

Hunter Valley Riding Academy

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Lesson Horse Program Information Sheet

Regular Lesson Rates...

Single Lesson Rate

\$85

Available for Students taking an Introductory lesson or an occasional flat lesson.

*Payment is due at the time of the lesson, cash payment only.

4 Lessons Pre-Paid Package

\$260

By signing up for a package of 4 monthly lessons, students will save \$20 per lesson when riding once a week.

8 Lessons Pre-Paid Package

\$440

By signing up for a package of 8 monthly lessons, students will save \$30 per lesson when riding twice a week.

* Payment for prepaid packages is due at the first of every month and may be paid online through the Quickbooks invoice sent out at the start of the month or by cash or check.

Clients must be enrolled in a monthly lesson program/package and prepay for 4/8 lessons every month in order to qualify for the \$65/\$55 per lesson rate. Clients not wishing to enroll in monthly package pay the \$85 individual lesson rate. Except for new clients starting lessons mid-month, we do not offer prorated packages.

Jumping Lessons...

Jumping requires a lot of additional physical effort by the horse. It increases the wear and tear on them (as well as the risk of injury) and because of that we limit the number of days that any horse in our program is asked to jump. This limited work load makes it impossible for us to utilize them enough in the school program to cover monthly costs associated with horse ownership, therefore **any student wishing to jump must be in some type of lease program.**

Lesson Duration and Student Responsibility...

All students are asked to show up ½ hour before their scheduled lesson time in order to groom and tack their assigned horse and sweep their cross tie area before leaving for the mounting block. Regularly scheduled private lessons include ½ hour of mounted instruction, semi-private (2-3 riders) will include a minimum of 45 minutes of mounted instruction and group lessons (4 or more riders) will include a minimum of 1 hour of mounted instruction. At the instructor's discretion, as in the case of inclement weather (ie rain, wind, excessive heat) or issues concerning the well-being of either the horse or rider, the duration of a lesson may be shortened accordingly. At the end of each lesson, students are expected to adequately groom their horse (no sweaty saddle marks or unpicked feet), apply fly spray and fly mask and fly boots, return the equipment neatly to the tack room and **sweep the cross tie area when finished.**

Missed Lesson Policy...

24 hour cancellation notice is required in order to be eligible for a makeup lesson. Clients will be allowed one "short notice/less than 24 hours" cancellation per quarter if riding once a week, 2 "short notice" cancellations per quarter if riding twice a week. Lessons canceled with sufficient notice and lessons canceled by the instructor are eligible for makeup lessons.

A maximum of 2 MOUNTED makeup lessons may be carried forward to the next month. Clients who have accumulated more than 2 makeup lessons will be offered non-mounted horsemanship lesson(s) for the excess missed lessons.

Absolutely no refunds will be offered for missed lessons regardless of why they were missed (or cancelled).

Clients pausing their lesson packages for more than 30 days will lose any accumulated makeup lessons.

The new quarters will start September 1st, December 1st, March 1st and June 1st.

Full and Half Lease Program

We have a number of wonderful horses available for lease.

Horse Leasing is a great opportunity for any level of rider to improve their skills, expand their horse husbandry experience and spend some extra time loving and caring for their own special horse! It is a great stepping stone to owning your own horse, or a great option if horse ownership is not in your budget.

Leasing gives you the experience of owning without the responsibility and expense beyond the lease term. Leasing can be the most cost-effective way of advancing a student to the next level in their riding, before they consider purchasing their own horse.

There are 2 components to most lease situations: the lease fee and the cost of care.

The lease fee varies from horse to horse, depending on their athletic ability, training and demeanor. This is a fee you pay to the owner of the horse over and above the cost of care.

The cost of care also varies from horse to horse. While most things such as board are a relatively consistent in price, the cost of shoeing, additional feed/supplements, and training needs can affect the cost of care.

Leases are Full or Half. A Full Lease entitles you to complete access to the horse as though you own it. A Half Lease entitles you to limited access to the horse - up to 3 days a week.

Additional benefits to Leasing:

***Reduced rate for lessons** - see owned or lease horse rate sheet

*Priority when scheduling lesson times.

*Use of your lease horse for your lessons.

*Use of your lease horse for showing.

*Horse use fee (\$80) is waived at horse shows.

HVRA Horses lease horses – Level 1-2 horses are typically horses that are utilized in “school string” as well as being available for lease. Level 3 and In Barn show horse lease are typical not used in the “school string” because of their value.

Level 1 horse – This horse is suitable for flat work only – no jumping

Level 2 horse – This horse is suitable for riders from crossrails – 2’0 level.

Level 3 horse - This horse is suitable for riders through the 2’0-2’3 level.

Out of Barn/In Barn Show horse lease – For rider’s wanting to jump 2’6 or over or in situations where the in-house horse availability isn’t quite right given the riders goals or skill level, an outside lease (or In Barn show horse lease) may be necessary. Price varies depending on value and skill level of the horse. When you are ready to take that step we are here to help.

Lease Fee Structure for HVRA Horses – Full and Half Leases

	1 year contract	6 month contract	3 month contract	1 month contract
Level 1 horse full	\$2000	\$1250	\$750	\$300
Level 1 horse half	\$1000	\$625	\$375	\$150
Level 2 horse full	\$3000	\$2000	\$1250	\$500
Level 2 horse half	\$1500	\$1000	\$625	\$250
Level 3 horse full	\$5000	\$3500	\$2000	n/a
<i>To prevent excessive wear and tear on the horse, riders wishing to jump 2’3 and over must be in a full lease.</i>				

Cost of Care Estimates

Basic Monthly Items

	Cost
Board (24x24 1/2 cover- full cover is \$50 more)	\$400
Farrier Services - \$250-\$300 approx every 6 weeks if wearing shoes, \$100-\$125 if barefoot > prorated to 1 month	\$165/\$200 \$65-\$70
Additional feed/lunch (approximately)	\$70-130
Supplements/medication (approximately)	\$30

Estimated costs \$665-695 full \$333-350 half lease

When needed Items – full cost listed, divide by 2 for half lease

Cost

Wormer every 3 month	\$10
Semi-Annual vaccinations	\$60
Body shaving (1 or 2 times season)	\$200
Blanketing in winter	\$75
Tack Room Rental (optional) space in a tack room for your helmet, boots, brushes and any tack you may own	\$15 per month

Other things may crop up like vet services, but the list above is the most common costs associated with leasing and owning.

Tack Estimates

In time, you may want to purchase your own equipment (especially a saddle), but we will provide the following items as part of your lease. In most lease situations (other barns, outside lease horse) you are required to purchase your own tack, so not having to buy all your own equipment dramatically offsets the HVRA lease fee. Should any items be broken during use you will be expected to replace them. You will need to purchase your own consumable goods such as fly spray, shampoo, horse cookies and such.

Sheet/fly sheet	\$60	Saddle pads	\$200
Winter blanket	\$150	Girth	\$100
Saddle	\$650-\$2500	Split boots	\$75
Bridle with bit	\$250	Bell boots	\$30
Total value of tack provided	\$1500-\$4000		

Trainer Commissions on Outside Lease, Purchases and Sales of Horses

Aside from teaching their clients to ride, trainers also play a vital role assisting clients in finding suitable horses when it comes time to purchase or lease their own. As with many industries (real estate agents for example) you hire a professional for their expertise as well their contacts in that industry - both of which most riders/parents won't have. I came across an article in Practical Horseman magazine that states it well and plainly. *"The purpose of commissions is to reimburse agents (trainers/dealers serving as intermediaries for buyers and sellers) for their time and expertise in helping you select a horse who will suit your goals. Many trainers have devoted years to developing their skills in assessing horses and riders, and they strive to work in good faith for their clients. On a practical note, because trainers generally experience high overhead in the form of staff and facility costs and a low return on the time they spend on lessons and at shows, sales commissions ensure their ability to earn a living"*. Industry standard is anywhere from 10-15%. We charge a 10% commission on the purchase/sale prices or lease fee price of the horse, with a \$500 minimum commission for all sale, purchases or leases. Clients will be asked to sign a commission contract and pay a \$500 deposit which will be applied toward commission on purchase or lease of horse. If we negotiate a lease on client owned horse and another client, a flat fee of \$500 will apply, to be split between the 2 parties.

When purchasing/leasing a horse it is always best to negotiate a trial period if possible. This gives you the ability to ride the horse on your "home turf" and allows us multiple rides in order to help decide if the horse is suitable. During this trial period you will be financially responsible for hauling to/from the barn, board/care while the horse is at our facility, and lessons and/or professional rides and a pre-purchase exam. If the horse does not work out or pass a vet check, which can be disappointing, consider it spending a little to save a lot.