

Welcome new Students and Parents of new students.

We are grateful for the opportunity to teach you and/or your child. We are looking forward to many happy hours of riding fun. The barn rules are in effect to insure safety first. This is a list of rules that we require our students to follow. These rules are in addition to or the same as the rules required by Diamond C Stables.

The speed limit is 5 MPH this is for everyone's safety!

- 1) Riders and **anyone** entering the barn must sign a liability release forms must be sign by both parents if a minor is at the barn.
- 2) Riders will be helmeted during lessons. Diamond C stables provides helmets if the student does not own one. I strongly suggest that student purchase her own ANSI/SNELLL approved helmet.
- 3) Proper riding attire must be worn. Long pants/jeans are acceptable. Footwear must be a smooth soled boot with a small heel.
- 4) Remember that each horse/rider combination has different levels of experience, different goals, and is likely to be working on something completely different then you are. **The instructor is the only one who should be giving a lesson.** Please give advice only when asked for. Unkind criticism can lead to a loss of confidence in a rider.
- 5) Please remember to walk not run. This will prevent a fall. More importantly, horses are flight animals that frequently interpret running as a cause for concern. They may start to run in response. We are all very busy; staying focused on the task at hand is the best way to hurry.
- 6) **No Smoking**
- 7) Riding in the pasture will be allowed only after a student can do an emergency stop.
- 8.) Horses will be treated with the respect due them. They work very hard and are responsible for many different types of people.
- 9) You are ultimately responsible for your own ride. If you don't understand, feel unsure, insecure, or have any other issues, you must notify the instructor.
- 10) Anyone entering the barn most wear closed in shoes, if you are wearing sandals or flip flops you must stay on the upper deck.
- 11) Children not taking lessons **should be watched at all times**, they may **not** play at the bottom of the arena, or on the side of the deck. Please keep them away from hand rails at all times. **DO NOT BE PLAYING WITH ROCKS AND DOWN SPOUTS!**

We want everyone to enjoy their visit and lessons but most of all **we do not want anyone to get hurt.**

In addition to the rules I would like you to remember simple etiquette. This is the Culver's home. Please act as you would in any business setting that requires good manners.

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You must give 24 hours notice to cancel a lesson, the horses or kept up for you lessons and this is the way the instructors make their living. Credits are only given for emergency reasons.

Learning Levels & Instructors:

The Instructors decide when a student should move on or is ready to lease a horse if interested. We really don't encourage putting a beginner with someone who has been riding for any length of time. They will have to go through all the beginner steps again. This can be discouraging to someone who has been taking lessons and is a better rider. It might be possible to set up the same time with the other instructor.

***Beginners will not leave the round pens for the first month at least!
Up until the age of 7 they will ride ponies, as long as they are available.***

At the beginner level you start out learning:

1. Learning to go get your horse, putting their halter on and bringing them to the barn safely.
2. How to tie them properly and to tie the slip knot.
3. How to walk around the horse touching his rear end and letting him always know your back there, brushing them properly, & cleaning their feet properly. **(Sweeping up afterwards)**
4. Then saddling the horse and putting on the bridle. **Don't forget your helmet!**
5. Then you are ready to go to one of the round pens and learn how you get on a horse. (From this point everyone is different with learning to ride, some have natural seats, some love riding more than others so at this point you will advance at different levels).
6. You will learn to ride bare back for balance and to turn around while sitting on your horse.
7. When the instructor thinks you are ready she will first put you into a trot on a lead line and then let you go on your own, then the same thing with a lope first on a line then after a couple times will let you do it on your own. But all of these speeds will be done in the round pen the first time.
8. They will also teach you how to do an emergency stop.
9. Occasionally in between they might take you in the big arena so you can get a different filling of the horse. Staying in the round pens is a safety precaution. Which is our number one concern; horses are big animals with a lot of power. Our lesson horses are good horses but you never know when one might spook or at what.

Oh yes and if the horse poops that you are riding you have to clean it up!

Intermediate Level

1. By this point you should be able to go get your horse, halter it, make sure chains or back on the gates & tie it up, clean out their feet.(Sweep up)
2. You will be in the big arena more and will learn about going outside the arena.
3. You will learn to trot & lope off the lead line, you will also learn the different leads
4. At some point you will be able to ride in the back pasture but that is totally up to the instructor when you are ready.
5. You will learn to cool down your horse, unsaddle, and give them a bath if they need it and put them away.

Advanced Level

That is when you're ready for the fine tuning and decide what kind of riding you might want to do. Competing, Trail riding, Reining, or just to enjoy horses and get away for an hour or so for mental therapy it is amazing how relaxing riding or even grooming a horse maybe.

It is up to the instructors when they think you are ready to move on, to the next level and if you want too. We do have a few horses to lease but that would be up to Branden to know if you are ready for that. We also offer Play Days for kids 6 & up and even some adult play days, anyone from any instructors are welcome to them! We like to sometimes put those pictures on the web site so if everyone could please sign a web releases form. Also if anyone would like to write something about their instructor for the website you can send it to me and I will get it on there. DCCULVER@gvtc.com

One last reminder:

The speed limit is 5 MPH this is for everyone's safety!

Diamond C Lesson Cancellation Policy

All cancellations must be made 24 hours or longer in advance to allow time for us to re-schedule another person into that lesson. If 24 hour notice is not given (we must have been notified and confirmed your notification) and there is no good reason or emergency you will be held responsible for the full amount of the lesson. You will also be held responsible for the full amount of the lesson fee if we do not have anyone to replace your child's spot. We cannot give credit on a lesson fee that we were not able to recoup by another student filling up the empty spot on the particular missed day and time. All lessons are pre-paid on a month-to-month basis, so in order for us to give proper credits or reschedule a make-up for valid reasons such as illness or emergencies, we need enough notice to do so and will consider case-by-case. We do have to leave horses up in the barn for lessons and coordinate schedules with the other instructor for the use of horses, so it would be greatly appreciated if a call could be made for cancellations (no e-mails). If you or your child misses 3 lessons in a row, the time slot will be given away, and we will find another day and group for your child to ride in. We do not have a part-time riding program in place, Diamond C Riding School is set up as a sport/activity where we offer riding lessons 1 hour pr week on a month-to-month basis. If several classes are missed, your current riding group has most likely advanced, and you can no longer ride in that group.

Make-up lessons are offered if we have availability. A make-up lesson has to be completed in the same week of the missed lesson, and/or in the same month of the missed lesson time (same billing period). A make-up lesson does not roll over into the following month. A make-up lesson can only be offered if proper notice was received and for valid reasons only. Make-up lessons are offered only if availability allows us to do so.

Holiday/Vacation-We are open on holidays and classes are offered unless you have been notified by us. The barn is open 6 days a week, closed only on Sundays. If a holiday and/or vacation falls on a day that lessons are running, please give us proper notice and you will have the opportunity to do make-up the lesson (if proper notice has been given with a valid reason). If the vacation time will take up the majority of a month, we suggest dropping out of your current group, to allow for others to attend that time-slot. If you drop out of the group, you will not be responsible for the lesson fee for that month. You can re-enroll back at any time, if we haven't already filled all of our times and do not have availability. We do not accept partial payments, and we do not offer part-time lessons.