

# THIS OLD HORSE VOLUNTEER TRAINING

Welcome to our  
community of  
horse lovers.

**Stable Rules**



# THIS OLD HORSE

# **THIS OLD HORSE STABLE RULES**

- These rules are designed for the safety of boarders, horses and guests.
- In addition to the rules on this list, This Old Horse expects staff, volunteers, boarders and guests to be kind and respectful of people, property and animals.
- These rules apply to all facilities operated by or affiliated with This Old Horse.

## STABLE RULES

- 1. No drug or alcohol use.
- 2. No smoking on premises.
- 3. Stable visitors must sign a liability release form (provided by Stable).
- 4. Park only in designated parking area. Do not park in the loading area at the front of the barn. Avoid honking your horn, setting off your car alarm, driving fast or otherwise allowing your vehicle to make noises likely to spook horses.
- 5. Balloons, fireworks and other potentially noise-making items are prohibited

## **STABLE RULES**

- 6. Closed-toe footwear is required at all times on Stable premises, even if not riding or handling a horse. Bare feet, sandals or other footwear that leave feet exposed can be dangerous.
- 7. Stable hours are from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. If someone needs to be on Stable premises outside of those hours, Stable management can approve it.
- 8. Everyone is expected to conduct themselves with dignity and good sportsmanship.

## **STABLE RULES**

- 9. Stable has a zero tolerance policy for abuse of any animal or person. Any incidents of maltreatment must be reported immediately and reports will be thoroughly investigated by management.
- 10. Entering private areas within the barn or property or any pastures or paddocks (except for an owner to retrieve their own horse) is prohibited without prior permission from Stable management.

## STABLE RULES

- 11. Gates must remain closed and latched at all times.
- 12. The last person to leave the facility should turn off the lights and secure the doors.
- 13. Horses belonging to This Old Horse cannot be in areas not confined by a perimeter fence.
- 14. Due to a variety of health and dietary considerations as well as safety considerations, do not give horses treats or carry treats on your person when around horses.
- 15. Do not clip or cut the mane, tail or forelock of any horse.

## **STABLE RULES: CHILDREN**

- A responsible adult must accompany children under the age 16.
- If parents and children are volunteering together, they must stay and work within visual range of one another during the entire shift.
- Children cannot be dropped off at the stable and, except during a class or lesson, parents cannot wait for children in the lobby or car.

## **STABLE RULES: CHILDREN**

- Anyone under 16 years old must be in close proximity to their parent or responsible adult during their entire visit.
- Small children must be in hand at all times. Under no circumstances may children yell, run or otherwise interfere with people or operations.
- No baby strollers, bicycles, motorized vehicles or toys likely to spook horses are permitted on Stable premises.
- Children under 16 are not allowed in the pastures or paddocks under any circumstances.



## **STABLE RULES: DOGS**

- Dogs are not permitted on Stable premises (including being left in cars) except during open houses or events and then must be leashed and under their owner's control at all times.
- The Stable may, at its discretion, refuse to permit a particular dog to return to the Stable property.

## STABLE RULES: NATURAL HAIR

- Mane, forelock and tail hair plays an important part of a horse's natural protection from dust, sun, flies and other insects. Whiskers are an essential part of a horse's sensory system.
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- While opinions may differ on the esthetics, our policy is clear.
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- Therefore, **it is prohibited to cut, trim, braid or clip a mane, tail, forelock or whiskers of horses** at This Old Horse.

## **STABLE RULES: HORSE NAMES**

- This Old Horse has served more than 700 horses since our inception in 2012.
- We are required to track, monitor and report on all of them to various reporting entities and we use the Equestrian App to maintain our records.
- On admission, each horse is given a unique identifier for the tracking and reporting system. This is their 'barn name'. If they have a registered name, it is also included in the app.
- **The barn name (unique identifier) of each horse is shared with the barn manager on admission. This is the only name that the horse will be known as at This Old Horse.**

## **STABLE RULES: HORSE NAMES (CONTINUED)**

- When people start using nicknames or refer to a horse by a name other than that assigned, it creates confusion in the record keeping and tracking we are required to do.
- If someone wishes to change the name of a This Old Horse OR refer to it by another nickname, we encourage them to adopt that horse and change its name. Once a horse is adopted, we no longer need to track and report on it.
- In the meantime, the barn name assigned in the eq app upon admission is the only name that should be used for the horse.

# **BARN SAFETY AND ETIQUETTE**

- 1. People working with or handling horses must keep their horses under control at all times. No ground tying is permitted.
- 2. People working with or handling horses must pick up and put away tack, manure forks and all other equipment in designated areas after use.

# BARN SAFETY AND ETIQUETTE

- 3. People working with or handling horses are responsible for storing and securing their own equipment. To prevent theft of personal equipment and supplies, consider taking valuable equipment home when not in use.
- 4. People working with or handling horses may not borrow or handle other boarders' tack, equipment or horses without prior permission.
- 5. When finished grooming or washing a horse, people working with or handling horses must remove all manure, hoof pickings and loose hair and dispose of them in designated areas.

# BARN SAFETY AND ETIQUETTE

- 6. Horses may be bathed or hosed off outdoors.
- 7. Horses may be tied only in designated areas. All horses must be tied with a quick-release method or panic snap.
- 8. People working with or handling horses may not help themselves to hay, feed, bedding or other Stable property without prior permission from Stable management.

# BARN SAFETY AND ETIQUETTE

- 9. If a horse is tied in a place that blocks passage of other horses or people, please move the horse promptly so that they can pass safely. Neither humans or horses may duck under cross ties.
- 10. Feed or anything else edible kept on Stable premises must be stored in a rodent-proof and insect-proof container.
- 11. Each horse must have a properly fitted halter and lead rope accessible in plain view in the designated area.



# **BARN SAFETY AND ETIQUETTE**

- 12. Anyone who notice damage to a stall, paddock, fence or pasture, should inform the Stable management immediately.
- 13. No radios, CD players, etc. are permitted on Stable premises without prior permission from Stable management.
- 14. Staff, boarders and guests must keep the tack room, barn aisles, restrooms and all other common areas clean and neat.

# **ACCIDENTS AND INJURIES**

- If any person witnesses an accident or injury of any kind to a rider, handler guest or animal, they must report it immediately to Stable management so that proper care and follow up can be administered.
- All persons on Stable premises must follow posted emergency procedures.

# **OUTSIDE TRAINERS AND INSTRUCTORS**

- All outside trainers and instructors must be approved by Stable management and must carry commercial liability insurance that names Stable as an additional insured.

# HORSE EMERGENCY

- If you observe a horse in obvious distress, it is important to get help as soon as possible. This would include a horse that has a serious, observable injury such as severe bleeding, inability to walk, trouble breathing or other signs of significant distress. Attempt to contact the Barn Manager if you are unsure of what to do but use your good judgment and call our emergency vets. They will ask you to describe the symptoms and give you advice about what to do. If they come out, they will give you an estimate of the arrival time. Follow their advice and continue to do your best to take care of the horse.
- If a horse has an accident or is stuck in or under a fence or gate, call 9-1-1 at once. The first responders are trained in animal rescue.

# **RIDING SAFETY AND ARENA ETIQUETTE**

- 1. Stable requires all riders to wear a properly fitted, ASTM/ SEI approved equestrian helmet with the chinstrap securely fastened when mounted.
- 2. Boarders and their guests should wear proper barn attire at all times including closed-toe footwear with a heel.
- 3. No one may jump horses on Stable premises without prior permission from Stable management.

# **RIDING SAFETY AND ARENA ETIQUETTE**

- 4. All riders and handlers must use tack that allows them to control their horses.
- 5. Longeing is permitted in the riding areas only when others are not riding.
- 6. Riding is permitted in the arenas and designated outdoor areas, no riding in the lawn or parking area is permitted.

# RIDING SAFETY AND ARENA ETIQUETTE

- 7. Each rider and handler must treat other riders and handlers with consideration and respect.
- Riders going in opposite directions must pass left shoulder to left shoulder and riders going in the same direction must pass only on the inside. Each rider and handler must leave at least one horse length clear distance between his or her horse and each other horse. If a horse is green or frisky, its rider or handler should wait until the arena is clear and warn other riders or handlers to treat the horse with extra caution. If a rider or handler is unclear about arena etiquette, they should yield to other riders and handlers and call out their direction politely (e.g. “Passing on the inside.”) More experienced riders and handlers should help less experienced riders and handlers by yielding the right of way and politely pointing out any unsafe arena use.

# RIDING SAFETY AND ARENA ETIQUETTE

- 8. People working with or handling horses may not use arena equipment without prior permission.
- 9. People working with or handling horses using arena equipment such as ground poles, barrels or cones must remove the equipment and store it in the designated area after using it. If there are horses already using the arena, please ask the riders or handlers before setting up your equipment as some horses may be spooked by rolling barrels and other equipment setup.



# RIDING SAFETY AND ARENA ETIQUETTE

- 10. Riders have priority over turnout for arena use. If a horse is turned out in the arena when someone else wants to ride, the horse's handler must remove the horse from the arena as soon as possible. Riders waiting to ride in the arena must politely ask those with turned out horses to remove them from the arena.
- 11. If any rider falls, all other riders must immediately halt their horses and dismount, then call 911 and Stable management for assistance.

# **RIDING SAFETY AND ARENA ETIQUETTE**

- 12. If any horse gets loose, whether inside or outside the arena, all riders must halt and dismount until the loose horse is caught.
- 13. No sitting on fences or gates.
- 14. Information about you and your horse will be held in confidence, please respect the privacy and confidence of other horse owners, as well.