



# Riding Centre Updates

Issue #17  
June 2019

## NOT JUST ANY RIDING SCHOOL...

As we start to count down the days to Summer break, we also are counting down the final days of the 2019 Spring session.

During the Summer months, the Riding School 10-Week programs take a pause. Instead, we host Summer camps, participate in horse shows and ride out to the lake to swim with the horses.

We also take this time reflect on the past year's successes and challenges. Things that we reflect on include horses, tack, lesson structure and policies and YOU. The Alborak team knows how important YOUR time is. We are committed to continue to improve processes so that YOU can have the best experience at the farm.

From all your friends (2 legged and 4), we wish you a safe and fun summer! See you in the Fall (if not sooner).

### It's a Fact!

How much do you know about our equine friends? Here are some interesting facts about horses!!



A horse or pony is measured in **hands**. One hand equals 4 inches.

A **dam** is a horse or pony's mom and a **sire** the dad.

A **grade** horse or pony is one of unknown or mixed breeding.

The color **flea-bitten grey** is a speckled grey coat with tiny black, brown or red spots. Algernon is that color!

A **farrier** is an expert on trimming, shoeing, and balancing horses' feet. Alborak's farrier is Marshall Isles.

A horse's normal temperature is between **95.5°F and 101.5°F** where a human's normal temperature is 97°F to 99°F

Horses need **8-12 gallons of water** (or more) a day. That's 30-45 liters or 60-90 plastic water bottles (500ml)!

A **green** horse or pony does NOT refer to a color. It means that the animal is untrained or inexperienced.

*Information is provided by the Pony Club Manual of Horsemanship (2<sup>nd</sup> edition)*

## Summer Lesson Options Begins July 3, 2019



If anyone is looking to continue with lessons throughout the Summer, we will be offering some classes. These classes are suitable for all current Riding School students.

The Summer lesson options are not part of a package, therefore fees and commitment levels are different. Lesson options and information have been sent to you via email on June 13, 2019.

### Instructors

Alex, Autumn, BJ, Declan

### Fees (includes school horse rental)

Group: \$75 + GST

Private: \$85 + GST

### Number of students per group lesson

Novice-max 4, beginner-max 3

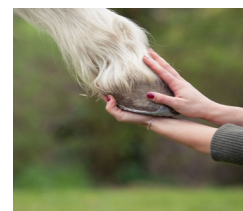
### **This is a first come first serve basis.**

If you have any questions about arranging a lesson, please contact Alborak. If you are interested in taking some lessons, please contact our certified instructors directly!

## THINK SMART; THINK SAFE

### Herd Hierarchy...where do YOU stand?

Horses are herd animals, that means that they live in large numbers in order to survive. No matter the size of the herd, there is always a horse that bosses all of the other horses around.



This top horse will have the ability to make the other horses feet move. Body language plays an important role in this. The ears, eyes, legs and even the tail can make actions that are intimidating to other horses.

If we watch horses interact with one and other we can start to figure out who's in-charge. We can do this with human/horse herds as well. YES, if you work with horses, you are considered part of their herd.

So how can you practice good herd dominance?

**Be consistent** - horses are routine animals and normally learn from consistent and clear cues. Create boundaries for your horse and stick to them at all times.

**Show confidence** - look where you are going, stand up tall and if you are unsure of something, ask for help.

**Stay calm**- don't let your emotions get the best of you when something doesn't go according to plan.

**Keep learning** - not one person will know everything about the horse even if they have studied them for their lifetime. Keep reading, watching and learning about all things horsey.

Remember that YOU can be the top horse!