

Barn Policies, Rules and Expectations



General

- **All minors under the age of 18 must wear a helmet when around the barn and handling horses. NO EXCEPTIONS.** We take this rule very seriously and any minor caught without a helmet on when handling horses will be fined a \$100 safety fee to help with our insurance premiums. This rule applies to visitors as well. If your visitor is around horses and without a helmet, you will be responsible for the fee.
- **No smoking in the barns or arena areas**
- Closed toed shoes are required around horses.
- Do not adjust thermostats in the office or tack rooms.
- Please do not enter areas designated for employees only.
- Do not ride into the barns or on the concrete.
- Mount only with a mounting block.
- No drama allowed! We do not condone drama, bad attitudes or high maintenance personalities! Should this become a problem, it will be addressed and if it stays a problem, we reserve the right to ask you to leave our program.

Parking

- Please park only in designated areas in front of and behind the barn.

Visitors

- All visitors and their guardians must sign a liability release form. NO EXCEPTIONS.
- All visitors must be supervised at all times.
- Visitors under the age of 18 must wear a helmet when around horses.
- Visitors must have on closed toed shoes when in the barns and around the horses.
- Only family members are allowed to ride a client's boarded horse. Due to liability and insurance, we cannot allow friends to joy ride your horse outside of a lesson setting.

Feed, Hay and Shavings

- Clients are not permitted to handle feed or medications from the feed room.
- Clients are not permitted to give extra shavings without permission and payment.
- Extra hay may only be given by Blackjack Lane Staff and will be billed accordingly.
- When needing to travel, feed or bales of hay may be purchased from Blackjack Lane.

Horse Care

- Boarding
 - Boarding covers basic care of the horse or pony each month which includes the following. All additional needs are billed separately.
 - Feed: up to 12lbs per day of our in house regular or senior feed.
 - Hay: up to 16lbs per day of our coastal hay.

- 1 stall cleaned daily. This stall is not a permanent assignment and can be moved at the discretion of the barn staff.
 - An average amount of shavings provided. Horses that are extra dirty and require more shavings, will be billed accordingly.
 - Group turnout daily, weather and ground conditions permitting.
 - Blanketing services in par with the needs of the entire barn
 - Sheets from 55-45 degrees
 - Medium weights from 45-35 degrees
 - Both when below 35 degrees
 - Blackjack Lane Equestrian reserves the right to call the vet on a boarders behalf if a horse is sick or injured. All charges from a vet are the responsibility of the owner or lessee. All boarders and lessees must have paperwork on file with Equine Sports Medicine and Surgery Houston.
 - Blackjack Lane Equestrian reserves the right to require owners and lessees to purchase certain items or services to care for your horse or pony. These items or services allow us to maintain the same standard of care for all our horses at the farm. These items may include but are not limited to:
 - Appropriate blankets and coolers
 - Safety halters
 - Medications and/or supplements
 - Body clipping
 - Cribbing collars
 - Kick chains
 - Protective boots
- Repairs
 - Blackjack Lane Equestrian will bill clients for damages caused to the stall, turnout, arena, etc. by their boarded horse or pony.
- Farrier appointments with our house farrier will be handled by Blackjack Lane staff at no additional cost. Any outside farriers are welcome if they have prior approval from Blackjack Lane and if you attend the appointment. Should we need to catch or hold for an outside farrier, the client will be billed accordingly.
- Routine veterinary appointments for vaccinations, coggins and teeth will be handled by Blackjack Lane Equestrian staff. All other appointments for injuries, illness or pre-purchase exams will be charged a handling and holding fee, or utilize training credits, to have a staff member in attendance. A staff member must ALWAYS be present for these appointments.
 - All horses are required to have annual coggins test, teeth floating and the following vaccinations: rabies, tetanus, west nile, EEE/VEE/WEE, flu and rhino.
- Blackjack Lane Equestrian reserves the right to bandage, wrap, medicate and restrict turnout for a horse that is injured or ill. All charges incurred will be the responsibility of the client. Training credits may be used for certain treatments.
- All horses on the property will be wormed at the barn's discretion and on their barn wide schedule in which clients will be billed accordingly. Owners may worm in addition should they choose, but will not be exempt from the barn's worming schedule and associated fees.
- Veterinary, chiropractic and all other equine medical professional appointments may only be attended by Blackjack Lane staff and the equine's owner. This is to maintain confidentiality for owner and equine.

Training

- Training of some sort is required in order to board with Blackjack Lane Equestrian whether in lessons or training sessions with the horse.
- Training sessions may or may not be mounted and is at the discretion of the trainers in line with the horse and rider training plan
 - Sessions can include: riding, longing, groundwork, desensitizing, treadmilling, trailering, trail experience, clipper experience, general manners, etc.
- A training agreement must be signed.

Horse Sales and Purchases

- Sales
 - All horses that are for sale while boarded at Blackjack Lane Equestrian will be required to be in at least 1 training ride per week in order to be ready to show potential buyers.
 - Marketing costs will be billed to the client for any website fees for listings, videos and sale photos accordingly
 - Commission will be charged to the seller when sale is completed.
- Purchases
 - All horses purchased for Blackjack Lane Equestrian clients are required to have trainer assistance and approval from Blackjack Lane Equestrian prior to purchase. This ensures a proper fit for not only the client, but for the trainers and staff.
 - Should a client purchase a horse or pony without trainer approval, Blackjack Lane Equestrian reserves the right to deny boarding.
 - Commission will be charged to the buyer when the sale is completed.

Arenas

- Respect all signs for entering, exiting and when arenas are open and closed.
- Do not move jump standards.
- In the covered, please say “GATE!” loudly when entering and watch for horses coming. This allows riders to know you’re entering so you do not spook their horse or have a crash upon entering.
- No horses are allowed to run loose in the arena. If horses have been in for an extended period of time and need to get out, we are happy to have them treadmill, longe them or ride them for you. You are also allowed to hand walk or longe during the designated times.
- Longing
 - Longing is permitted only during non busy hours at the barn.
 - Mornings and afternoons before 4pm
 - Evenings after 8pm
 - Longe only in an arena when there are no riders riding.
 - You must keep your horse at a trot when longing and may only canter if the horse is well balanced and quiet. If a horse is bucking, they need to be brought into a quieter, smaller circle at the trot until they calm down. This preserves our footing and the safety of your horse.
 - Longing equipment owned by Blackjack Lane may only be used by Blackjack Lane staff.
 - When longing, please move about the arena to decrease the chance of creating a deep circle in the footing.
- Hacking
 - Hacking must be done before or after lessons, especially when lessons are in the covered arena due to weather. When both arenas are open, please be courteous of those in lessons.

- Clients may only hack *their* horse or pony. **Clients may not hack each other's horses for any reason.** This is a huge liability for rider, horse owner and barn and we will not condone it.
- Riders may work over poles on the ground or on the lowest setting of a cavaletti box only when safely and correctly placed distances are accounted for.
- Absolutely no jumping is allowed during hacking.
- Riders should wear a shirt with some sort of sleeve and no baggy clothing. This is a safety issue.
- All riders must wear helmets when mounted.
- The covered arena is limited to 8 people hacking at a time and the outdoor is limited to 5 riders hacking at a time. If riders are waiting to hack, please limit your hacking time to 30 minutes so that others may have time to ride.
- Please utilize the left-shoulder-to-left-shoulder rule of passing when riding. Call inside/outside as well to reduce the risk of collisions.

Barn

- Lights
 - Always turn off lights when you are finished in the barn
 - If you are the last one at the barn in the evening, make sure all lights in both the barn and arena are off.
- Grooming
 - Only use crossties when grooming. If the need ever arises to straight tie, do so only with a quick release knot and only to a fixed post. Do not tie to gates or stall doors.
 - Please clean up any hoof cleanings, excess hair and poop from grooming prior to riding and after untacking. **Do not leave your area a mess.**
 - NOTE: Picking feet in your stall prior to cross tying your horse helps reduce the amount of clean up!
 - Please be courteous with your time in the crossties. If you plan on grooming for an excess amount of time, please choose a crosstie that is not in a high traffic area or groom in your stall.
 - Please allow others to walk past you in the crossties when needed.
 - Mane Pulling/Body clipping
 - Any large amounts of body hair, mane or tail should be disposed of in a trash can. It cannot be composted with the manure so please do not place in the manure bins. It may only go in a trash can with a plastic liner.
- Stalls
 - Do not alter stalls in any way or install anything without prior approval.
 - Please keep the area in front of your stall neat and orderly. Saddle pads, boots, tack, etc. should be kept in your trunk.
 - Please keep only blankets on your blanket bar.
 - Hang your halter neatly on the hook.
 - Boarders are allocated one trunk per horse. Tack trunks should be a reasonable size and cannot obstruct the door, feed window or saddle racks on the wall.
 - Please have a lock for your box that has a code, not a key. This code should be on file with us in case we need to get into your trunk.
 - **Any tack, horse boots, crops, etc. will be adopted by Blackjack Lane if it is left out! There will be creative forms of punishment to earn them back. MWAHAHAHA!**
- Tack Room

- Do not use tack or equipment that does not belong to you.
- Saddles
 - Saddle racks should hold one saddle only.
 - Boarders get one rack per horse boarded. Riding Academy clients may be allocated a saddle rack if space allows.
 - Girths may be hung on the wall or stay in your tack trunk, please do not place over your saddle.
- Bridles
 - Bridles should be clean and wrapped in a figure 8 to be hung up. Bits **must** be clean!
 - Please only one bridle per hook.
- Tack Cleaning
 - Please keep tack cleaning area orderly.
 - Change tack cleaning water frequently.
 - Sweep as needed. It is a community area and we ask that everyone help maintain its cleanliness.
- Riding Academy Tack
 - Each Riding Academy student is required to have their own square saddle pad.
 - Foam pads, Half Pads, and wither relief pads should be neatly stacked on the shelf.
 - Polos should be rolled back up and put in the cabinet if they are not sweaty.
 - If you must hang polos up to dry, take dry ones off, roll them and put away.
Leave-one-take-one
 - Make an effort to keep pads, half pads, risers, etc. neat and orderly on the shelf! Even if you didn't make it messy, take a few extra seconds to neaten the shelf.
 - BLE Lesson Horses and Ponies have their own set of tendon boots. Please be sure boots are clean and dry before and after each ride.
 - BLE Lesson Horse and Pony boots **MUST** be returned to their designated area, neatly as well as free from dirt, sweat, or roughness inside the boots.

Wash Racks

- Scoop poop from wash rack AS SOON AS YOUR HORSE POOPS. Do not wash it away. This clogs our drainage.
- Wash away any mud that may be left from your horse.
- Always roll the hoses up when you are finished.

Laundry

- We are happy to do barn laundry for clients. It will be billed accordingly if we wash your laundry.

Pastures

- Always be extra cautious when entering a pasture to catch a horse or pony.
- Always close and latch a gate when entering and exiting.
- Open gates INWARD toward the pasture when entering and exiting so as to limit the possibility of escapees.
- Do not take grain out with you to catch a horse unless you have specifically been told to do so. This can create a very dangerous environment.

Dogs

- We love dogs! But we ask that dogs are kept on a leash at all times.
- Please scoop any poop your dog leaves at the barn!

Lessons

- Dress code

- Riders should wear shirts with some sort of sleeve. No sleeveless shirts, spaghetti strap shirts or tank tops.
- Shirts should be tucked in and well fitted.
- Breeches or jodhpurs must be worn along with tall boots or paddock boots with half chaps.
- All riders must wear helmets when mounted.
- A lesson agreement must be signed.

Staff Off Days

- Please respect your trainers', barn managers' and grooms' off days! We work very hard to provide the best care and training and need our down time to recharge. Calls, texts, and emails about barn matters will not be answered until work days unless they are an extreme emergency.

By signing below, you agree that they are also in understandance of these rules, and will not hold Blackjack Lane Equestrian responsible for any injury, or damage to themselves.

Blackjack Lane Equestrian LLC. may revise these Rules from time to time and the below signed agrees any revision shall have the same force and effects as current Rules.

I understand and agree to adhere to the above procedures and regulations. I also understand that if myself or any party that is with me, violate these rules, my visitor(s), and/or I, and/or my horse(s) may be asked to leave Blackjack Lane Equestrian.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____