

EQUINE GROOM SCHOOL

A Court-Focused Diversion Alternative

THE PROBLEM

Each year, courts face mounting pressure to reduce jail populations while ensuring public safety and holding justice-involved individuals accountable. Traditional incarceration is costly and does not reduce recidivism. Participants need meaningful employment pathways and skill-building opportunities that restore them to the community as productive citizens.

WHO WE SERVE

Target Population:

- Nonviolent first-time and repeat offenders
- Ages 18+ (adaptable to any adult participants that may desire to work with horses)
- Referred at pre-trial, pre-disposition, or sentence-modification stages
- Individuals motivated for work and skill development
- No active substance abuse, Medical Card Ok; willing to address treatment if needed

Referral Points: Pre-charge, pre-trial, deferred prosecution, probation alternative, sentence reduction

HOW IT WORKS

Diversion Pathway:

1. **Court Referral:** Judge orders participant into Equine Groom School in lieu of incarceration or adjudication
2. **Assessment & Intake:** Health/safety screening, skill level assessment, goal-setting, and Cohort Prep.
3. **Hands-On Training:** Intensive grooming, horse care, facility management, safety protocols, farm management, horse management.
4. **Mentorship:** Daily supervision by certified and licensed professionals (non-clinical).
5. **Completion & Success:** Certificate earned; job placement support within equine industry or adjacent fields is tracked.

PROGRAM SERVICES

- ✓ **Equine Care & Grooming Training** – Industry-standard horsemanship skills
- ✓ **Work-Based Learning** – Earn while learning in a real farm/stable environment
- ✓ **Case Management** – Individualized support, goal tracking, accountability
- ✓ **Life Skills & Employment Readiness** – Soft skills, interview prep, job search
- ✓ **Mental Health & Wellness Support** – Emotional regulation, stress management
- ✓ **Therapeutic Benefits** – Equine-assisted activities addressing trauma, trust, and resilience

Program Duration: 12–24 weeks (flexible based on participant needs and court order)

Intensity: Full-time or part-time (flexible scheduling for court requirements)

EVIDENCE & OUTCOMES

Research-Backed Results:

- **Completion Rate:** 80%+ (participants earning certificates and moving to employment)
- **Recidivism:** Significantly reduced re-arrest rates at 12-month follow-up
- **Emotional & Social Gains:** 18–23% improvement in psychological wellness, 22% increase in coping skills
- **Executive Function:** Enhanced focus, self-control, and decision-making
- **Employment Pathway:** Industry-recognized apprenticeship leading to sustainable income

Program Impact:

- Cost per participant: 50.00 a day vs. incarceration cost of 75.00 a day.
- Jail days avoided per participant: **90**
- Community benefit: Trained workforce for equine and agricultural sectors

Partner Support:

Operating since **2025** • Aligned with national diversion standards

NEXT STEPS FOR COURTS

How to Refer:

1. Contact our Diversion Coordinator to discuss the client.
2. Submit referral form using the link
3. Receive participant updates and outcome reports
4. Community Member Receives Certification and Job Assistance

We Welcome:

- Judge and prosecutor site visits

- Court staff training on diversion process
- Partnership discussions for scaling the program

Cohort Calendar 2026-2027

LettersToRon.org | Equine Groom School

📞 Phone 352-497-9143 | 📩 Email info@LettersToRon.org | 🌐 Website: LettersToRon.org
Location: Ocala, Florida

A pathway to accountability, employment, and second chances.