# **General Rules & Code of Conduct**

## **Liability Waivers**

All students, family and guests are required to sign a liability waiver. Download the waiver from our website prior to visiting and place signed waivers in the appropriate box in the lower barn. Printed copies are available in the lower barn if needed.

Waivers are required for everyone who has contact with the horses!

### **Safety Basics**

- All riders, family and guests must wear close-toed shoes around horses.
- Helmets are required for all riders under 18. All riders are encouraged to wear a helmet.
- All riders, family and guests must follow the rules and direction of Liberty Equestrian Center staff.

### **Riding Apparel**

- SEI approved riding helmet
- Long pants
- Boots with a 1/4 to 1/2" heel.
- "Barn clothes" they will get dirty!

### **Dress Code**

Appropriate apparel is mandatory at Liberty Equestrian Center. Keep in mind that parents and little kids are looking up to you all the time. Liberty Equestrian Center enforces a dress code that is appropriate at the farm and when you are showing horses with us. All riders should wear long pants. Shorts and capris are not appropriate when working with or around horses. Tank tops are fine, please wear the appropriate undergarments. If Tom or any other staff feels your clothing is inappropriate, you will be asked to change it immediately.

#### **Minors**

Children 15 and under are required to have parental supervision when not in lessons. This means that a parent or guardian must remain with the student until greeted by the instructor. All minors will need to be responsible for their own food/drinks/sunscreen/clothing while at the farm. Minors are expected to follow barn rules and follow adult requests. If damage at the barn is incurred by a minor, the minor's guardians will be responsible for payment to repair damages.

### **Handbook & Rules**

Tom reserves the right to adjust rules, prices, and make exceptions to policies as he deems appropriate. The most up-to-date handbook is available for download from the website. Major updates will be communicated to all enrolled students via email.

## **Notifications of Closing/Cancellations**

All closings and cancellations of our facility will be announced in several ways (email, call/text, Facebook).

#### **Barn Behavior**

All riders and guests must abide by all safety regulations and postings. Students who refuse to listen to instructors or become combative/argumentative with the teaching staff will be dismissed from that lesson/horsemanship class. If such behavior becomes a recurring issue, the student may be dismissed from all activities without refund.

# Stay safe

- No smoking Liberty Equestrian Center is a smoke-free environment
- Do not ride in pastures, barns, or walkways
- Bareback riding is not allowed outside of the arenas
- No cell phones or chewing gum while riding
- Do not swap horses if you are riding a horse you do not own
- Be respectful of lessons and classes. If the arena is too busy or you are moving at a different pace from the class, the trainer may ask you to leave.
- Remember to use the Buddy-System for both getting horses and riding.

# Clean up after yourself & your horse

• Remove manure from arenas, walkways and aisles promptly

- Sweep aisles and walkways after use
- Remove dirt, hair and manure from bathing area after each use
- Dispose of trash in the provided bins
- Liberty Equestrian Center will close down areas for use if these rules are not followed (i.e. bathing areas).
- Please police each other- let us work together to keep our barns clean!

### Store treats and food properly

- All horse feed, supplements, and treats must be stored in the feed room
- Return feed buckets to the feed room after use
- No human food storage is allowed in the barns

### Respect fellow riders and staff

- The living space (upper level of house) is private property. Respect their privacy.
- Refrain from running and shouting in the barns and around the horses
- Do not use a stall without permission from the stall boarder
- All dogs must be on a leash and are not allowed in the arenas

## Keep our horses healthy & safe

- Do not feed your horse extra grain or hay unless approved by Tom in advance. Our staff monitors food intake to ensure horses and getting proper nutrition and indicates any changes in health.
- Do not feed treats to horses without permission from the owner
- Close and latch all pasture, paddock, and arena gates behind you
- Inform LEC staff immediately if a horse is injured or loose

## Tack Use & Storage of School Tack

School tack is to be kept in the small (lower) barn. School tack may not be used without permission and should always be returned promptly. If you use a saddle, put the dust cover back. If you use a bridle, hang it back on the hook. Tack should never be left out or on the ground. Do not take school tack home without permission from Tom. Treat school tack with respect.

#### **Tack Lockers**

Tack lockers are available for rent on a limited basis for \$10 per month. Lockers are assigned by Tom. Boarders are responsible to keep their locker clean and tidy at all times. Tack locker doors must be kept closed at all times. Food and treats may not be stored in tack lockers. Do not use screws or nails to alter the locker without permission. Liberty Equestrian Center has the right to open any tack locker at any time.

#### **Student Tack Room**

Tom assigns tack spots in the upper barn tack room. Each student must keep their area clean and tidy and within the designated spot provided. Liberty Equestrian Center does not have extra room for unused tack. Please store your excess tack at your own home.

### **Show Tack and Supplies**

All riders who show horses with us are expected to purchase their own show sheets, sleazies, polo wraps, shipping boots, standing wraps, show pads, etc. If you use any Liberty Equestrian Center supplies or equipment for a show, you are responsible for washing them and putting them back within three days. If you are using Liberty Equestrian Center tack and notice extreme wear or something breaks, please let LEC staff know ASAP so they can decide if it can be fixed or needs to be replaced.

# **Riding Options at Liberty Stables**

## **Horsemanship Classes**

Our Horsemanship Classes are the best option for youth and adults to be introduced to horseback riding. Classes run 1.5 hours with a minimum of three instructors and maximum of seven riders. Horsemanship classes cannot be made-up if missed. Session registration occurs on a quarterly basis. Sessions start at \$450.00 for 10 classes. If more than one (1) horsemanship class is canceled by Liberty Equestrian Center due to bad weather, accommodations will be made. On quarters where we have 10 or 11 lessons, the rate is adjusted accordingly.

#### Lessons

Liberty Equestrian Center offers several options for lessons. New riders are encouraged to participate in Horsemanship Classes until they are ready to advance to group lessons.

#### **Private**

- One hour in length
- If you are approved to do so, you may arrive to the barn 30 minutes prior to your lesson time to catch, groom, and tack up your horse
- If you need help catching, grooming, and tacking up your horse, your instructor will assist you as part of your one hour lesson

#### **Group**

- Weekly
- 3-5 riders
- One hour in length
- This option is only for students who are capable and approved to tack up assigned horses prior to the lesson. Instructors will not be able to assist you in the process of getting your horse or tacking up

#### **Rates**

Lesson rates are based on a tuition payment model. Payment is the same per month whether you have four or five scheduled lessons in a given month. Lessons will not be held during weeks including major holidays (Easter, 4<sup>th</sup> of July, Christmas). During holiday months, you may only have three lessons. This balances with the three months per year where you may have five lessons in a month but pay for four.

Private Lessons (weekly)	\$240/Month
Private Lesson (less than weekly)	\$65/Lesson
Group Lesson (weekly)	\$185/Month
Group Lesson (add-on)	\$50/Lesson
Little Tykes (ages 5 & under)	\$30/30 Minutes
Practice Ride	\$35/Ride
(10) Group Lesson Package (6 months to use)	\$475/Package
(10) Ride on Your Own Package (6 months to use)	\$250/Package

<sup>\*</sup>Practice Rides and 10 Group Lesson package are for current LEC lesson students only. Approval required.

# **Cancellation & Make-Up Policy**

Please provide 24 hours advance notice if you need to cancel your lesson. Advanced notice allows both our instructors and other students to fill openings and schedule make-ups.

On rare occasions, we may cancel lessons due to sick instructors or inclement weather. All make-up lessons must be scheduled within 4 weeks of your missed/canceled lesson.

Client-canceled lessons will be able to be rescheduled ONLY with a 24 hour advance notice. However, we understand students sometimes wake up ill in which case you MUST CONTACT YOUR INSTRUCTOR BY 9:00 A.M. THE DAY OF YOUR LESSON in order for us to honor a make-up lesson.

Lessons are non-refundable. If payment is not remitted on the first lesson of the month, you will forfeit that lesson and it is not refundable. Email Liberty Equestrian Center to schedule your make-up.

### **Leasing Horses & Ponies - For Lesson Students Only**

If you are not ready to own your own horse, but want more riding time, Liberty Equestrian Center offers a leasing program that will cater to your needs and riding experience. Riders leasing can use Liberty Equestrian Center tack. If using personal tack, all tack must fit the horse properly and be approved by LEC staff ahead of time. Leaseholders are not responsible for veterinary or farrier costs. Lease horses cannot leave Liberty Equestrian Center property without Tom's permission. Leases are subject to availability of horse(s) and LEC staff approval. Contact us for registration: libertyequestriancenter@gmail.com

#### **Full Lease**

Full leases are \$500/month. Full leases include one group lesson weekly and an additional four rides per week. Full leases will receive priority with on-site and off-site events, such as clinics and shows. All horse rental fees for such events are included in the lease.

#### **Half Lease**

Half leases are \$350/month. Half leases include one group lesson weekly and an additional two rides per week. Half-leases will receive priority with on-site and off-site events, such as clinics and shows. All horse rental fees for such events are included in the lease.

## **Ground & Groom Package**

Created for those who want additional non-riding time with horses, Liberty Equestrian Center offers a Ground and Groom Package. In the package, you have 10, 1-hour visits with a horse that you are welcome to groom, lunge, practice showmanship, and enjoy their company. Cost for the package is \$100 and must be used within 6 months of purchase.

# **Horse Shows**

Any student who is enrolled in our lesson program and owns or leases a horse may participate in the off-site horse shows Liberty Equestrian Center attends. All students are encouraged to participate in on-site mock & fun shows. Upcoming shows will be posted on the website, Facebook page, and announced via email. A \$50 non-refundable deposit is required a minimum of two weeks prior to the show. You may use your own horse and tack or your leased horse and school tack. You are responsible for your own show clothes.

We require a minimum of three horses to attend a show. If lack of participants prevents us from attending, your deposit check will be refunded in full. If we have too many interested riders, trailer spots will be filled on a first (deposit) paid, first served basis.

### **Show Fees**

Varies depending on # classes, stalls, bedding etc... You are responsible for paying these fees directly to the show office.

Hauling (per horse, depends on # of horses)	\$0.85-\$1.00/mile
Coaching (one-day show)	\$75/Rider
Coaching (two-day show)	\$100/Rider
Lodging (split between families)	Varies
Horse Rental (one-day show)	\$75/Horse
Horse Rental (two-day show)	\$100/Horse
Show Tack Rental (non-LEC horse)	\$45/Horse
Equipment Rental (non-LEC horse)	\$10/Horse
Show Clipping (face, bridle path, legs, etc.)	\$15/Horse
Mane Banding	\$30/Horse
Hunter Braids	\$50/Horse
Arabian Braids	\$30/Horse
Tail Braid (to accompany hunter braids)	\$20/Horse

All riders are responsible for preparing their horse the day before the show. This includes bathing, grooming, and clipping. Liberty Equestrian Center will haul your horse, but you are responsible for your own transportation the day of the show. You must be present at the barn to load your horse/tack on the trailer, unload at the show, remain with your horse throughout the day, load after the show, and unload your horse/tack back at the barn. All participants must assist with trailer, barn, and other applicable clean up after the show.

After each show, you will receive an invoice for the total for both Liberty Equestrian Center services and any show fees. These invoices must be paid within 48 hours. If payment is not received within 48 hours, a late fee will be added to your bill.

Liberty Equestrian Center does not provide clippers, blades, bands, yarn, etc. for boarder horses. The day of the show there are many basic grooming and horse care responsibilities that Liberty Equestrian Center cannot be responsible for. A parent or groom will need to accompany all minors and new students for the entire show day.

# **Boarding**

At Liberty Equestrian Center, we have 3 boarding options: Stall, Paddock, or Pasture.

#### Stall Board includes:

- Up to 1 scoop of grain twice daily
- Daily grazing or access to hay via slow feed hay nets
- Daily turnout in pasture or small paddocks
- Tack locker/storage
- Stalls cleaned 7 days a week, 365 days a year
- Full use of amenities: arenas, trails, wash racks, etc.

#### All Paddock or Pasture includes:

- Daily grazing or access to hay via slow feed hay nets
- Run in shelter
- Full use of amenities: arenas, trails, wash racks, etc.

#### **Current Rates**

Stall Board (12x12) with Turnout	\$484.36/Month (\$511 w/tax)
Stall Board (10x10) with Turnout	\$464.46/Month (\$490 w/tax)
Stall Rest (no turnout)	\$499.53/Month (\$527 w/tax)
Rough Board (no grain)	\$304.27/Month (\$321 w/tax)
Rough Board (with grain)	\$334.60/Month (\$353 w/tax)
Rough Board (with meds/supplements)	\$345.02/Month (\$364 w/tax)
Private/Semi Private Paddock	\$374.41/Month (\$395 w/tax)

<sup>\*</sup>Prices are subject to change. It is possible for prices to increase due to extreme weather, increased hay/bedding costs, etc.

### **Add-Ons**

Boarder-Provided Meds/Supplements (stall board)	\$10/Month
Quarantine Fee (new horses/LEC discretion)	\$10/Day
Hold for Vet/Farrier (scheduled)	\$5/Visit

Hold for Vet/Farrier (emergent)	\$20/Visit
Weekly Group Lessons (for boarders)	\$175/Month
Daily Stall Board (for rough boarders as needed)	\$25/Day
Trailer Parking (limited space available)	\$15/Month
Bute	\$10/Gram
Banamine	\$25/Dose

### **Boarding Rules**

**Vaccines:** LEC mandatory vaccines include: EEE, WEE, Tetanus, Influenza, Strangles, Rhino and West Nile. Rabies and fall vaccines are highly recommended.

**Boarding Agreements & Trailering Agreements:** All boarders must have a signed agreement on-file with LEC.

**Quarantine:** All horses coming into Liberty Equestrian Center should expect to be quarantined. Due to the nature of outbreaks/exposures, quarantines will vary with regards to time limits. Contact the LEC email directly with questions or concerns.

**Tack:** Horse owners are required to purchase their own tack. Liberty Equestrian Center cannot be held responsible for tack that has been left unattended at the farm for several months. Any unclaimed tack or supplies left at the barn will become the property of Liberty Equestrian Center after 90 days.

**Stalls:** Stall boarders can tack up in their stall or cross-ties. If you want to clean your stall at any time, bring the wheelbarrow to your stall and take your poop to the poop pit. Do not strip your stall. If you are found to be stripping your stalls you may be charged an extra bedding fee of \$25 per incident.

**Farrier:** Liberty Equestrian Center's farrier is Tom Blake. You are responsible for keeping your horse's feet up to date with trims and schedule your own appointments with Tom.

**Vet:** Liberty Equestrian Center's veterinarian is Irongate Equine. Barn visits are scheduled for routine wellness checks and immunizations. Bills will be sent directly to you. We try to schedule barn visits for everyone's convenience. If you cannot be present, there will be a \$5 charge to hold your horse for the vet.

**Damages:** Liberty Equestrian Center will be responsible for minor property damages of up to \$100 per year, per horse. Any damages above and beyond this cost will be the responsibility of the horse owner. Damages are not limited to the horse, but also include damages caused by the owner, owner's children, and guests. Kick chains, cribbing collars, grazing muzzles, etc. are also the responsibility of the owner. All damages must be reported in a timely manner to Liberty Equestrian Center's staff. Failure to do so may result in additional cost for repairs.

# **Payments**

Liberty Equestrian Center accepts cash, check, and PayPal. Checks and cash can be placed in the payments box in the lower barn. Board paid via PayPal will be charged an additional 3% convenience fee.

Board payments are due on the first of the month. If board payment is not received by the 3rd of the month, an additional \$25 late fee will be added to your cost.

If board and/or lesson payments are paid 6+ months in advance, discounts may apply. Please contact LEC if this relates to you.

### **Additional Fees**

**Private Hauling:** Hook-up fee is \$25: \$1.50 per mile (subject to change based on fuel costs)

**Seller's Fee:** 10% of the sale

**Buyer's Fee:** Cost is \$65 per hour from departing Liberty Equestrian Center to arriving back. This includes all preparatory work as well (searching, communicating, and trailering).

# **Liberty Equestrian Center Contacts**

Email: libertyequestriancenter@gmail.com

Owner: Tom Blake (608) 445-0987

Manager: Beth Bassinger (724) 664-8463

Farrier: Tom Blake (608) 445-0987

Vet Clinic: Irongate Equine (608) 845-6006