



Frequently Asked Questions

Training Questions:

Q: My horse is coming in for training. What should I send with them?

A: The less you send, the less that has the potential of getting lost! However, there are a few staples we ask everyone to send- leather or breakaway halter for turnout, turnout clothes (minimally a rain sheet to keep off mud and wet) and any special supplements your horse may be on. This does not mean send a pharmacy! If your horse is on a half dozen different supplements, do not be surprised if we review these and start making different suggestions. Also, bell boots if necessary.

If your horse is also going to be shown, or hauled to shows for schooling, please include a clean nylon sheet in good repair (Navy or Gray is preferred) and a clean leather halter if your horse's head is either larger or smaller than the average. We always have a few on hand to loan for the short term. Additionally, some alternative turnout blanket layers may be required if we are attempting to also keep a show coat on your horse while in training.

Of course, there is also the required paperwork of a signed agreement, rabies, and coggins. This "paperwork" can be in digital format, however.

Show Questions:

Q: What do day fees cover?

A: Day Fees cover your schooling / arena coaching fees (similar to a lesson fee) for the day, as well as a percent of consumable products we keep on hand for all customers (fly spray, show sheen, hoof polish, safety pins, towels, wraps, poultice, 1st aid, liniments, bath supplies, etc.) , per diem for DGSB, as well as a percent of the additional help that must be hired to cover everything at home. Day Fees are calculated on a flexible scale which is dependent not only on the length of the show, but also the number of customers attending. *Average* daily expense usually falls very close to what a standard lesson fee is.

Q: What if I bring all my own consumable supplies?

A: You are more than welcome to do this. We know that many people find it soothing to know they have everything their horse may need on hand. You will still be charged for day fees however, and we also ask that you try to minimize the volume of stuff that you bring. Tack stalls are split among multiple customers and are finite in space. If you simply can NOT minimize your “footprint of stuff”, we may ask that you get your own tack stall.

Q: What if I’m not available to feed my horse, clip, or help load/unload the trailer, etc?

A: Don’t worry. In practice there is a designated AM feeder (usually someone on grounds or will be first person in) and a designated PM feeder (usually DGSH). We just ask that if your horse isn’t a resident of DGSH (therefore on a different feed program) that you have grain meals made up, ready to go, and clearly labelled for the designated feeder. If you are unavailable for whatever reason to clip or bathe your horse or otherwise prep your horse to show, we will provide all those services for a fee. Remember, horses that DGSH is showing exclusively- ie. Open only- are exempt from this charge/requirement.

Q: All my stall front bags, chairs, etc... are <insert color OTHER than NAVY here> can I still bring them?

A: Sure can! At smaller, regional shows, the aisleway rules regarding uniformity are more relaxed. At larger shows, you can still bring and use them, we just ask that they stay in the tack stall / feed stall / out of the main area.

Q: My horse is in training, but they are only showing with me in the Am/Youth. Will you still ride my horse for schooling?

A: This is a loaded question. The answer is- it depends on a number of factors. How green is your horse? If your horse is relatively new to showing, or green to certain events, then yes, I’ll likely put a few schooling rides on them. The same goes for you- the rider. If you’re pretty new to showing or a certain event, then I will also probably school your horse. The only time I will *not* is when both you and your horse are experienced and have enough miles under your cumulative “belt” to make my schooling ride an unfair addition to your horse’s workload. To be truly successful in the show pen you must know your horse like the back of your hand. This knowledge only comes from time in the saddle- both at home AND at the show. Please realize that your schooling time will come after the Open only horses and either after or during my schooling rides on the green show horses.

Q: I want to make other plans- like dinner and drinks with my friends. When might I expect to get schooled?

A: We understand that for Amateurs in particular, horse shows are as much about vacation as they are competition. We are hired specifically to see to the competitive aspect of it first, for all customers, and the social side second. To this end, our priority list for schooling is as follows:

1) Riding horses showing exclusively in Open. 2) Riding / Schooling green horses showing Am/Youth. 3) Schooling broke horses and all skill level of riders. (3b. extra work for really green riders) 4) Horses attending show just for schooling ("tourists")

Factors that may influence this list: Class schedule. Designated schooling times. Horse workload. etc... For example- you may have a horse that's very green but doesn't show for a few DAYS yet... aside from making sure they are settled to their environment, that horse would not be a schooling priority until all horses that were showing immediately were schooled.