



Thanks for your interest in our Lesson Program and services at Pinebrook Farms Horsemanship Center, Riding School, and Summer Camp

Our goal is for our students and clients to learn and grow in their ability safely, and have as much fun as we do. We continue to be actively involved with the North American Horseman's Association, Certified Horsemanship Association (CHA), and national instructor and riding programs. We attend workshops, conferences and clinics to learn new skills, improve techniques and horsemanship knowledge, which we enjoy sharing with our students.

We'd like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation for your inquiry and interest in Pinebrook Farms. We would also like to review with you the following information about our lesson program, and our policies and procedures .

**OUR STAFF:** Since 1975, we have been teaching both English (Huntseat/Jumping) and Western lessons to youth and adult riders with a strong emphasis on safety. Jorine Seale serves as Director of our riding program, is a CHA Master Instructor, and a CHA Clinic Instructor. Our experienced and professional staff of instructors include: four other CHA Certified Instructors; Carrie Joe Robicheaux, Jennifer Child, Jane Opalko and Gina Quintanilla. Our instructor's collective accomplishments, and commendations from various riding schools, camps, organizations and clients, are on file and available for your review. We have other experienced, well trained assistants who teach according to CHA standards and who greatly benefit our program. For fifteen years we taught horsemanship as a PE credit course, through the Lone Star Colledge System, (previously know as Tomball Community College.) We now teach a similiar course, an Adult Riding/Horsemanship Course, here, through the farm. Jorine also teaches horsemanship, as an Off Campus PE Instructor, in several area school districts.

**OUR FACILITY:** For over 40 years, our riding program has continued to grow and improve. A most welcome addition being the 80' X 200' covered arena, which allows us to ride, rain or shine. Since the beginning, Pinebrook Farms has earned the reputation of being a safe, clean, welcoming place for riders of all ages to come and enjoy many kinds of horsemanship activities. We continue to be accredited by CHA, licensed by the Texas Dept. of Health, and receive commendations from the North American Horsemen's Association, for a safe horsemanship program and facility. All arenas are well lit, and maintained, complete with dust retardant sprinkler systems. Clean barns and grounds, well kept, attractive trails, and an excellent, resident barn management staff, are just a part of our commitment to our clients. You can be assured that visitors always find our facility an attractive, clean, secure place to bring family and guests.

**SAFETY FIRST:** We will continue to teach safe lessons in small group and private sessions. These are generally 30 to 45 minutes long, with group lessons made up of no more than 2 to 5 students of similar age, riding style, (English or Western) experience and ability. The above mentioned organizations, along with others, suggest that lesson students should be seven years old and over, and only accepted for lessons if they are mature enough to be safe riders. New riders are always carefully assessed as to their capabilities. Lessons, horses, and instructors are assigned, accordingly. We cannot accommodate riders weighing in excess of 300 pounds, due to safety issues and the moderate size of our horses.

All riders must have a current, signed Release Form and a Health History Form. Students under 18 years of age must sign the form, as well as a legal parent or guardian. Please be sure you understand the information in these forms before signing. Contact the office for clarification, if necessary. These forms may be downloaded from our website, under the section "lessons."

Parents and students should park in the student parking lot, and walk up to the fenced in area around either set of bleachers. (Do not enter adjacent fenced-in paddocks. There may be horses who are loose in pastures, or being worked in barn yards.) At the bleachers, they will wait for an instructor's directions. Parents may watch the lessons while sitting on the bleachers, and siblings and guests are welcome to play in the fenced in area around the bleachers. Do not allow visitors or young children to play in any other area, or enter the barn without supervision. For their own safety, as well as that of the riders, parents and siblings may not be in the arena, or at the arena fence, during a lesson. Children should be accompanied by an adult when going to the rest room in the barn. For the safety of the riders who are taking lessons, guests are asked to refrain from activities, games or noises which might startle a student's horse. (Examples might be running, shouting, frisbee throwing, shooting "Nerf Guns", etc.)

Students must always wear boots which come up over the ankle, have a 3/4" distinct, heel, and be smooth soled. They should

not have large tread, or hiking boot type soles. Students need to wear long pants, and an approved riding helmet, which they may furnish, or use one of ours. Large, loose, baggy clothing, short tee shirts, tank tops, halter tops or spaghetti strap shirts, dangling jewelry, as well as sun glasses which do not have safety lenses, are not appropriate nor safe to ride in. Students should not wear clothing with suggestive wording or graphics. Those dressed in unsafe or inappropriate attire will not be allowed to ride, nor make up the lesson.

**SCHEDULES & FEES:** LESSONS will be taught every day except Sunday. Lesson schedules will be different in the summer, due to our Horsemanship Camp Program. Our summer schedule will be posted later on in the Spring. A set of lessons is always scheduled and paid for in advance. Lessons can be purchased in sets of 4, or 8. small group or private. Students usually take 1 or 2 lessons a week.

The rate is \$160.00 for a set of four 45 minute small group lessons, or for four half hour private lessons. This is well below the average rate for riding schools, who offer our quality of instruction, facility and choice of horses, in the Greater Houston, Harris/Montgomery County area. We give a discount of \$5.00 per lesson to families with more than one student in the same lesson. Small group lessons are always encouraged. Equine industry studies show that students learn better and retain more, when accompanied by other riders.

**LESSON OPTIONS:** 1. Students, (depending on age, ability and experience, and when arranged for in advance,) may be given the choice of arriving 30 minutes prior to lesson time, and grooming and tacking up their own horse. This time will be supervised, but not charged for, and will not be included in lesson time. However, the instructor will need to start the lesson at the designated time, and if the student's horse is not ready by the time to start the lesson, they will be charged for that time. (If a student chooses the option of coming early, that commitment will be for an entire set of lessons, and they will be held responsible for the horse being ready by each lesson time.) Instructors will evaluate individual students as to their ability to tack up independently.

2. Students also have the option of taking sets of 45 minute private lessons at the rate of \$200.00 for 4 lessons, providing time can be scheduled with the instructor. Due to instructor scheduling, a student will not have the option to take a 45 minute class one week and a 30 minute class another week, but will maintain the pre-arranged schedule for 4 lessons at a time. They will advise the instructor or office if a different time is desired, prior to the next set of lessons.

3. Students who wish to pay in advance, for eight (8) "once a week" lessons, will receive a \$20.00 discount. A set of eight (8) thirty minute private, or eight (8) forty five minute small group lessons, will be \$300.00. A set of eight (8) 45 minute private lessons, will be \$380.00.

4. Students who wish to pay for two lessons a week, for 4 weeks, will receive a \$40.00 discount and will pay \$280.00 for a set of eight, thirty minute private, or eight forty five minute small group lessons. Eight (8) 45 minute private lessons will be \$360.00. These 8 lessons must be completed in 5 weeks.

**MISSED LESSON POLICY** : We take our roles as instructors in a Riding School seriously. We cannot teach students who do not come for lessons. We hope that you will take your role as a student, or a parent of a student, seriously as well. Lessons missed, without at least two (2) hours prior notification, will be paid for. It is the rider's (or responsible guardian's) responsibility to confirm, cancel, and/or reschedule their lesson. If we do not receive notice at least two (2) hours prior to your lesson, that you will not be here, we will assume that you are coming, will have an instructor waiting, your horse will be reserved, and you will be charged for the lesson.

It is also the rider's or parent's responsibility to schedule "Make Up" times, for missed lessons. All make up lessons need to be rescheduled with the office or the student's instructor. If a student knows they will miss a lesson due to other activities, such as vacations, etc, a make up lesson can be scheduled prior to the missed lesson, and taken within three weeks before or after, the missed lesson. "Make Ups" for those lessons missed due to illness, etc. must be scheduled within a week of the missed lesson, and taken within three weeks. Students will be charged for cancelled lessons, which are not made up. All students and instructors should have each other's telephone numbers, so that good communication is assured.

**OUR RIDING PROGRAM:** At Pinebrook Farms, we teach horsemanship, not just riding. Our lessons are taught in a progressive manner, and the level of a rider's ability is evaluated each lesson, so that new skills may be offered. We use CHA books and material in our program, and if you wish to purchase CHA manuals to assist with lesson progress, you may do so. Some students already have manuals which they received in our camp program. Please talk to the office or our instructors about more information on use of these manuals, taught while riding.

There are many interesting subjects to cover in learning horsemanship, which would not necessarily be taught while riding. For this reason, our lessons will meet, regardless of temperature, rain or shine. On selected days, often in bad weather, in place of riding. We may be covering informative, fun topics and activities, which all good horsemen (and women) need to know. Learning “age appropriate” knowledge of good horsemanship procedures is an important part of our lesson program.

Riders will progress in a structured manner through classes as they demonstrate their riding ability, horsemanship knowledge, and skills. When they are ready to progress to a higher level, they may have a riding and written evaluation. A certificate can be awarded to students as they complete each level, and they will then be permitted to ride at a higher level. Level One is the introductory level, Level Two is the intermediate level, Level Three is an advanced level, and Level Four is the highest level. Established students will be evaluated at a pre-arranged time in order to determine their current level. Levels can be earned in English / Western, or both.

**BOARDING:** Our Boarding fee is \$400.00 a month, and includes: twice daily feeding of a high quality feed, and good clean hay, (from a reputable hay dealer), stalls cleaned daily and bedded down with fresh shavings, water buckets washed daily and filled as many as 5 times a day, as weather and needs require. Unlike other boarding facilities, at no charge, we also attend to blankets in the winter, and fans in the summer (furnished by the client), clip all horse’s bridle paths, faces, and ears. We also provide daily turn out, complete use of all of our well maintained facility, including; the covered arena, other lighted arenas, round pen, and wooded trails, (Unless they are in use at a farm sponsored activity, such as clinics, workshops, camp, or other lessons). As needed, we schedule vet and farrier work, and provide full time attendants to assist them and our boarding clients.

**SCHOOLING:** If we assist you in additional exercise or schooling your horse, please visit with us individually concerning changes in your fees.

**FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES:** Due to requests, we may be holding “Schooling Shows” for our students and clients in the near future, and the details of those shows will be announced, when plans are final. These will be casual and fun events, and allow students to practice on show ring techniques. Our instructors will be giving you additional information, when it is available, during lesson times. We hope to hold the next show this Spring, probably in late April.

Harlie Seale, an experienced photographer, has received many requests to take portrait type photos of individual riders, and their lesson horses, and is considering offering that service. We’d appreciate hearing from you, if you’d be interested.

Don’t forget the weekend activities we hold here during the year. Watch for dates for upcoming R.I.D.E.R's Weekends, for youngsters, and “Back to Balance Clinics”, “Instructors Training Workshops” and others, for adults. We receive summer camp registrations, all year, so if you have a young rider in your family who is interested in attending our summer camp, reserve your preferred dates, before the sessions fill up. Camp brochures are included in our informational packets we mail.

We are looking forward to another year of offering our clients and students safe, fun, services, instruction, and deserved recognition as their riding ability and horsemanship knowledge improves. Again, thank you for your interest in Pinebrook Farms Horsemanship Center, Riding School, and Summer Camp. As always, we welcome suggestions and comments on how we can better serve our clients, and students.

Monte Con Dios,

*Jorine, Harlie*

*and The Staff at Pinebrook Farms*

