



Riding Centre Updates

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NOT JUST ANY RIDING SCHOOL...

Is the grass always greener on the other side? When people start to look for a riding stable, they have specific goals in mind. Maybe they would like to eventually jump at Spruce Meadows or maybe they want to learn dressage.

There are many things to consider when it comes to choosing a riding school:

- what discipline would you like to learn
- what type of instructor best suits your personality
- location from your home
- what is your commitment level

When a horse enthusiast finds a stable that suits them, they become part of a community. A community that will support them through their growth as an athlete.

I think we can all agree that the grass is greener at Alborak :)

Horsemanship Tip: Signs of a Healthy Horse



How do you know if your horse is not well? It cannot tell you with words but signs can be seen though a watchful eye. First we must know what the horse's normal is:

- what does it normally look like (coat, eye, weight)
- how much does it eat & drink
- what does the manure look like
- what are the normal vitals (TPR)
- what is the normal energy level

A good way to remember all of these is to write them out in your ownership journal!

Once you become familiar with what its "normal" is, you will easily be aware of when the horse is feeling different. If you are not sure of what signs to look for, think of when you are sick. What would your body look like? Are you going to be hungry? Would you be ready to run around and play? Could you have a cough and a runny nose?

So while you are spending time with your horse, take the time to learn what the norm is. If in doubt, ask your instructor!

Horse Week MAY 31-JUNE 6, 2019

"Each year, the first Saturday of June is marked as Canada's National Horse Day. Together, [Equestrian Canada \(EC\)](#) and the provincial equestrian associations invite all Canadians to take this unique opportunity honor, discover, and explore the equestrian world."

So what is Alborak doing this year to help celebrate Canada's National Horse Day (June 1, 2019)?

We thought we would roll up our sleeves and get cutting...COOKIE cutting that is!



We would like to see what horse you choose to make. You can even make up your DREAM horse. We want to hear all about it and will post stories and photos on our [FaceBook page](#)

There will be these sweet treats, and others for your horse, at the front entrance during the lesson days.

To Graze or Not to Graze...That is The Question

We all know that the grass will soon be growing green and tall. With the Spring showers comes lush, rich, and nutritious grass!

So why does Alborak encourage its lesson program students NOT to graze the horses?

THINK SMART; THINK SAFE

Here are a couple of reasons why the school horses should not be allowed to graze- *even though they will try to convince you otherwise:*

1. Spring grass is very rich and could upset the horse's stomach if it is fed too much too soon. A horse's digestive track is very sensitive. Allowing them to indulge on a lot of Spring grass can cause them an upset much like when you eat too many treats on Halloween.
2. Horses are creatures of habit and if they are allowed to eat grass sometimes, then they will think that they are allowed all of the time! That being said, if a young beginner student is walking a horse back to its paddock, the horse might dive for grass and take the student with it! Not intentionally trying to be rude, but the horse only knows that it has been allowed to eat grass in the past and grass is delicious.
3. Finally, we must consider the potential for current or past health concerns of the horse. For example: horses who have "foundered" (look it up if you are curious) are more prone to getting that disease again, especially if they have access to lush Spring grass.

Alborak organizes controlled grazing for the school horses. That means the horses will be left 'free' to eat grass at certain times over the summer. So please, pamper the school horses with a great groom and an apple or a carrot instead.

REMINDERS

Summer Lesson options are in the works...stay tuned!

2019 Summer Camp registrations are OPEN

Pony Club testing: June 8/9 NO LESSONS

All lessons run as usual on all holidays EXCEPT Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Years Day and Labour day