



Earthbound Stables

Riders Handbook

Welcome to Earthbound Stables!

Earthbound Stables is pleased to offer a variety of riding programs and 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 horses 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 are available for new or very inexperienced riders, as well as for those interested in 1:1 lessons. All our programs require 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, our instructors work hard to teach each rider in the environment that best suits their skill level and experience. If riders ever have any questions or concerns, they are encouraged to speak to their instructor.

The first step to signing up for one of our lesson programs is to read our Earthbound Stables Riders Handbook and to sign our Covid-19 Waiver. Once these have been completed, you can register for lessons through our online scheduler www.equilesson.com/earthboundstables. For your reference, the link to Equilesson is on the bottom of our homepage on the earthboundstables.ca website as well. Once you have registered your family on Equilesson, please add in your future rider as a student. Write any prior riding experience and any medical notes we should be aware of. At this point, you will be able to look at what lessons are available. We offer a variety of levels on different days and times of the week to accommodate busy schedules.

Earthbound Stables Riding Programs

Full Pre-Paid Session Horseback Riding Program:

Our regular Riding Session Program consists of 10-14 consecutive weeks of lessons and is designed for dedicated riders. Lessons are booked based on 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), whereas private lessons are 1.5 hours in length (30 minutes in barn before/after and 30-minute lesson).

Pay-As-You-Go Horseback 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), whereas private lessons are 1.5 hours in length (30 minutes in barn before/after and 30-minute lesson). Please register for any Pay as you go lessons at least one week in advance of the lesson date to ensure proper horse allocations.

1,2,3 Ride Program:

Our 1,2,3 Ride Program is for beginner riders and is all about having fun, developing good posture and growing the student's 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), and a helmet rental is included in the program fee. Availability subject to change.

Homework Rides:

Homework Rides are for students who are confident at the Novice 1 level and up (levels listed on p3). These rides are intended for 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.

Prices for Fall 2021 (14 weeks Tues-Sun, 13 weeks Mon)

Program	Pre-Paid Session (+ HST)	Pay-As-You-Go (+ HST)
Group Lesson (up to 5 riders)	Mon \$715; Tues-Sun \$770	\$65
Private Lesson	Mon \$910; Tues-Sun \$980	\$77
1,2,3 Ride	\$350	
Homework Rides		\$35

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 rider's progress with our Riding Director when it is time to move your rider up to the next lesson level. Riders will commonly stay at each riding level for 6 months to 2 years or more depending on how often they ride and how hard they work to progress.

Level	Description
New rider	Little to no experience.
Beginner	Some experience (camps, 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, ready to learn how to canter.
Novice 1	Canter in a group format, practicing small jumps.
Novice 2	Trotting and cantering small courses of jumps; basic walk, trot, canter flat tests.
Intermediate 1	Cantering courses of jumps; accurate walk, trot, canter flat tests. Ready for off-property shows.
Intermediate 2	Cantering full courses of jumps. Goals of Dressage Tests, EC Rider Levels, and/or competing at horse shows.
Advanced	Cantering full courses of jumps at 3-foot height. EC Rider Level 6 obtained, and/or competing at horse shows.

Lesson Time

All riders and parents must first sign in at our barn office before entering the stable or arena. Students 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 to 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 and 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 to 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 the barn 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.

Rider Equipment

All riders must have the following equipment:

- Correctly fitted ASTM helmet. Earthbound Stables can provide helmets to new riders (helmet rental fee is \$15 per lesson).
- Boots with a 1/2" – 1" heel.
- Long pants for riding. We suggest breeches, 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.

It is highly recommended that students label all riding equipment.

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 a mask 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

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, we encourage you to ask our Stables office about our Part Boarding Program.

Payment Options

At Earthbound Stables, we offer a variety of payment options:

- By credit card through your Equilesson account
- By e-transfer to payments@earthboundstables.ca (no password needed)
- By cash or cheque in person

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 in the session. Please note that lesson packages are non-refundable and non-transferrable.

Pay-as-you-go lessons must be paid for by the day of the lesson.

Boarding, part-boarding and horse show fees will be invoiced at the beginning of each month.

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

Cancellation Policy - Make-up Lessons / Refunds / Inclement Weather

Effective September 12, 2021, we will no longer be offering make-up lessons or refunds for classes missed due to vacations, alternate obligations, student illnesses, etc. Please note our Cancellation policy applies to both full session pre-paid lessons and pay-as-you-go lessons. Once a lesson has been committed to, your Equilesson account will be charged.

However, we understand there may be some extreme weather days (which may include freezing rain, heavy snow or temperatures below -18°C before the wind chill) or COVID measures, where our facility has to close to ensure the safety and well-being of staff and clients. In the event that Earthbound has to cancel a lesson, you will receive a credit to your Equilesson account or the opportunity to do a makeup lesson where we can accommodate. Please note that cancellations will be communicated by email.

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 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 have a great time doing so!

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.

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.

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 their skills and development as a team. Part-Boarding is highly recommended for those riders interested in horse showing off-property. Part-boarding 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. A minimum contract is a 3-month term. Please contact the Stables office for pricing and availability.