



Riders Handbook

Welcome to Earthbound Stables!

Earthbound Stables is pleased to offer a variety of riding programs & packages, tailored to each stage of riding. With our experienced staff and gentle natured horses, we are confident that you will find a suitable program and the right mount to reach your riding goals! We offer riding lesson throughout the year, ensuring that our students are able to stay on pace for completing our thoroughly planned curriculum. As our students see their skill set develop, they will have the opportunity to participate in horse shows, and Equestrian Canada Rider Level Testing.

Earthbound Stables welcomes riders 5 years of age and up, and lessons are scheduled with the age and the experience level of the rider in mind. Our group lessons, which include a maximum of 5 riders, are available to riders who have the minimum ability to steer at a walk and have basic grooming and tacking skills. Private lessons, First Strides lessons and 123 Ride lessons are available for new or very inexperienced riders.

All our programs require the riders to spend supervised time in the stable where they will be learning a variety of horsemanship topics, cleaning their equipment, and looking after their horses.

At Earthbound Stables, the instructors work hard to teach each rider in the environment that best suits their skill level and experience; if our riders ever have any questions or concern, they are encouraged to speak to their instructor.

By way of reminder, all riders are required to come with proper footwear, long pants and ASTM certified riding helmets. Earthbound Stables does have helmets available to rent for a fee and are provided in our 123 Ride and Pony Pals programs.

The first step for signing up for one of our lesson programs is to read our Earthbound Stables Riders Handbook, and sign our Covid 19 Waiver. Then you can register on our online scheduler www.equilesson.com/earthboundstables. The link is also on the bottom of our homepage on the earthboundstables.ca website.

Once you have registered on the system, please add in your future rider as a student. Write any prior riding experience and any medical notes we should be aware of. Then you will be able to look at what lessons are available. We have many different levels on different days and times to accommodate busy schedules.

Earthbound Stables Riding Programs

First Strides- Our First Strides lessons are designed for riders 5+ that are interested in a basic horsemanship lesson and pony ride. This is a great introduction for riders that are new, or nervous, as the rider will have an instructor's undivided attention for the whole hour. These lessons are 1 hour in length and are \$80 + hst per lesson (includes helmet rental)

123 Ride Program - Our 1, 2, 3 Ride Program is all about having fun, developing good posture and having an excellent understanding of horses and horsemanship. Earthbound instructors provide an enjoyable and positive learning experience, incorporating games and fun activities into the lesson plans. All of the horses and ponies at Earthbound are gentle natured and are experienced with all levels of riders. This Program consists of four consecutive weeks. Each class is 2 hours in length (1 hour of riding, 1 hour of horsemanship). This program is \$350 + hst (includes helmet rental).

Ready 2 Ride Program- Our Ready 2 Ride Program is about developing a relationship with your equine partner. Each lesson will progress to improve the students balance, strength, and coordination, by using fun and engaging activities on horseback. Each student will have the same horse every week to further develop their confidence and horsemanship skills, and feel comfortable with every new challenge. This six week program is perfect for beginner riders who are looking for the complete horse experience. Each class is two hours in length (1 hour riding, 1 hour horsemanship). This program is \$475+ hst (helmet rental is available for a fee if needed).

Riding Session Program- Our regular Riding Session Program, includes ten to twelve consecutive weeks and are designed for dedicated riders. Lessons are booked based skill level, and are scheduled for the same day and time each week. This program is based on our Earthbound Stables Riding Curriculum. Riders will progress at their own pace and move through levels Starter 1 - Advanced. These lessons are available in Private or Group format. There are four sessions throughout the calendar year: spring, summer, fall and winter. Each weekly group lesson is approximately 2 hours in length (30 minutes in barn before/after and 1 hour riding). This program is \$660 + hst for the 12 week session of group lessons. Private lessons are 1.5 hours in length (30 minutes in barn before/after and 30 minute lesson). This program is \$858 + hst for the 12 week session

Pay As You Go Riding Program – Our Pay As You Go Riding Program give our riders the option of Group or Private Lessons where available on our online scheduler. Group lessons are 2 hours in total (30 minutes in barn before/after and 1 hour riding)., Private lessons are 1.5 hours in length (30 minutes in barn before/after and 30 minute lesson). \$65.00 + hst for each group lesson, or \$77 + hst for each private lesson.

Lesson Levels

Our Earthbound riding curriculum is based on Equestrian Canada Rider Levels, with safety and fun being our top priorities. Each lesson level has a number of required skills and topics to be taught, practiced, and learned. Our Instructors will discuss your riders progress with our Riding Director when it is time to move your rider up to the next lesson level. Riders will stay at their riding level for 6 months- 2 years or more depending on how often they ride, or how hard they work to progress.

LEVELS

New Rider- Little to no experience.

Beginner- Some experience (camps or a few lessons).

Starter 1- Can trot controlled in a group format, learning posting diagonals, and steering patterns.

Starter 2- Comfortable and confident at the trot through obstacle courses, and ready to learn how to canter.

Novice 1- Canter in a group format, and practicing small jumps.

Novice 2- Trotting and cantering small courses of jumps, basic walk, trot, canter flat tests.

Intermediate 1- Canter courses of jumps, accurate walk trot canter tests. Ready for off property shows.

Intermediate 2- Canter full courses of jumps. Goals of Dressage Tests, EC Rider Levels, and/or competing at Horse Shows.

Advanced- Canter full courses of jumps at 3 foot height. EC Rider Level 6 obtained, and/or competing at Horse Shows.

Horse Requests

We know your riders have their favourite horses, and we are so lucky to have many wonderful mounts at our farm. We encourage our riders to let their instructor know who they love to ride, but we also inform them that riding a variety of horses will enhance their development! Our instructors assign horses based on what skills each rider needs to develop to progress at their level. If your rider is interested in learning from one specific horse, then we encourage you to ask our Stables office about our Part Boarding Program.

Lesson Time

All riders and parents must first sign in in our barn office before entering the stable or arena. Students signed up for our Riding Session or Pay As You Go Program are required to arrive 30 minutes before each lesson to bring in the horse, groom and tack up. There will be Tack-Up Staff in the stable to assist the students as needed and teach weekly horsemanship topics.

Students should be entering the ring, ready to ride by the scheduled start of the lesson. The first 5-10 minutes of every lesson is for our riders to organize their equipment, mount, and warm their horse up at the walk. The last 5-10 minutes of the lesson time is for our riders and horses to properly cool out at the walk, dismount, and prepare to exit the arena, so our next lesson can enter on time.

After the lesson, students will require 30 minutes to untack, groom and clean equipment. All equipment must be cleaned, put away properly, and the work areas must be left tidy. Overall, a group lesson is allotted 2 hours, and Private lessons are 1.5 hours in length.

If you prefer not to enter the stable or require your horse to be tacked and un-tacked, please let our office know and we will try and accommodate your request.

During the two hour time slot, your child will be fully supervised by Earthbound staff and qualified volunteers. There is a maximum of 7 people in the stable at a time, so we ask parents to stay in their vehicles or outside until it is your child's time to ride. Students that arrive more than 30 minutes before a scheduled lesson start time, or remain on the property 30 minutes or more after their scheduled lesson time will be asked to remain in the barn office.

Coronavirus Precautions

As of September 2020, we require all riders and staff in the stable to wear a mask, as well as all parents viewing the lesson in our indoor arena. Masks are not required when mounted, and instructors do not have to wear one when instructing. There is a limited viewing area in the indoor arena, and we ask that when lessons are conducted inside, we only have 1 parent or guardian in the arena watching the lesson. All riders must complete a waiver prior to their first lesson: earthboundstables.ca/cvwaiver

Rider Turnout

It is highly recommended that students label all riding equipment. All riders must have the following equipment:

- Correctly fitted ASTM helmet. Earthbound Stables can provide helmets to new riders. Helmet rental \$15 per lesson.
- Boots with a 1/2" – 1" heel.
- Long pants for riding. We suggest breeches or snug fitting pants or leggings as loose pants and jeans can rub.
- Hair pulled back into a low ponytail or braid.
- Shirts must have sleeves. Please no tank tops. In cool weather please dress in removable layers.
- Gloves are recommended.

Payment

All lessons must be paid for in advance through Equilesson. To take advantage of the discounted rate offered by purchasing a lesson package, payment must be received by the first class of the session. If payment has not been received by the second lesson of the session, you will be charged the per lesson rate for all the lessons that session. If payment still has not been received by the third lesson, you will not be assigned a horse and you may lose your spot. Lesson packages are non-refundable and non-transferable. Pay as you go lesson amounts are due the day of the lesson. If lesson fees have not been paid, Earthbound Stables will charge the credit card on file. Boarding, part boarding and horse show fees, will be invoiced at the beginning of each month. www.equilesson.com/earthboundstables

If you would like to pre-pay a future amount on your account, please contact the stables office and they can assist you.

Drop off and Pick up Policy

All parents/guardians are asked to accompany their rider into the stable office to sign in before their lesson. Students that arrive more than 30 minutes before a scheduled lesson start time, or remain on the property 30 minutes or more after their scheduled lesson time will be asked to remain in the barn office.

Make-up Lesson Policy

We realize that students occasionally have to cancel a lesson. To simplify the process of rescheduling, students may book make-up lessons through Equilesson. It is the responsibility of the student to book any make-up lessons by the end of the session. Spaces to book a make-up lesson are made available only when other students are cancelling. As such, please be courteous and PROVIDE AS MUCH NOTICE AS POSSIBLE IF YOU ARE GOING TO MISS A CLASS. This will allow us to offer lesson times to others. Also, please note that the opportunity to make-up a lesson may not always be possible, a make-up lesson is something we HOPE will be available; but it is not something we can guarantee. There is a maximum of two make-up lessons per session. If you know that you will miss more than two lessons, we suggest signing up for the Pay As You Go Riding Program.

Make-up Lesson Details:

1. Provision of at least one week's notice is required if you know in advance that you will miss a lesson. Please cancel/drop the lesson through the Equilesson site to receive a make-up lesson credit.
2. In the event of last minute emergency cancellation (illness, car problems, etc), we require at least 24 hours' notice of cancellation for a make-up lesson to be allowed. Please call or email our office.
3. If you cancel a private lesson, we cannot guarantee there will be private lesson make-up space available – a group lesson may have to be scheduled instead.
4. Make-ups are only available to students during the current session of lessons.
5. Make-up lessons cannot be deducted off the next session fees.
6. Dropping a lesson through our Equilesson system does not change the charges on your account. This will be done by our stables office once a week, so please email us if you notice a charge on your account for a dropped lesson.
7. In the unlikely event that Earthbound Stables has to cancel a class (due to weather or power outage), we will ensure that you are offered a make-up lesson. (These lessons will be made up either on a specific date or can be booked through Equilesson).

Inclement Weather Cancellations

We know that there are going to be some unpleasant days, and do not want anyone driving to the barn in unsafe conditions, which may include frozen rain, heavy snow or extreme cold (below -18°C before the wind chill). In the event that we cancel classes due to an Extreme Weather Warning, we ask that students schedule a make-up lesson (can be in the following session as well). Our office will put a credit on your account for you to book an available make up lesson.

Please note that cancellations will be communicated through an email message. Weekend cancellations will be posted on the day of the lesson by 8:00 am and weeknight lessons by 2:00 pm. Please check before heading to your lesson.

Earthbound Riders Club

Clinics at Earthbound Stables are run through our Earthbound Riders Club. The objective of this club is to promote unity, team spirit and fun! We offer these clinics to ensure that all our riders are able to participate in different learning avenues that will help with their riding, fitness, and knowledge of our sport. We offer Equestrian Canada Rider Level Testing, Riding Clinics, Horsemanship Workshops, Field Trips and much more. For dates on our clinics please visit our events calendar on our website at earthboundstables.ca/equestrian-events Registration for these events are through our on-line scheduler Equilesson.

Earthbound Show Team

At Earthbound Stables our riders have the opportunity to participate in our in house Earthbound Horse Shows, off property at local Bronze Horse Shows or at the provincial level Silver Horse Shows. With our experienced coaches and horses we can offer a positive experience for riders looking to experience the challenge of competition. Being a member of our Show Team allows riders to learn the value of practice, builds team spirit and character, and it is fun!

Earthbound Horse Shows happen twice a year, once in the spring and once in the fall. These are open to all Earthbound Riders at the Starter 1 level and up. Riders are required to dress neatly, but do not need proper show attire.

Our Off Property Bronze and Silver Shows are scheduled in the spring and summer. These shows require more memberships to participate, trailering the horse, horse show

attire and more. For more information on signing up for off-property shows please speak to our Riding Director, and we will send you a Horse Show Package.

Homework Rides

Earthbound Stables is pleased to be offering Homework Rides to all of our students who are confident at the Novice 1 level. These rides are intended for our students to practice and improve on their skills. Our coaches will have a homework board in our arena with a list of exercises that the students can work on. For the safety of all riders, one of our coaches will be on site to supervise. You can sign up for Homework Rides through our Equilesson System.

Part-Board Program

We are pleased to offer our Part-Board Program to riders at the Novice 1 level and up. This is a great opportunity for our riders to bond and care for their favourite horse, as well as progress on their skills and development as a team. Part Boarding is highly recommended if the rider is interested in horse showing off property. Part board includes 2 group lessons and 1 homework ride a week, on a specific Earthbound horse. The horse would also be available to use in clinics, and horse shows. Part board rates include lesson fees, homework rides, tack and equipment, veterinarian and farrier expenses of the horse. Minimum contract is a 3 month term. Please contact the Stables office for pricing and availability.