

Lesson Policies & Expectations

At Brawley Farms, we are committed to maintaining a safe, respectful, and structured environment that allows both riders and horses to thrive. To support this goal, we ask all students and families to adhere to the following barn policies and expectations.

Lesson Commitment & Progression

- **Minimum Lesson Requirement:** All riders are required to commit to at least **two lessons per week** to ensure consistent progress, safety, and skill development.
- **Lesson Duration:** Lessons range from **30 minutes to an hour and a half in length**, depending on the number of students in the group and the trainer's discretion. Each session includes both riding time and unmounted instruction. Additional time is allocated for **grooming, tacking, and untacking**, so riders should plan to be involved in the full process from start to finish.
- **Skill-Based Milestones:**
 - Riders **may not canter** until they can:
 - Post the trot on the lunge line without reins
 - Hold a proper two-point position
 - Sit the trot without stirrups while maintaining control of the horse
 - Riders **may not jump** until they are able to:
 - Hold a correct two-point position at the canter for **three full laps** around the covered arena
 - Demonstrate proficiency in riding **without stirrups**

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Proper Attire for Riding Lessons

To ensure safety, comfort, and a professional appearance, all riders are expected to arrive for lessons in appropriate riding attire. Dressing correctly not only allows for better movement and instruction, but also shows respect for the sport and the horses we work with.

- **Clothing:** Riders should wear **form-fitting shirts or jackets**, paired with a **belt**. Loose or baggy clothing is not permitted, as it can interfere with riding and safety equipment.
- **Footwear:** Proper riding boots are required. Riders must wear either **paddock boots with a heel** or **tall field boots**. **Cowboy boots, dress boots, rubber boots, or fashion boots** are not allowed, as they do not offer the correct support or safety. **Well-polished boots** are encouraged as part of maintaining a neat, professional appearance.

- **Helmets:** A helmet is required for all riders, including adults. Helmets must be ASTM-certified and properly fitted for safety. We strongly recommend helmets **without adjustable dials**, as these often do not provide the same level of fit and protection.
- **Hair:** Hair must be **pulled back neatly** to maintain a tidy and safe appearance. The use of an **equestrian hairnet** is preferred, especially for riders with long hair.

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General Barn Conduct

- Riders must follow all **trainer instructions** and treat others—both people and horses—with **respect** at all times.
- **Cruelty to horses** or inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated under any circumstances.
- **No chewing gum** while riding or working around horses.
- Riders must clean up after themselves, including:
 - **Cleaning bits** and wiping or cleaning tack after use
 - **Sweeping** their grooming area and **picking up manure** when needed
 - **Brushing off saddle pads** before placing them in the laundry
 - **Putting away all equipment** in its proper place
- In cooler months, if a rider removes a horse's blanket or sheet, they must ensure the horse is properly **cooled out and blanketed again before leaving**.

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Riding & Hacking Privileges

- **Hacks (independent rides)** are available to approved, competent riders at a rate of **\$50.00 per ride**.
- Riders approved to hack must:
 - **Never jump** without a trainer present
 - Only ride on the flat with **someone else present at the barn** in case of emergency
- Trail rides are permitted **only for approved riders** who have demonstrated control and responsibility in the arena.

- All horses must wear a **standing or running martingale** during mounted work, unless instructed otherwise by a trainer.

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Driving Safety on Barn Property

The safety of our riders, horses, and visitors is a top priority at Brawley Farms. We ask all drivers to exercise extreme caution when entering, exiting, and driving on barn property.

- **Do not drive around the arena side of the barn.** This area is in close proximity to working horses and riders, and vehicle movement here can **spook horses and create a dangerous situation.**
- Drivers may either:
 - **Pull around the opposite (non-arena) side of the barn,** where traffic is safely separated from riding areas, **or**
 - **Exit back onto the main road and re-enter** through the **other driveway entrance** to loop around.

Please observe a 10 mph speed limit at all times on the property, stay alert for horses, riders, and pedestrians, and avoid loud noises such as honking or slamming doors near the barns or arenas.

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Financial Policy

- **Tuition payments** are due by the **first of each month.** Late payments may result in the loss of scheduled lesson times.

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Cancellation & Make-Up Lesson Policy

- All scheduled riding lessons must be **canceled in writing (via text, email, or on the scheduling whiteboard)** at least **24 hours in advance** to avoid being charged.
- Lessons canceled with proper notice are eligible for a **make-up lesson**, which will be scheduled based on availability.

- Lessons canceled with **less than 24 hours' notice** will be **charged at the regular rate** and are **not eligible for a make-up**.

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We thank you for following these guidelines, which are essential to maintaining a safe, respectful, and well-managed environment here at Brawley Farms.

Rider Name: _____ **Guardian Name (if applicable):** _____

Rider/Guardian Signature: _____ **Date:** _____