**General Riding Lesson Contract**

**Policies**

Horse owner responsibilities (for students using horses they own or lease):

It is the responsibility of each horse owner to ensure their horse is sound and in good health for lesson participation. If I arrive to teach a lesson, lesson fees apply regardless of the condition of the horse.

Horse owners must provide consistent veterinary care for their horses including worming, regular vaccinations, annual Coggins’ testing, and dental care.

Horse owners must provide conistent farrier care appropriate for their horse’s level of use.

I reserve the right to terminate lessons if the above responsibilities are not met.

## Emergency and non-emergency cancellations:

Emergency cancellations are not charged for private lessons. Emergencies are defined as: sudden illness of rider or close family member; death in family; acute car trouble/accident. Pets/horses are counted as family members.

Non-emergency cancellations include the following: birthday parties; musical programs; sports events; crises at work; hangovers; non-loading horse.

Guests at lessons: Riding lessons are wonderful, and it is understandable that we would want to share this experience with those who are important to us. From an instructor’s perspective, guests are an additional distracting stimulus which require instructor attention. If you are planning on bringing a guest to an on-campus lesson, please give me at least 48 hours, preferably one week, notice. If the guest intends to ride additional fees are charged depending upon the length of time of the ride, if another horse is used, etc. It is preferred that all guests sign a liability release. Children must have this signed by their parent or guardian. This is essential if guests are to ride. Guests who have not signed this release or had their parents sign one, are not allowed near the horses unless under direct supervision of the instructor, regardless of their horse experience, and are expected to stay in observer areas (benches, observation room, outside of arenas). The adult who brought them must supervise guests under the age of 18 years. That adult must be with the guest for the duration of the guest’s visit. It is not the instructor’s job to supervise underage guests.

 Guests at off-campus lesson are the responsibility of the property owner or whoever brought them.

Weather: Weather is always an issue in this part of the country. The below weather policies are written with safety as the greatest concern. Weather cancellations are not charged.

**Rain showers** On-campus lessons will be held if it is raining, unless the instructor cancels.

**Thunderstorms** As a general rule, lessons do not occur during thunderstorms. If there is time to cancel lessons due to thunderstorms, I will. Thunderstorms that occur in the midst of a lesson will result in the adjustment of lesson plan.

**Temperature** I do not give riding lessons if it is below 20 degrees Fahrenheit. Typically I do not cancel lessons due to heat. It has never been hot and humid enough to make it unsafe for the horses, though as heat and humidity rise, lesson plans are adjusted. Riders whose temperature tolerances do not fall within these guidelines, need to inform the instructor as we head into seasons of temperature extremes, and an individual agreement will be reached. Riders in group lessons need to come to consensus on temperature tolerances.

### Snow As long as it is safe to drive to the barn, and warm enough, on-campus lessons will be held when it is snowing.

 **Ice** Sleet or freezing rain will cancel lessons.

 **Off-campus lessons** Students or their parents will need to inform the instructor in a timely fashion (preferably 24 hours notice) of the need to cancel or limit off-campus lessons due to the weather or weather-related conditions (ie: footing, road conditions). If you know I will likely end up in a ditch trying to get to your property, please let me know.

Students or their parents have the right to cancel lessons without penalty if weather creates a safety concern.

Multiple Cancellations: Three cancelled lessons in a row, regardless of the reason, will result in loss of the riding lesson time, and you will be moved to the bottom of the waiting list.

Work/study: Exchanging barn chores for part of lesson fees may be an option. If you are interested, please let me know.

Winter lessons: Lessons given between Thanksgiving and the middle of February are catch-as-catch-can. Rescheduling fees/multiple cancellations do not apply during this time.

**Below is a list of fees. Fee explanations follow.**

On Campus (at White Oak Ranch)

One hour private lesson/training with own horse stabled at White Oak: $30

One hour private lesson/training with own horse not stabled at White Oak: $40

One hour private lesson with lesson horse stabled at White Oak: $45

One hour private lesson with lesson horse not stabled at White Oak: $45 minimum (fee may be more if horse owner charges more for use of horse)

Half hour private lesson with lesson horse stabled at White Oak $22.50

One hour semi-private lesson with own horse stabled at White Oak: $25

One hour semi- private lesson with own horse not stabled at White Oak: $30

One hour semi-private lesson with lesson horse stabled at White Oak: $35

One hour semi private lesson with lesson horse not stabled at White Oak: $35 minimum (fee may be more if horse owner charges more for use of horse

One hour group lesson with own horse stabled at White Oak: $25

One hour group lesson with own horse not stabled at White Oak: $25

One hour group lesson with lesson horse stabled at White Oak: $30

One hour group lesson with lesson horse not stabled at White Oak: $30

minimum (fee may be more if horse owner charges more for use of horse)

Training

on campus per session $40

off campus per session $45

Off-Campus Fees:

 Private lesson/training $45/hour

 Semi-private lesson $35/person/hour

 Group lesson $30/person/hour

 Mileage $1/mile

 Prospective horse evaluation $45/hour

 Training $45/session

Additonal Fees:

 Cancellation private lesson full lesson fee

 Cancellation semiprivate or group lesson $10

 Rescheduling $10

Discounts:

Instructor more than 15 minutes late to lesson 25% of lesson fee per quarter hour late

\*Four lessons paid in advance $10

Four lessons paid in advance once Svet has paid for $20

her insurance

Fee explanations:

On Campus Lessons – fee differentials are based on charges for horse use, arena use, and insurance.

Half hour private lessons are available for students six years and younger.

Off Campus Lessons –

Lessons begin at the designated time or when the student is ready to ride, which ever comes first.

 Lessons continuing beyond an hour, by student choice, are charged an additional 25% of the lesson fee per quarter hour.

Mileage accrues if instructor travel time is greater than half an hour

Prospective horse evaluations are charged $45 for the first hour, $10 each additional quarter hour I spend evaluating the horse.

Additional fees –

Private lesson cancellation fees apply for non-emergency cancellations with less than 48 hours notice.

Semi-private and group cancellation fees apply regardless of the situation or how much notice is given

Private lesson student-initiated rescheduling request, regardless of whether it can be met, is charged $10. This is to offset time spent by the instructor in exploring the feasibility of the request. Each private lesson student receives two free rescheduling requests per year. Rescheduling fees only apply to group/semi- private lesson students if the group or pair requests to reschedule.

Discounts – For students with horses stabled at White Oak, I can offer the $10 discount for paid in advance lessons. As soon as my insurance gets paid for the year, I can decrease lesson fees by $5 per lesson for paid in advance lessons.

I have read and agree to follow the above fees and policies.

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 (signature of student if under 18 years)

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 (Date)