

# Horse and Stable Use Agreement for the Windy Ridge Ranch, LLC

Students, practice riders, and lessees are responsible for following WRR Horse and Stable Use Rules & Policies listed below as well as those learned in class. Parents are expected to educate their children about the importance of following rules for safety's sake. Not following these rules may result in the loss of riding privileges or dismissal from the WRR.

## HORSE USE RULES & POLICIES

- Riders will wear helmets while mounted at all times.
- Riders must follow the safe and proper skills and rules learned and practiced in lessons.
- Riders under the age of 13 must have supervision at all times by a parent or other responsible adult.
- Please be sure to check for a "Do Not Ride" sign on the horse's halter/bridle hook. Do not ride a horse showing signs of lameness, open girth sores or wounds, signs of colic, breathing problems, or other health problems. Riders with questions about whether a horse may be ridden may call Mark or Katie.
- The rider will make the horse available for an upcoming lesson at least 15 minutes before class begins and is expected to allow the student to interact with the horse before and after class without interference, unless the student asks for help.
- Tying -- Whenever possible, secure your horse with the panic snaps provided rather than a lead rope. Do not tie a horse with a lead rope unless you know how to tie a safety release knot. Tie or hook your horse to secure posts – not gates or fence boards.
- If your horse is known to pull back, do not tie the horse, whether in the ring, at the bathing station or to the trailer. Use Safety Tie Rings or loop the lead rope without tying it, or have someone hold your horse.
- Riders will properly groom the horse and pick out its feet before riding. Horses' tails and manes may not be pulled or trimmed without permission (each time).
- Riders shall do everything possible to make sure the tack fits the horse comfortably, e.g., the saddle does not touch or put pressure on the withers, the girth is secure without being too tight, and the bridle is adjusted properly.
- Personal tack or a change in tack – bits, bridles, hackamores, saddles – need to be checked by Mark or Katie before being used for the first time.
- Rider shall not get on any other horse than the one assigned to them without advance permission from WRR (unless the lessee arrives and you need to switch to a horse you've previously ridden or previously had permission to ride).
- The rider will not permit other riders to use the assigned horse without specific WRR permission. DO NOT allow anyone (friend, family member, other student, lessee, etc.) to get

on your assigned horse for any length of time (even a few seconds) without advance WRR permission.

- Students may not try something for the first time outside of a lesson. This applies to trying training techniques, lunging, bridleless riding, riding bareback, etc.
- No stunts or dangerous riding allowed, e.g., racing, purposefully exciting the horse or causing it to buck or rear.
- No riding in the paddock.
- No jumping or ground pole work outside of lessons without permission each time. No practicing speed games without advance permission. No tandem riding without permission.
- When working in a ring, riders should work the horse in both directions equally.
- When lunging or deciding to lunge, please be considerate of riders using the ring and communicate with them.
- Trail Riding -- Follow our trail riding rules as posted on the website and learned in class. Before you go out, note names, horses and time of departure on the whiteboard in the office and erase when you return. Carry a phone with you if you ride alone on the trail. No riding on private property without permission.
- Footing -- Rider will use reasonable and educated judgement regarding the condition of the ground when deciding where to ride and will read the white board related to any areas off limits to riding. For instance, if it has rained and there are puddles and mud, the rider shouldn't ride on the trails or in the pastures. If it's been really dry and the trails are hard as concrete, the rider will just walk and trot. If the indoor arena is dry and dusty, the rider will go outside when possible. If the outdoor arena surfaces are hard and frozen, riding should be indoors only. If there is snow in the arenas, the rider will be cautious about the possibility of ice under the snow and will just walk where ice may be present or will avoid that area.
- Horses should be warmed up at a vigorous walk for five to ten minutes before trotting or cantering. The horse shall not be worked beyond a point of healthful activity. Cantering should be limited to what is appropriate, taking into account the horse's total usage for the day. The horse's conditioning, age, and other health factors, as well as weather conditions and footing must be taken into consideration during the ride.
- Rider will give the horse considerable positive reinforcement, but will not spoil the horse by allowing disobedience or dangerous behavior without correction. Jerking the horse's mouth as punishment, unnecessary or improperly timed whipping, kicking or hitting will be grounds for immediate termination of riding privileges.
- Rider will not spoil the horse by allowing it to graze along the edges of the arenas, the pastures and the trails. Do not allow the horse to pull the reins out of your hands to eat. If you are on a long trail ride you may stop once for a few minutes and allow your horse to graze. Riders who consistently spoil their horse by allowing frequent grazing while mounted or not correcting grass grabbing will lose their riding privileges.
- No strenuous riding shall be done for at least one hour after the horse has finished a half scoop or more of grain. No grain shall be given to a hot horse. Horses should be cooled down before turning out (cool to the hand on the chest).

- The rider will participate in any care needs for the horse when asked, e.g. special feedings or medicinal treatments.
- Grain and grain room – We have a careful feeding plan for our horses. Do not feed grain from our grain room, unless you have permission or your horse is on the feeding chart and still needs grain for the day. Bring your own treats if you want your horse to have a treat after your ride (limited amounts of carrots, apples, sugar cubes or horse treats).
- Keep plastic bags out of the reach of horses. This includes the area under the trough.
- Do not feed stall horses or other people’s horses without permission.
- No medications, supplement or extra hay shall be given a horse without specific WRR permission.
- In the springtime, when we are acclimating horses to grass, keep track of the whiteboard notes about whether your horse has already been on grass for the day. If so, do not graze anymore that day. Once they are fully acclimated we cease noting pasture time on the whiteboard.
- If you find your horse in a pen or pasture, ask whether it should go back with the herd or back in the pen or pasture.
- In winter, horses should be reasonably dry before turning out and shall not be worked into a sweat on severely cold or windy days. Use a fleece or blanket to help them cool out slowly and dry their coat.

## STABLE USE RULES

Please follow these rules to keep our barn safe, neat, and enjoyable for everyone. Observe all posted notices. Riders are responsible to inform guests of WRR rules.

**Hours** -- 7:30am-10:00pm The last person to leave will “close up.” See below.

### Guests

Guests of riders are welcome to watch or wait for riders. Guests are not allowed in the paddock and are not invited to groom or handle the horses without permission. Please ask your guests to stay out of the way of horses being led in and out and to avoid horses in the aisle. Guests should not feed treats to any horse other than yours. Children under 13 must be supervised by an adult at all times. Do not let children wander off by themselves or play along the arena or fence lines.

### “Hanging Out”

Riders should make arrangements to be picked up when they are finished riding unless she has arranged, in advance, to help out with chores or participate in other activities.

### General Behavior

*With others:* WRR is a place for everyone to enjoy horses in a pleasant atmosphere. It is important to be polite at all times. Resolve misunderstandings and problems in a polite, positive, and rational manner. Please report rude, disrespectful or inappropriate behavior to Mark or Katie.

*With horses:* Horses must be properly and carefully handled with safety in mind. Be calm and keep control of your horse. Please report inappropriate handling or riding to Mark or Katie.

## Security, Safety & Respecting Our Property

- Emergency numbers are posted on the bulletin board.
- No smoking or e-cigs on ranch property (outside of a car).
- Please do not enter or walk through the workshop except to use the hot water bathing station or otherwise permitted.
- No one is permitted in the medicine closet or in our personal tack storage stall without permission.
- Do not use supplies from the medicine closet or tack room without permission each time.
- Do not enter the hay storage areas unless asked to help put hay out. Do not allow children to play in the hay.
- Do not enter the garage or ranch house without first ringing the doorbell and/or knocking and receiving permission to enter.
- The ranch vehicles, equipment and machinery are strictly off limits. Do not allow children to play on these items. Do not operate any equipment, such as the Gator, without permission.

## Visitors

We invite visitors to come when lessons are going on but sometimes people just show up when we aren't there. If you see visitors asking about lessons or interacting with the horses while we are not there, please introduce yourself and ask if they need help. You can refer them to our website or bulletin board for more information and let them know they can come back when lessons are going on. We do not allow visitors to feed treats or walk around the barns and pet horses. If you are uncomfortable talking to a visitor or see anything suspicious, please call, text or email Mark, Katie, Susan or Emmerson.

## Office & Bathroom

- Food and beverages should be stored in containers that won't spill or attract flies. Clean up spills right away.
- You can use the fridge if you take your food/beverage home the same day. Please do not eat or drink items from the fridge that aren't yours.
- Due to our septic system, do not place Kleenex, paper towels or any feminine hygiene products in the toilet.
- Do not use the bathroom sink to clean bits or tack.
- Help keep the bathroom and office clean -- wipe the sink when you are done, wipe the counters and sweep any time!

## Trash & Recycling

- PLEASE DO NOT LITTER. Do not leave trash in driveway, parking lot, the arenas, troughs, in the small barn, or in the office. Empty pop cans and water bottles before placing in recycling. PLEASE RECYCLE cans, plastic bottles, cardboard and paperboard.

## Personal Belongings

- In the office, store bags, coats, bridles, etc. on hooks. The cubbies are also available for personal items. Keep boots under the hooks by the door. You can also store items in the cubbies above the bridles.

- Grooming kits can be kept under the troughs (not on or in the troughs).
- Take all your belongings home with you every time. Please do not leave boots, tack, clothing, hangers, cookware, water bottles, etc. in the troughs, office or barn.
- A lost-and-found bin is in the office. Anything found on the desk, chairs, in the troughs or elsewhere in the barn will be put in the lost-and-found, stored briefly and then given or thrown away.
- For the safety of the horses, do not place fly spray bottles in the troughs. Horses can bite them and/or they can leak and spill. The troughs are used to feed grain to horses.
- For the safety of the horses, food in plastic bags (i.e. carrots, sugar cubes, apples) should not be placed in the troughs or on the ground near the troughs – the horses will grab the entire bag. This could lead to the death of a horse from choking or colic.

### Use of Arenas & Barns

- The indoor and outdoor arenas are available for use except during riding lessons and special events.
- Turn lights on in the arena only when needed and turn them off when you leave or as soon as natural light is sufficient.
- Clean up after your horse, including spilled grain or treats (including apple & carrot goo), manure and urine in the aisle, arena, stalls, bathing stations, and between barns. Pick up and/or sweep up clods of dirt from hooves and shedded hair.
- Empty manure carts when you see they are full.
- To clean up urine in the aisle, sprinkle bedding from a stall to soak it up. Then sweep it up and put it in a manure cart. Sprinkle urine in the arena with a small amount of lime to control odor (not to soak it up).
- You may tack up in an available stall if you leave the stall clean of manure and urine and remove any grain or water buckets you may have used.
- The small barn is available for tacking up, if you clean up after yourself (manure, urine, emptying manure cart, putting all your grooming stuff away).
- When an indoor lesson is underway or riders are using the indoor arena, tack your horse up in the aisle. Begin tying horses near the east end of the aisle (not as far as concrete). That way horses coming in after you don't have to squish past a line of horses to get to empty posts.
- Beginner riders have the right-of-way and are to receive every courtesy from more advanced riders to ensure safety and a pleasant atmosphere.
- When mounting, standing or adjusting tack, stay in the center of the arena, in a corner, or otherwise out of the way of horses working in the arena.
- Right of way: Share the ring according to ring etiquette learned in class. Keep to the right of opposing traffic. Keep your eyes up so you see other riders at all times. Riders at the walk should move 10 feet to the inside of the rail if other riders are working faster in the arena.

## Trails, Pastures & Hand Grazing

- Do not ride on the trails after it has rained or when the ground is still wet and the trails have puddles or are muddy or slippery. (If the riding ring has puddles, the trail is too wet).
- Leave the gate open when you go out to the trails, and close it when you return if you know for sure no one else is out.
- All pastures are available for riding unless the soil is wet or there is a notice saying not to ride in one or more pastures.
- Close pasture gates when you come back in (unless you know the next person will).
- Horses who need to dry after a bath may be put in a grassy pen if the grass is at least 6 inches long.
- Hand grazing can be done anywhere the grass is 6 inches or longer. Do not overgraze stressed areas.

## Ranch Tack, Grooming Supplies & Other Equipment

- Clean and put everything away when you are done using it. Remove hair and dirt from brushes and curries. Clean sand, dirt and sweat off saddles, girths, stirrup leathers and stirrups. Run up English stirrups. Tie up western girths and latigos so they don't touch the ground when stored. Clean trailer wraps if soiled after use and put away when dry.
- Be gentle with our crops, dressage whips and lunge whips. Put them away when done.
- If/when any ranch item is damaged or broken, please let us know in person, or by phone, text, email, or leaving a note with your name. If you break or damage something of ours, please consider replacing or paying for the item, such as reins or a hose sprayer that get stepped on.
- Help keep troughs clean of debris and stuff – our horses eat out of the troughs
- It is your responsibility to double check the integrity of ranch equipment -- bridles, stirrup leathers, girths and saddles for safety purposes.
- Turn wet saddle pads upside down so they can dry.
- Mud boots are supplied for your use in a large bin under the bridles.
- Do not use or take supplies from the medicine closet or our tack room, including fly spray and Thrushbuster, without permission.

## Aisle Faucet/Water & Grain Buckets

- If you use the aisle faucet, turn it off gently and let it drip for 30 seconds until it stops. Do not tighten the faucet handle to stop the drip.
- Water should be dumped on the fence line of the grassy pen next to the wooden ring.
- Buckets – If you use a grain or water bucket, clean it and leave it to dry, upside down on a trough. Do not stack wet buckets.
- Do not wash grain buckets in the aisle or let debris go down the aisle drain. If you wash buckets, do not stack wet buckets in the grain room.

## Bathing Stations

- Clean up all manure on the concrete and grass and sweep or hose sand/dirt.
- Put away all grooming/bathing supplies, as well as the manure cart, fork, broom, etc.
- Do not leave wet rags in the bin. Put the lid back on the bin so rain doesn't fill the bin.
- Make sure the sprayer isn't left on the ground where a horse can step on it. If you break the sprayer, please replace it.
- Put the hose back on the reel and turn off the hydrant when done, unless you see the hose filling the water wagon. In that case, leave the hydrant on.
- During November–April disconnected the hose after use to prevent frozen pipes.
- Indoor bathing station – please ask Mark or Katie to show you how to use the hydrant and sprayers. Clean the mats thoroughly and empty the manure cart after each use.

## Last Person to Leave the Barn -- “Closing Up”

As the last person to leave, the security and safety of the ranch and horses are in your hands. Read the message board in the office to find out if any special procedures are required for the day. Call Mark on his cell at 612-209-5027 if you have questions when closing up.

1. Close and hook the sliding door out to the paddock (although often we leave this door open in the summer).
2. Close the overhead doors on each end of the arena (although often we leave them open in the summer if we have horses in the stalls).
3. Close and latch grain stall door.
4. Close all doors in both barns when the temperature is below 45 degrees.
5. If you know of a storm coming or it starts storming/raining, close all stall doors and other doors in both barns.
6. Turn off all lights -- in the paddock, outdoor arena, medicine closet, bathroom, office, arena and small barn. *Paddock:* Switch is next to gate out to paddock. *Arena and aisle:* Switches are on the east end of the aisle on the wall next to the sliding door. *Outdoor arena:* The switch is on the light pole.
7. Close the pedestrian gate and make sure the double green gates are closed and chained.

**I understand that riding outside of WRR lessons will not be supervised by WRR and I accept the additional risks involved.**

**I have read, understand, and will follow the Horse & Stable Use Agreement as described above.**

Rider \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_