



Cloverleaf Equine Center **Guidelines For Horsemanship**

- Sturdy close-toed shoes or boots are MANDATORY. Preferably ones that will protect your feet if the horse steps on them. Do not wear sandals, flip-flops, mesh athletic shoes, or any thin shoes around horses.
- Get the horse's attention before approaching or touching and always approach the horse from the front.
- Be calm and quiet. Sudden moves or loud noises can cause a horse to jump sideways or kick out.
- The safest place to stand is beside a horse's shoulder where you can see each other, or about 10 or more feet away unless you are grooming, tacking or otherwise interacting with the horse.
- Do not stand directly behind a horse. For example, when grooming it's tail, stand to one side and pull the tail gently towards you.
- When cleaning a horse's hooves, bend from the waist; do not squat or kneel.
- When tacking a horse for sessions, the girth should only be tight enough that the saddle does not slip during warm up. The instructor/therapist will tighten the girth before the start of the session.
- When leading, lead ropes should never be wrapped around your hand or dropped on the ground.
- Use Taking the Lead Technique in lessons ONLY. (With the exception of Loki and Rose who do NOT use Taking the Lead in lessons)
- If a horse has on their bridle, refrain from touching their face - petting, scratches, etc. These signs of affection are welcome when the horse is in the barn area, not the ring.
- When going through a pasture gate or stall door, make sure the door/gate is wide enough so the horse doesn't hit itself as this can cause them to startle. Always go through a gate or enter a stall first, make the horse wait, and then have them go through after you, as you stand to the side. Be mindful of other horses in pastures.
- When turning out a horse into a paddock or pasture, always turn its head back toward the gate before slipping the halter off.
- DO NOT feed treats of any kind to the horses.
- NEVER do anything if you feel uncomfortable. Ask a staff member for assistance if necessary.