

Preparing Your Horse for Horsemanship School

Youth's name _____

Horse's Name _____ Barn name _____

Breed _____ Reg. _____

Age _____ Sex _____ Color _____ Height _____

DOB _____ Weight _____ Owned Leased (check one)

Lessee's Name (if applicable) _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____

Zip Code _____ Phone # _____

Owner's Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____

Zip Code _____ Phone # _____ Work Phone _____

County _____ Club Name _____

Leaders Name _____ Phone # _____

County Agents Name _____

It is very important to have a vet for your horse for annual check-up's and in case of an emergency when you horse needs immediate care and attention. Please fill out your veterinarian's information:

Veterinarian's Name _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____ Phone _____

Coggins # _____ State _____ Date Taken _____ Results _____

***Negative Coggins is required at all Horse related events. Bring your Coggins report with you.**

Hoof care: It is important that you have a farrier you can rely on for your horse. Frequent farrier visits (every 6-8 weeks) will keep your horse's hooves healthy and in good condition. You should plan to have your horse trimmed 1- 2 weeks before horsemanship school so that the horse won't have sore feet when you arrive.

Farrier's Name _____ Phone # _____

Date last trimmed _____

Does your horse wear shoes? _____

Front? _____ Back? _____ Last shoeing date _____

Dental care: A horse should have their teeth checked once a year to make sure they are healthy and growing properly. As horse's teeth grow, sometimes they don't wear evenly and develop sharp points. These can cut the inside of their cheeks and/or tongue. This is very painful for the horse and will affect their eating and sometimes their willingness to accept the bit. An equine dentist can "float" or file their teeth to make them smooth again.

Last teeth floating date _____

Parasite control: Having a good deworming program is important to keep your horse free from parasites. Be sure to use a strategic deworming system, using different classes of dewormers that best fit the season of the year and targeting the specific parasites that plague your horse. Using the same wormer and/or worming frequently (every 2 months) may result in parasite resistance rendering the wormer ineffective. Performing fecal egg counts is part of developing a strategic deworming program. Consult with your veterinarian to figure out the best program for you.

Recent deworming history (product) _____

Date EPG performed _____ Parasite eggs found _____

Nutritional program: Having a planned feeding program is a good way to keep your horse in top performance. You should monitor body condition score and adjust your feeding program to keep your horse at a 5 body condition. Horsemanship school will be rigorous so horses that have been on forage only will need extra energy in the form of grain during the school. Add grain gradually to prevent digestive upset. If your horse is picky about water, you may begin putting small amounts of Gator Aid or another flavor in their water before coming to mask the change in flavor. The water at the HTU is excellent and we have had few problems getting horses to drink. Salt supplements (free choice) are a good idea any time the horse is working hard and sweating a lot.

Current feed type _____ Hay type _____

Amounts and times _____

Special dietary needs _____

Current Medications and Why _____

Allergies _____

List any injuries, surgeries, or illnesses in the last 12 months _____

Vaccinations:

Encephalomyelitis (Eastern, Western) are arboviruses, which means the viruses are transmitted by bloodsucking insects, such as mosquitoes. It is best to vaccinate against these viruses in the spring prior to mosquito season.

Date Encephalomyelitis (E, W) vaccine was given _____

West Nile virus is also an arbovirus, transmitted by mosquitoes. This is also important to vaccinate in the spring prior to mosquito season, to allow the vaccine time to get into the horse's system, to protect the horse from the virus.

Date West Nile vaccine was given _____

Tetanus is a bacterial disease that produces a deadly toxin. This disease is easily avoided by making sure your horse is vaccinated once per year.

Date Tetanus toxoid vaccine was given _____

Influenza and Rhinopneumonitis are highly contagious respiratory diseases caused by viruses. Though not often fatal, they will make your horse very ill and take them out of work for a while (much like when you get the flu). These are also easily avoided by making sure you vaccinate your horse semi-annually, or more often, depending upon risk of exposure. Vaccinating your horse right before Horsemanship School will not allow time for the vaccine to work and it will be ineffective for your time at the school.

Date Influenza and Rhino vaccines were given _____

Rabies is a virus that is highly contagious and is almost always fatal. This is a zoonotic disease which means it is transmissible from animals to humans. It is very important to keep your horse vaccinated annually against rabies.

Date Rabies vaccine was given _____

Strangles is a highly contagious, quick-spreading disease. We only vaccinate against it when traveling to a high risk area. Never vaccinate immediately after a horse has been exposed to a case.

Strangles vaccine date *if given* _____

Please vaccinate against all of these viruses 30 days prior to Horsemanship School as to make sure your horse is fully protected.

Other vaccinations: (give dates) _____

Special instructions

Conditioning Program:

Conditioning your horse for Horsemanship School is very important. Your horse will be worked a total of 4 hours a day, 5 days in a row during Horsemanship School. A horse that is not conditioned properly, can sustain minor to severe injuries in their muscles, tendons and bones. A horse is an athlete and just like athletes, horses have to train for the activity they will be performing in. A good conditioning program is key!

Be sure to ride your horse at least three days a week prior to Horsemanship School. Here are some ideas you can do while conditioning your horse for Horsemanship School. While you are riding, start off with warming-up your horse. Allow him to stretch his muscles out, before asking him to work harder. Walk him out for about 3-5 minutes and then ask him to trot for 3-5 minutes. Do this in both directions.

- Once your horse is warmed up, set up a small course where he has to pick his hooves up over logs/poles.
- Trot your horse in a large circle to a small circle, back to a large circle. Do this 1-2 times both directions. When he is good at this, then increase the speed to a canter/lope. (It will take a few days to build him up to this)
- Work on transitions from a trot, to a lope to a walk and mix it up.
- Set up small jumps even if you ride western, having your horse jump small jumps builds muscle.
- If there is deep ground walk or trot in the deep sand to build muscle and increase cardio system.

These are just a few ideas to help you get your horse conditioned properly for Horsemanship School. When you first start working your horse build him up gradually. Ride your horse 20-30 minutes the first couple of days and then increase it each day you work your horse. Change the workout you will do each day you ride. Allow him to rest between days. Have an easy day during the week to trail ride or do some ground work.

I hope this will help in preparing you and your horse for Horsemanship School. We are looking forward to seeing everyone and having a fun-filled educational week!