

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS - Lessons @ Sandy Bay Stables



### **What should I wear to my lesson?**

As a student of Sandy Bay Stables, we would like you to wear long pants, boots with a heel and an ASTM/SEI helmet for your lessons. While we don't require special riding pants, you MUST have an ASTM/SEI helmet and it's very important to have a shoe or boot with a 1" heel. For health reasons, we prefer each student bring their own helmets. When purchasing a helmet, please remember to purchase a helmet big enough to put your hair up.

Any shoe with a heel may be worn while riding, so long as the heel is about one inch in size. As you become a more proficient rider, you will want to purchase riding pants and boots. Two boot options are acceptable for lessons: tall leather boots, or paddock boots with half chaps. Please no rubber boots, they are unsafe and become uncomfortable (hot).

For winter riding, students should wear long johns, winter weight boots and winter socks, and gloves. Hand and toe warmers are especially helpful. Please remember riding arenas are not heated, so you are riding in temperatures very much like outdoors (without the snow and wind, of course.)

### **Do I just ride or can I help to take care of my horse?**

At Sandy Bay Stables, we believe that we are building horsemen not just riders. With that goal in mind, we ask students to participate in the care of their horse. This care includes tacking up before and un-tacking after their ride. We also ask that riders spend time after their lesson cleaning the tack they have used and grooming their horse.

### **How long is each lesson? \* \***

Every new student takes a half hour private lesson. In addition to the ride time, they will spend time learning to get the horse tacked up to ride. Be sure to arrive at least 10 minutes before your scheduled lesson time for tacking up.

If students would like to forgo learning the farm process and horse care part, please see section called "Day Visitors".

Private lessons are 1/2 hour - for individual instruction

Semi Private lessons are 45 minutes (2 riders)

Group Lessons are 1 hour (3 riders)

\* The rate stays the same price, but the lesson length changes.

When students are ready to go into a group or semi-private lesson, plan to spend about two hours at the farm. Students should plan on 30 minutes prior to their lesson to tack up, 45 minutes to an hour for their lessons, and 30 minutes after their ride to put away their horse and properly care for the equipment used.

\*Exception to lesson length: Kathy Crosby's lessons are dressage only and range from 45 minutes to 1 hour in length and are always private.

### **When can I ride in a group?**

Riders move into a group lesson after they can walk and trot off the lunge line. A rider also must show that he or she can control the horse well enough to be safe in a group of horses. Some new riders move into a group in as few as six lessons. Other riders ride privately for several months before moving to the group setting. Students who have prior riding experience are asked to take one private lesson so that we can help find the best group for them.

### **Do I have to pay for lessons I don't take?**

Students who cancel lessons with less than 48-hour notice will be charged for the missed lesson. Please do NOT send Email's concerning appointments. PLEASE CALL YOUR INSTRUCTOR DIRECTLY. "No call/no show" appointments or SAME-day cancellations must be paid in full and are forfeited. If we are given more than 48-hour notice, a makeup lesson will be scheduled for you to make up within 2 week's time on another lesson day/time than your regularly scheduled lesson.

Students who do not keep a regular riding schedule may lose their ride time and will not earn the monthly pay rate.

During the winter season, if the weather is bad, please call to confirm that lessons are still being held. We do not conduct lessons if the temperature drops too low. It is not good for the horses or the riders. If we cancel a lesson then you will not be charged and we will schedule a make up with you. Please do not assume that your lesson is cancelled.

**What forms of payment do you accept?** Please note that instructors offer different rates. Also, they accept CASH ONLY for lessons please. They will happily provide you with a receipt upon your request. If paying by check for lessons, checks are charged an additional \$10 per each lesson banking fee. Sandy Bay Stables will accept checks at no additional fees for such things as: Boarding, leases, horse shows, After school programs, birthday parties & other farm services.

#### **How do I earn the monthly pay rate for lessons?**

In order to earn the monthly rate, all lessons for the month must be paid BEFORE the first of each month or if the student is new, they would need to pay when they start their very first lesson. Late payment fees for students who are on monthly plan, but fall behind on their monthly payments are fined \$20 per each week late.

#### **DAY VISITOR- Can I come ride for a lesson or two while I'm visiting Rockport?**

Yes! We offer an all mounted, private, half hour individual lesson (for first few lessons.) Horse will be caught, groomed & tacked up for you and ready to ride upon your arrival. Horse will then be cooled down, groomed and put away for you. And your tack will be cleaned and put away properly for you. These services are included in the lesson rate. The cash rate for this is \$115 per lesson and the check rate is \$130 per lesson.

**Can visitors take a Semi Privates or a Group Lesson?** All new comers may take a private one: one lesson, at first, regardless of your experience. After rider demonstrates ability from taking private lesson(s) and upon instructor's approval, they may join in a Semi Private Lesson for 45 minutes or a Group (up to 3 riders) for an 1 hour lesson. This is also dependent upon other participants.

Day Visitors Book Lessons: In order to book, you will need to call an instructor, directly, to schedule your lesson(s) for the week. A 50% non refundable cash deposit is required, in advance, PRIOR to booking. All

#### **Can I go for a trail ride or a beach ride?**

Yes, you may if you meet the requirements: We allow students who full lease school horses and of course, those who own their own horse to go out for trail and beach rides.

#### **Can I pay for my lessons weekly and not monthly?**

Yes you may. However, our instructors rely on the schedule and the regular income of students who booked their lessons in advance for the month. Scheduling and changing schedules takes a lot of unpaid time for instructors. But for the convenience of our customers, a regular farm student may book lessons weekly instead of monthly at a slightly higher rate of \$80 per week.

#### **Are there ways to earn a discount on my lessons?**

Yes! You may refer a friend. If your friend completes a monthly session with either Louise or Melissa, you receive a FREE LESSON on us! We also offer a student work exchange program for skilled, qualified, responsible horse caretakers.

#### **Can I ride the same horse each time?**

Once you have tried several horses, we try to match you with a horse you like, and ride well. One way to ensure that you will ride the same horse each time is to join our lease program. Ask your instructor for more information on leasing or see the leasing page on web site.

**Happy Riding!**