

Pondalucea Stables

Adult _____

Child _____

Date _____

Hi, you must be a new student to our barn or an existing student who hasn't yet filled out our questionnaire.

Please answer each question to the best of your understanding. It's okay if you don't know, just guess. All learning starts somewhere. Over a period of interactions with your horse, your instructor, and being at our facility, you will slowly learn more about horses and about where you see yourself as a horseman. Please understand this journey takes a LOT of time and effort, and each person will move through their horse journey their own way.

This Questionnaire is intended to give you insight and help you or your child with the fundamental understandings of the horse, your general safety, and basics of what our facility is or is not responsible for. You may be asked to leave our facility if we feel your negligence is causing harm to our horses, equipment, environment of learning, or instructors.

If you opt out of this survey please check the box below. Understand, by checking this box you are putting your child or yourself at greater risk of injury.



REQUIRED ITEMS FOR RIDING



Helmets are required.



Boots are mandatory!!!!



Please do NOT pet or feed ANY of the horses!!!! If caught doing so we may ask you to leave the premises.

RIDING STYLES



JUMPING

DRESSAGE



WESTERN



GAMING

There are many riding styles and disciplines to get involved with. At pondalucea we do primarily English and jumping.

Please answer these 25 frequently asked questions in order to assess your understanding of what goes on in our program and how we work to educate you or your child.

Please answer these frequently asked Questions to the best of your current knowledge.

1. Why do we start students in 1 hour long private lessons?
 - A. To take up your time.
 - B. To assist you as you become comfortable with basic leading and tacking fundamentals to prepare you for the riding and handling of an equine.
 - C. So the instructor can prepare you and your horse for the riding lesson.
 - D. So you can have more time with assisted help being around the horse.
2. How do students move from 1 hour to 30 minute lessons?
 - A. The student has demonstrated that they can safely get the horse and have it prepared for their riding lesson safely and effectively.
 - B. They have had 3 one hour lessons on the ground with our ground lesson Instructor.
 - C. The rider can get the horse to go walk, trot, and canter easily during their lesson.
 - D. The mom, dad, or student grew up around horses and feels horse savvy enough to do the tacking and handling portion on their own prior to riding.
3. What is the goal of riding horses at Pondalucea?
 - A. To become an Olympic level rider in our school horse program.
 - B. To get you showing and competing horses in the industry.
 - C. To help you grow as a person, a horseman, and to understand an equine and your general ability to perform at a certain level as a team.
 - D. To give you time around horses because you love them as much as we do
4. Does each instructor at Pondalucea have a particular specialty?
 - A. Yes
 - B. No
5. Can students move from one instructor to another without being notified temporarily?
 - A. Yes
 - B. No
6. How do I go about leasing a horse?
 - A. Ask Amber the owner of the barn.
 - B. I have moved into 30 minute lessons and can effectively ride and handle the horse on my own.
 - C. My instructor told me I need more practice.
7. When does showing become an option?
 - A. Never.
 - B. When I am ready to show everyone what I can do on a horse.
 - C. When I own/or lease a horse that is not in the school program.

8. When am I ready to own a horse?
- A. When I have mastered everything I can in my lessons.
 - B. You are never ready, you sometimes just have to jump in with two feet and learn from there.
 - C. When I fully understand horses and have no problems and feel like I no longer need an instructor.
9. Why does the instructor sometimes sit on the horse during the lesson?
- A. Because they like to ride.
 - B. Because they want to show you how good they are at riding.
 - C. Because they are trying tune up the horse's "buttons," get the energy out, show you something, or keep you safe.
10. Can part of your lesson include working the horse from the ground?
- A. Yes
 - B. No
 - C. Yes, but if this happens its not worth my time and I get a discounted rate for my lesson.
11. Why Is working the horse from the ground important?
- A. It gets the horse listening and communicating with me before I sit in the tack.
 - B. It helps my horse warm up their body and become mentally prepared for the tasks under saddle.
 - C. I like my horse and this will build a stronger bond between me and the horse.
 - D. All of the Above.
12. Why do I have to pay for a full lesson when part of the lesson is the horse lunging or running around by itself in the arena?
- A. Because we are mean and want your money.
 - B. The horse needs time to let some of its energy out before it can do its job effectively in order to keep the rider safe.
 - C. The horse has intentionally had too much time off and isneeding time to run.
 - D. All of the above.
13. Why can't I ride my lesson horse for more than an hour?
- A. Because the horse is not fit enough.
 - B. Because there are too many students who need to use the same horse.
 - C. Horses, like people, need time to recovery their body's mentally and physically from the lesson, and stresses from the lesson.
14. Why aren't school horses allowed off property?
- A. We are selfish and don't want to share.
 - B. It's a very large risk for the animal and the student.
 - C. We think our horses are terrible.
 - D. All of the above

15. Should I stay and watch my child ride?
- A. Yes, I can help shout things so my daughter/son can learn at a faster rate.
 - B. Yes, I can understand more about what my child is learning and see the difficulties they are having.
 - C. No, I want to leave this up my child to enjoy their sport.
 - D. No, I have better places to be, this is my child's daycare.
16. How come I don't ride the same horse every lesson?
- A. I don't own the horse therefore I will ride what the instructor deems best for my needs as a rider.
 - B. My current horse is sick or injured.
 - C. The horse I normally ride went with another rider and can only go once per day.
 - D. My instructor is trying to make my life difficult and doesn't want me to grow as a student.
17. How do I grow the MOST in this sport?
- A. Ignore my instructor and blame all my faults on my horse.
 - B. Ride one lesson a week on the same in horse in the schooling program so that I become proficient and know everything about that horse.
 - C. Take every opportunity I can find to learn about horses and sit on as many horses as possible while owning my own horse to grow independently.
 - D. Ride as many horses as I can while never owning one.
18. Do all horses get along with all people?
- A. Yes, horses get along with anyone who feeds them horse treats.
 - B. Yes, horses get along with anyone.
 - C. No, Horses are very similar to people and will like or dislike someone based on how that person makes them feel.
 - D. No, but I am paying for a riding lesson and the horse must just do their job regardless if they like me since I paid for the lesson.
19. What if I show up late to my lesson?
- A. My instructor will give me extra time even when my hour of time has ended.
 - B. I will pay a discounted rate since I only booked the hour.
 - C. I will still have the hour block I have booked, but my lesson will need to end at the end of my hour regardless how much we have accomplished.
20. Am I responsible to pay for a missed lesson when I have forgotten to give notice?
- A. Yes.
 - B. No
21. What is the maximum weight a horse should carry with tack included to keep them healthy and happy.
- a. A horse can carry anyone and any weight, they are strong.
 - b. A horse can carry a little more than 18% of their max body weight if a rider is balanced and can balance the horse.
 - c. I never realized this was something I should think about with a horse.

22. What should I do if I don't like riding any of the school horses that are available to me?

- a. Find another barn with different horses.
- b. Buy a horse with the help of someone knowledgeable so I can decide the horse I want to ride.
- c. Get mad at my barn and my instructor and be internally upset each time I have to ride said horse(s).

23. What if I have learned everything I can on the horses in the schooling program?

- a. Buy or lease a horse that can help me grow more.
- b. Make the horses work harder than they are capable of and have no care if they get hurt.
- c. Quit riding because now I am the best since I mastered riding lesson horses.

24. Why do I feel like my lesson horse doesn't listen?

- a. I am learning, and sometimes the horse has been trained to not listen at all times in order to keep me safe.
- b. The horse is poorly trained.
- c. I might not be doing something right and the horse has learned to ignore my inputs.
- d. I don't know what I am doing and I still think the horse should do their job anyway.

25. Do you feel this questionnaire has given you some insight on our program?

- a. Yes
- b. No

The next 20 questions are designed to help you learn about the horse give you insight on how to stay safe and keep others around you safe while being in the presence of horses.

1. Is it ok to feed any of the horses at this facility?
 - a. Yes, with owner present and permission has been given.
 - b. Yes, I can feed my lesson horse anything horse appropriate.
 - c. No, horses can be allergic and I don't know what each horse is allergic to.
2. Where is the safest place you can stand if you are interacting with the horse?
 - a. In front of the horse.
 - b. Behind the horse.
 - c. Petting their face and nose.
 - d. At their shoulder.
3. Where is the safest place I can stand if I am not interacting with the horse?
 - a. Next to my child when the horse is being tacked and handled.
 - b. In front of the horse at all times.
 - c. 15-20 feet away from the horse so that the horse isn't being affected by my presence.
 - d. Close enough to the horse that it knows I am there even if I am not touching it.
4. How far away can a horse hear your heartbeat?
 - a. Horses don't hear that well.
 - b. 4 feet away.
 - c. 10 feet away.
 - d. 30 feet away.
5. Can a horse sync up its heartbeat to your heartbeat?
 - a. Yes.
 - b. No.
6. Do horses have emotions?
 - a. No, they are always happy.
 - b. Yes, but it varies horse to horse.
 - c. Yes, they feel on an emotional level greater than a human is able to.
 - d. No, they are stoic and just do their job.
7. How do horses communicate?
 - a. By knickers and neighs.
 - b. By kicking, biting, and pushing with their face.
 - c. Through the most subtle of body language that even the most attentive person will sometimes miss, and large body motions as well.
 - d. By prancing around and leaping in the air.
8. Can a horse react negatively or positively to the way you are feeling emotionally?
 - a. Yes.

- b. No.
9. What does it mean when the horses ears are pointed directly forward?
- a. The horse is only focused what their ears are pointed at.
 - b. The horse is relaxed.
 - c. The horse is annoyed.
 - d. The horse is giving you their undivided attention.
10. What does it mean when the horses ears are soft and forward?
- a. The horse is angry.
 - b. The horse isn't listening.
 - c. The horse is happy and attentive.
 - d. The horse is frustrated.
11. What does it mean when the horses ears are soft and back?
- a. The horse is listening to the things behind their head.
 - b. The horse is scared of something behind it.
 - c. The horse is preparing for battle.
12. What does it mean when the horses ears are pinned flat back?
- a. They are angry or protecting their territory or person.
 - b. They are sleepy.
 - c. They are uncomfortable and sick.
13. What does it mean when a horse is hot?
- a. He needs to get in the shade to cool down.
 - b. He has a bad temper.
 - c. He has overheated and needs to be sprayed down with cool water.
 - d. He has too much energy that can't be contained by any level of rider safely.
14. What are ways horses communicate to get your attention?
- a. Stomping feet.
 - b. Blinking eyes rapidly.
 - c. Snarling their mouth.
 - d. Yawning.
 - e. Licking their lips.
 - f. bobbing there head.
 - g. Swishing head.
 - h. Kickin.g
 - i. Biting.
 - j. Bucking.
 - k. Kicking out.
 - l. Knickering.
 - m. Breathing out deeply.
 - n. Nudging your with their face.
 - o. All of the above, plus more.

- 15. Are horses predictable and easy to understand?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
- 16. What are common behaviors of every horse, including school horses?
 - a. Biting.
 - b. Having a flight or fight instinct.
 - c. Kicking.
 - d. Head shaking.
 - e. Reacting to environmental stimulus.
 - f. Moving into or away from pressure.
 - g. All the above
- 17. What is spooking?
 - a. A sudden jolt or reaction from the horse caused by a perceived threat due to their natural instinct.
 - b. Seeing a ghost.
 - c. Hiding behind something and jumping out to see if the horse startles.
- 18. Are horses inherently dangerous?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
- 19. Which actions would say the horse is being naughty?
 - a. Shaking their head.
 - b. Kicking at a rider's leg.
 - c. Going fast.
 - d. Going to slow.
 - e. Crow hopping.
 - f. Stopping suddenly.
 - g. None of the above.
- 20. If you don't understand what you are being taught by your instructor, what should you do?
 - a. Stop and ask for clarification.
 - b. Continue on, confused.
 - c. Get angry that my instructor isn't reading my mind.
 - d. Think that I know better than my teacher and stop trying.

Comments and feedback on this questionnaire, thank you:
