

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT CLASSES

1. How much time is spent hands on with my horse?
  - a. During a two day clinic approximately 8 hours will be spent hands on with your horse.
  - b. About 2 hours will be spent on classroom teaching.
  - c. Another 2 hours is spent doing simulations without your horse.
  - d. Finally 2 hours will be spent sharing our learning and doing recaps.
  - e. The rest of the time is for breaks, putting horses away or getting them and tacking up.
  - f. During a 4 day camp we work as long as people are willing 8-12 hours. (Of course we take appropriate breaks for horses and people.)

2. Is there going to be different levels of horses/riders?

Well of course there are going to be riders and horses of different levels. No matter how we screen people, they will all be at different levels with different issues and different goals. All the horses will come with different personalities and levels of confidence in themselves and their humans. That is why we limit the number of people and horses participating so that we can give individual attention to each person.

I believe that with my extensive training in teaching in a multi-age classroom in public schools that I have been prepared for the challenge of teaching people of different backgrounds and levels. Of course, we would like to have a class where everyone is on the same level, but that is just not realistic, so we seek to do the best that we can to meet the needs of each individual.

When we are helping an individual with their horse, we find we are only able to do what that horse and rider are ready for. Working with a group of riders, sometimes things work out where one rider and horse will be able to come through on a learning situation in such a way that the rest of the group gets a pretty good picture of what the meaning was, even if they may not quite be ready to do the exercise at the same level. Someday they will be ready and now they have a picture in their mind of what it is supposed to look like.

It is our responsibility as your instructors to answer each person's questions in a way that they understand. It is our goal to help each individual progress from where they are to where they would like to be. That won't happen in one weekend, but it is a beginning. You won't be able to perfect what we ask you to do during our weekend together and we don't expect you to.

We hope that the information and tasks that we give you to do will have a good enough foundation that you will be able to build upon them at home. Just remember that follow-up is critical. We don't just come to town for the weekend, take your money, and leave you to figure things out on your own. We hope to develop a long-term relationship with you where we can continue to help you reach your horsemanship goals. My goal is to develop my students to be better than I am through consistent, instruction that challenges, inspires, and causes us to ultimately do what is right for our horses.

3. What kind of equipment do I need?

We require that you bring a rope tied halter with at least a 12 foot lead line. We recommend that you bring a horseman stick, not a whip. The stick must be sturdy and unbendable. Whips are very flimsy and they sting. The purpose of the stick is to be an extension of our arm, not a punishment instrument.

It doesn't matter if you ride English or western. Just be sure that your saddle is comfortable for both you and your horse. Fit is important.

Just because you may have seen me riding bareback with confidence, I do not require that you ride bareback at our classes, unless of course you are ready and would like to. Spurs, are not necessary equipment.

5. What kind of bit do I need?

We prefer that you ride in the halter, however if you feel totally unsafe, we really do understand, because we have been there. If you must have a bit, we ask that it be a snaffle, because we will be doing lateral movements. We do have advanced classes for riding with the bit. We don't start beginners with bits, because we have found that they normally don't have a good enough seat or soft enough hands to be very effective when riding with a bit, and in fact hinder the horses movement.

6. What if I need a stall?

It depends on the facility. The stall or camping fees at our clinics are not included in the cost of the class. Sometimes we need advanced registration for the stalls so the facility owners can make room. Just note on your registration form that you will need a stall and how many nights. Not all facilities provide feed, just ask.

*However the camps in Burwell do include stall fees.*

7. Is food provided?

Again it depends on the facility. I have had a couple of groups that wanted to do a carry in on the second day. Some places have a concession, but this does not happen often. So bring food and plenty of water for you, because we will be working hard.

*However the camps in Burwell do usually include your meals.*

8. Do I need health papers/coggins, or vaccination records?

Most facilities only require this if you are coming from out of state. But it is always good to ask.

9. What time do I need to be there?

On the first day of a 2-day clinic we normally start at 8:30 with registration. It would be a good idea to be there by 8:00 am. We will start at 9:00 am with classroom. We usually get the horses around 10:00 which should give your horse plenty of time to eat and get settled in. We will be finished around 5:00. The second day we start at 9:00 and end at 4:00.

*At the Camp in Burwell check in is usually 9:00 the first day starting at 10:00.*

*Ending time on the last day is anywhere from 1:00-4:00.*

10. How much riding will we be doing?

At a 2-day clinic we usually spend the morning doing groundwork and the afternoon riding. Any problem that you have while riding your horse can be fixed on the ground, so we will not leave out the groundwork. Note: if we feel that your horse is unsafe to ride one of us will continue to do ground work with you until the horse is ready.

*At the camps we do a lot of riding, including some trail riding.*

11. Why do the classes cost different prices?

We strive to give our students the best deal possible. The cost depends on the number of students and the cost of the facility, which varies. We strive to keep our prices as low as possible and give great value. If a 2-day clinic is full with 10 students it is usually around \$200 for two full days. We normally have about 6-7 students and the cost is \$250. If we have only 4 students the cost could be around \$350 for two full days. See a complete list of prices on the cost page of the website.