

THIS OLD HORSE
VOLUNTEER
TRAINING

Welcome to our
community of
horse lovers.

A clean barn



THIS OLD
HORSE

MAINTAINING A SAFE, CLEAN BARN

- One of the core values of This Old Horse is that our barns are always clean, safe and welcoming places for humans and horses.
- We are proud of our barns. All efforts and suggestions around these values are deeply appreciated.

STALL MUCKING

- We keep stalls clean in order to maintain a healthy, enjoyable environment for the horses and for ourselves.
- The stalls are mucked when a horse leaves the stall, cutting down on insects, reducing ammonia odors, and helping to maintain healthy hooves and lungs.
- Stalls may not be cleaned while a horse is in the stall. The horse should be safely moved to an open stall while the stall is properly cleaned.

MUCKRAKERS

- There are designated containers for manure including wheelbarrows, muck carts and handled totes. Stalls are picked using a manure fork and shovel if there are large wet areas.
- Only soiled materials are taken out of the stall, clean bedding is left.
- Removing all the bedding material from a stall is called 'stripping' the stall and should only be done at the direction of the barn manager.

GO THE EXTRA MILE

- Stalls are periodically sanitized with white vinegar dispensed in a spray bottle.
- Barn lime or stall dry may be sprinkled on wet spots as a deodorizer.
- New bedding is added as needed. Sawdust or pelleted bedding is used as bedding and replenished as needed.

FLY MANAGEMENT

- Flies are attracted to moisture and manure. All efforts to promptly pick urine and manure out of stalls and remove manure away from the barn will reduce the habitat for flies.
- Fly predators are used in the summer to minimize fly egg hatch, they are harmless to humans and horses.
- Fly spray, fly sheets, fly boots and fly masks may be used for horses in summer daytime turnout. Fly gear is put on the horse as designated as part of the AM feeding and removed as part of the PM feeding.
- Annoying flies are dramatically reduced when care is taken to remove all manure.

OTHER PESTS

- Mice and other vermin are attracted to food sources.
- Barns attract mice and other vermin and all efforts are made to assure that there are no 'attractions'
- Any open feed bags or containers must be covered and sealed and spilled or scattered feed swept up and promptly discarded.
- Human food brought in to be consumed or shared must be kept in covered containers and taken home or discarded at the end of the day.
- Our well tended, healthy barn cats are part of the extermination team. Our cats are fed, vaccinated, microchipped and receive regular preventative health care.

COBWEBS

- Cobwebs are prevalent in barns due to dust collecting on abandoned spiderwebs.
- They are a fire hazard and must be regularly managed.
- The easiest way to manage the webs is to use a broom and knock them down, paying close attention to corners, windows and rafters.
- Cobweb management is an essential part of keeping the barn clean and safe.

ARENA

- Any equipment used in the arenas should be removed and stored after each use.
- Do not leave things in the arena thinking someone else might want to use it.
- Arenas are dragged regularly and treated with horse-safe magnesium chloride to deter dust.
- Arenas should not be sprinkled or watered. If the dust gets excessive, notify the barn manager who will schedule dust treatment.

SWEEPING

- Aisles are completely swept after each feed shift and kept clean in between when soiled. Nothing should be stored on the aisle floors but rather put away in a designated spots.
- Sweeping the aisle can be a dusty job. If possible, open a door on both ends of the barn in order to create a draft.
- Using a straw edge broom, sweep out the edges and stall thresholds. They often contain food and manure which attract flies and rodents.
- Use the push broom to sweep the aisle.
- The feed and hay storage areas are swept and cleaned daily.
- Common areas are straightened up daily, including lobbies and lounges and restrooms and deep cleaned weekly.

LOST AND FOUND

- If you leave a personal item (e.g. water bottle, jacket, gloves) behind, they will be placed in a designated lost and found area and can be reclaimed within the same week.
- Unclaimed items will be donated to Goodwill.

TACK ROOMS

- Horse owners have access to designated tack rooms and tack lockers assigned for their personal tack, horse equipment and supplies and are not permitted to store items on the floor.
- The owner will be assigned one tack locker per horse plus the space above the locker for a storage tote for overflow items. The tote should be covered and secured.
- The tack locker should have a lock provided by the horse owner.

CURB APPEAL

- We make every effort to keep the exterior and grounds of our property as well maintained as possible.
- Please help us out by picking up any litter you see, pick the weeds, report any broken equipment.
- Periodically, we invite people over for a major clean up day.