



Arena Etiquette

Rules to ride safe, have fun and be courteous in the arena

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Warmer weather is here!!! The outdoor riding spaces are still gross though... so that means more congestion in the indoor riding arena. Please read and follow the below tips to help keep you safe, your horses safe and develop good riding relationships with your fellow Monroe Farms riders.

General Arena Rules:

- Call out "Gate" as you enter the arena, if a horse is acting up, wait until the horse is under control before entering the riding space. If the gate is closed, close it behind you.
- Greet people. You'll likely be around them a lot and being nice goes a long way.
- If not riding, please utilize the bleachers instead of taking up riding space (excludes trainers giving lessons).
- Kids/pets/family members/etc must be quiet and courteous. No barking or loose dogs or any behavior from kids/family members that may be distracting or startling to the horses. We have bomb-proof saints and we have green, fire-breathing dragons. Some do better with noise & commotion than others and we want all horse/rider combinations to have a good experience.
- Pick up after you and your horse - please do not leave garbage in the bleachers or poop in the arena.

Lunging Rules (when the arena is occupied with other riders):

- When the arena is busy (more than 3 riders) please use a small circle to lunge, to allow space for those riding. If there is a rider currently lunging, wait until they're done and on their horse to lunge so that the riders have enough space to continue riding.
- If you know your horse is likely going to be fresh on the lunge line (bucking, farting, bolting hot mess) give the riders in the arena a heads up before you begin lunging and give them time to collect their horse or dismount.
- No whip cracking, plastic bags tied to the end of the lunge whip or other sounds/devices to get your horse to move.

Arena Riding Rules:

- **COMMUNICATE!** Ask people if they mind whenever you are contemplating an unusual maneuver or activity. Announce your intentions if you deviate from using the rail in a standard way. Call out your path (“inside”, or “outside”).
- Maintain at least a 1-horse length between you and the horse in front of you.
- If you need to stop, come to the center of the arena to do so. Do not stop on the rail.
- **Passing other riders:** When riding in an arena with more than one horse, the slower horse should take the inside track. The rider behind you may call out “rail” which should indicate to you to move over to the inside.
- If you are going the opposite direction to the other horse, riders should pass each other left hand to left hand.
 - **Explanation:** As you ride around the arena, if you need to pass someone going slower than you in the same direction, alert them (“passing on your left/right”) and then pass on the inside. Do not crowd the other rider. If you see that you will pass a rider going in the opposite direction, pass left shoulder to left shoulder - just like driving.
- If you are circling the arena, stay towards the outside. This allows traffic to flow more freely. If you want to ride small circles or other patters, move to the inside.
- Be patient and kind. If someone doesn’t know arena etiquette, find a kind way to explain it to them or let them know that you are not comfortable with their riding/behavior. Be open and receptive if you are the one being asked to change a behavior in the arena.
- When someone is having trouble, try to help or at least keep your own horse calm while they get their horse under control - we’ve all been there.
- If it’s really busy, it’s best to split the arena in half. Faster circles on the outside, slower circles on the inside and standing horses to the center of the circles on each half of the arena.

Questions? Want a lesson on arena etiquette? Let us know!

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