



THE NATURAL CONNECTION INC
FOUNDATIONAL HORSE TRAINING CONTRACT

Horse Trainer: Jean French DBA The Natural Connection INC
202-704-9719
naturalconnectionprogram@gmail.com
www.naturalconnectioninc.com

Service offered: Foundational horse training is offered in 4 week increments. It is expected in this program that horses in training work 3 days in a row, then take the 4th day off and then resume training again for another 3 days and so on and so forth. This allows horses the time for muscles to recover from soreness, an expectation of foundational horse training. This training is particularly useful for horses needing to be started with groundwork and eventually under-saddle. It is suggested that horses under age 3 and over the age of 15 not participate in this training due to the strenuous nature of the work. Ideally, horses will learn 13 groundwork exercises and at least be started under-saddle in a roundpen setting, repeating one rein stops at the walk, trot and canter, in “au natural” form, by the end of 4 weeks. This work will be done with western tack and performed by Jean French. (In the event that Jean French is out of commission due to an unforeseen circumstance, with approval of the owner of the horse in training, she will find an approved rider to take her place in the saddle, but the training will continue and resume under her tutelage.) Foundational horse training also includes 14 under-saddle exercises. However, it is expected that the total of 14 under-saddle exercises will not be completed until the end of the second 4 week increment. It is highly suggested to the horse owner to choose to do a total of no less than 3 (three) 4 week increments, as the third 4 week increment will focus on putting mileage on the horse both in the arena and potentially, out on the trail. Each 4 week training increment costs \$1600.00, payable via Zelle or Venmo only. No checks or cash are accepted. Payment is due prior to the start of training. There are no refunds but training can be postponed.

Facility: Your facility must have a full size arena with good footing that allows the trainer to do work at the walk, trot and canter on the ground and under-saddle. A round pen is preferred with the arena.

**Important factors:**

Horses are incredibly tough yet delicate creatures. They rely heavily on many factors daily to feel comfortable and capable of being around humans, let alone learning from them. Ms. Jean will mention these factors if they are going to potentially affect your horse's training. Rescheduling may be necessary to keep everyone safe, especially if these factors are "stacked" and the horse is feeling overwhelmed by multiple issues. Below is a list to strongly consider, but keep in mind, other factors may arise:

- Herd dynamics - if a horse has been living isolated and away from the herd, they will have a number of behaviors that may be more challenging for the human during training. It's always suggested that the horse's live in a herd environment, as the herd members help horses feel safe, feel accepted in their hierarchy and accepted for what they offer to the herd. If living alone, they inevitably challenge the human to see if they can assert dominance as the leader of the herd of two.
- Weather - Horses are very affected by weather changes, barometric pressure, wind, sleet, snow, rain, lightning and thunder.
- Unplanned sounds - Sounds like gunshots, fireworks, sirens and other man-made sounds can easily put a horse in the flight zone and many horses cannot focus when they feel unsafe.
- Unplanned moments - Wildlife, foxhunts, other animals causing a ruckus.

Horse health:

It is expected that if you are considering signing this contract, Ms. Jean has already been to your facility and approved the facility and your horse for use during foundational training. You will be expected to continue to have an open communication during the training process so both the trainer and owner can monitor the horse's health. This includes being sure the horse has ample forage, turn out, water access, shelter, a proper nutritional diet, hoof care, and any need for veterinary care.

IT IS HIGHLY ADVISEABLE TO HAVE YOUR HORSE ON SOME TYPE OF PRE AND PROBIOTICS DURING TRAINING. STRESS DUE TO TRAINING CAN CAUSE GASTROINTESTINAL UPSET. A PRO AND PREBIOTIC CAN ASSIST IN PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE FOR STOMACH UPSET DUE TO ULCERS AND OTHER STOMACH RELATED ISSUES THAT COULD LEAD TO COLIC, ETC.



It is not uncommon to discover unplanned health, medical or physical issues with horses, as training progresses. It is important to remember the horse's health must always be first. So the trainer may request a temporary break from training and will not resume training until the request of time off, or maybe a veterinary or farrier visit has been completed and the horse has been approved to go back to work. THIS IS ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT IF YOUR HORSE STARTED FOUNDATIONAL TRAINING WITH PRE-EXISTING CONDITIONS.

Foundational horse training timeline:

In order for your horse to learn, he/she must be “available” to do so. That includes:

- Emotional availability: Is the horse comfortable working with the human? Is the horse herd bound? Is the horse wanting to engage in a dialogue with the trainer? Does the horse have pre-existing trauma?
- Physical capability: Is the horse comfortable in all the gaits? Is the horse sound and capable of isolating body parts, working for 45 minutes to 90 minutes every day for 3 days straight? Can the horse trot and canter for long periods of time and stay sound and comfortable?
- Mental acuity: Is the horse comfortable learning the exercises and remembering them day to day? Is the horse engaging in the human to horse dialogue willingly and building a better dialogue as the training progresses? Horse training involves a lot of providing the horse with options and it's desirable to see that the horse is making progress in making the right choice and understanding why the wrong choice is purposefully made more difficult.

Please be mindful that the process for foundational horse training is not linear. Due to the many factors mentioned in this horse training contract, horse owners should be open minded to their horse's timeline and journey. Horses must be healthy, sound, curious and yet relaxed, in order to learn. That means the environment should be indicative of a comfortable and friendly atmosphere for the horse to engage in an open dialogue with the human. Every training session must end on a positive note.



This contract is enforceable in the State of Virginia.

I, the undersigned, agree to the terms set forth by Jean French DBA The Natural Connection INC., in order to engage in this 4 week horse training contract.

HORSE OWNER PRINT FULL NAME

DATE

HORSE OWNER SIGNATURE

Please circle which training block you are starting. For future blocks, you will initial beside the appropriate box to signify continuing training.

1st 4 WEEK TRAINING

2nd 4 WEEK TRAINING

3rd 4 WEEK TRAINING

JEAN FRENCH DBA THE NATURAL CONNECTION INC
SIGNATURE

DATE