

Hunter Valley Riding Academy

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Lesson Horse Program Information Sheet

Regular Lesson Rates:

Single Lesson Rate **\$75**

Available for Students wanting to take only an occasional flat lesson.

*Payment is due at the time of the lesson.

4 Lessons Pre-Paid Monthly Package **\$260**

This package includes flat lessons and/or jumping lessons up to Cross Rails.

*Students wishing to jump higher than Cross Rails must be signed up for the 8 lessons pre-paid package OR lease/own a horse. Payment is due at the first of every month.

8 Lessons Pre-Paid Monthly Package **\$440**

This package includes flat lessons and/or jumping lessons up to 2'0".

*Students wishing to jump 2'3" or higher must lease/own a horse. Payment is due at the first of every month.

Beginner Rider Lesson Rates:

The lesson rates/packages listed below are intended for new clients/riders with no previous/limited previous riding experience. These pre-paid package rates are good for the first 2 months of lessons, after that regular lesson rates apply. The first lesson will be an unmounted safety, handling, grooming and tacking lesson only. Students wanting to "fast track" their lessons may take their 1st and 2nd lesson back to back, so they will do the unmounted lesson immediately followed by a mounted lesson. Beginner Rider packages include lessons at the Walk and Trot only. Payment is due at the first of every month.

Single Lesson Rate **\$75**

*Payment is due at the time of the lesson.

4 Lessons Pre-Paid Monthly Package **\$220**

8 Lessons Pre-Paid Monthly Package **\$400**

Payment is due at the first of every month for prepaid packages listed above.

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 45 minutes of mounted instruction and group lessons (4 or more riders) will include an 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, return the equipment neatly to the tack room and **sweep the cross tie area when finished.**

Missed Lesson Policy:

Missed lessons (except for "No Shows") may be made up at any time in the same calendar month. If riders are not able to get their missed lesson(s) made up in the same calendar month, one (1) Missed Lessons may be carried over to the following month for clients enrolled in a one time weekly program. Two (2) missed lessons may be carried over to the following month for clients enrolled in a two times weekly program. Riders must take their makeup lessons in addition to their normal pre-paid package lesson. Any makeup lessons carried over but not taken within the following month will be forfeit. Make-up lessons will be not be allowed during a month that a package is not pre-paid, so riders who suspend or skip a month on their lesson package will forfeit their missed lesson(s). 24 hours' notice of cancellation is appreciated so that the trainer has the opportunity to fill the opening created by the cancellation. Riders who "no show" will not be entitled to a makeup lesson. Missed sessions will not be refunded under any circumstance.

Depending on lesson horse availability, clients may schedule a make-up lesson:

- 1) On a different day of the week than their regularly scheduled lesson, for mounted or unmounted horsemanship instruction.
- 2) On the same day as their regularly scheduled lesson - riding a different horse for 2nd lesson, or taking an extended lesson on the same horse if time allows.
- 3) The same day as their regularly scheduled lesson – doing some type of unmounted horsemanship instruction for the 2nd lesson.
- 4) By joining a group unmounted horsemanship lessons that will cover a variety of informative horse care and training subjects. Depending on the number of students in attendance, these horsemanship lessons will last 1-2 hours.

Makeup lessons may also be formal or casual instruction. If you would like a bareback lesson or a trail ride instead please let us know! Speak to your instructor if there is something specific you would like to learn during a makeup lesson that would not be covered during a typical riding lesson, or perhaps not covered in depth.

Please keep in mind that for the well-being of the school horses, we cannot guarantee that all make-up lessons will involve jumping and/or mounted instruction. Clients who lease a HVRA horse, and/or are taking their normally scheduled lessons will have priority and there is a limit on how many times during a week we can ask the horses to perform. Clients who half lease (vs full lease) may not be able to take their makeup lesson on their leased horse if it conflicts with the other half lease riders regularly scheduled lesson.

Full and Half Lease Program:

Leasing is a great opportunity for any level of rider! It allows you to improve your skills (many of which can only be learned by spending extra time in the saddle), expand your horse husbandry experience and spend time loving and caring for a special horse.

It is also a great stepping stone to owning your own horse. It can be the most cost effective way of advancing to the next level, which broaden your choices for the type of horse you can then purchase. Leasing also gives you the experience of owning without the responsibility and expense beyond the lease term, so it is a great way to “test out” you or your child’s level of commitment before purchasing.

It is a terrific option for getting your “horse fix” if horse ownership is simply not in your budget.

When leasing a safe, quality horse there are 2 components to the cost: the lease fee and the cost of care. The LEASE FEE is a one-time fee paid to the owner of the horse. This fee varies from horse to horse, depending on their athletic ability, training and demeanor. This fee helps the owner recoup some of the costs from the initial purchase of the horse and its subsequent upkeep.

The COST OF CARE FEE covers the ongoing monthly costs involved in the upkeep of the horse.

While most things such as board are a relatively consistent, the cost of shoeing, additional feed/supplements, and routine vet maintenance can vary, so the cost of care will vary slightly from horse to horse.

We have a number of wonderful horses available for lease through the HVRA program.

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.
- *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 horse – This horse is suitable for riders from the walk/trot through crossrail level.

Level 2 horse – This horse is suitable for riders through the 2'0 level.

Level 3 horse - This horse is suitable for riders through the 2'6 level. Level 3 horses are available for full lease only since they can only be asked to jump at that height 2-3 days a week.

Outside Lease horse – Riders wishing to jump/compete at a level higher than 2'6 will need to purchase or lease horse a horse of that caliber. When you are ready to take that step will are here to help.

Lease Fee Structure for HVRA Horses – Full and Half Leases (cost of care additional)

	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

Level 2 and all 3 horses are limited to jumping full height 2-3 times per week. If sharing a lease on a level 2 horse it will be necessary to split the amount jumping session with the other rider

Cost of Care Estimates:

Basic Monthly Items	Full lease	½ lease
Board (24x24 1/2 cover)	\$400	\$200
Tack Room Rental	\$15	\$15
Farrier Services - \$190 approx every 6 weeks > prorated	\$125	\$62.50
Additional feed/lunch (approximately)	\$70	\$35
Supplements/medication (approximately)	\$30	\$15-\$25
Estimated costs	\$640 full	\$320 half lease

Additional costs that apply – full cost listed, divide by 2 for half lease

Wormer every 3 month	\$10
Annual/Every other Year dentistry	\$200
Semi-Annual vaccinations	\$70
Body shaving (1 or 2 times season)	\$75
Joint injections	\$450-600
Blanketing in winter	\$60

Other things may crop up, 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	\$100
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:

Ready to look for your own horse? Let us use our combined 50 years of experience in the horse industry to help you find just the right one!! 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. By California Law all commissions over \$500 must be declared and transparent. **Clients will be provided a commission contract and asked 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.