar ability.

Once ready and having shown the desired level of dedication, horsemanship and skill, riders will be invited to join the SugarTide Equestrian Academy and have the opportunity to go to horseshows throughout the year all over Calgary and the surrounding areas. This is not mandatory but an option for riders to work on as a goal for the year. More information about upcoming horse shows can be found at our website www.sugartide.ca and by talking to your coach.

Our Policies

Group lessons are never more than four riders, which gives students a chance for individualized attention as well as the opportunity to watch fellow riders in their lesson and learn from one another. Lessons follow a structure which compromises at least half of the lesson focusing on flatwork, and the other half on jumping. Some lessons will be entirely flatwork at the discretion on your coach, as flatwork and jumping are equally important to improving your riding.

A group lesson that consists of three or four riders is 50-60 minutes, if for any reason, your group lesson comprises two or fewer riders (usually due to the other riders being ill or away), the lesson is then a 30-40 minute semi-private. The horses and riders experience the same amount of work and attention in each of these cases and we enforce this rule to properly govern the horse's workloads.

Clients will be invoiced via email, and payments are due upon receipt. Email money transfer is preferred but cheques are also accepted. We regret that we do not accept cash.

Lessons must be used within the month for which they are invoiced. If you cannot make a lesson, **24 hours' notice must be given or you will be billed for the lesson and forego any opportunity for a make up lesson.** Make up lessons can be scheduled with your instructor regarding cancellations made prior to 24 hours before the lesson time.

The minimum lesson package to qualify for the monthly package rate is 4 lessons per month. If riders wish to ride less than 4 sessions per month, the single lesson fee will apply.

Riders must arrive 20-30 minutes prior to the start of their lesson to ensure they have time to properly groom and tack up their horse. It is the rider's responsibility to have their assigned horse ready and prepared before each lesson. Those still learning will have the guidance of helpers until such time as they are confident enough to be able to tack up by themselves.

Equipment

For those brand new to horses, it is acceptable to wear any boots with a heel, given that they are sturdy and not heavily embellished, and you may wear jeans or most other comfortable trousers. We have helmets available for new students to use.

We recommend an eventual purchase of the equipment listed below:

Approved riding helmet



Riding Chaps



Riding Boots



Riding Gloves



Riding Crop



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