

STUDENT _____

SAFETY RULES

- Don't be a horse-eating predator: no sneaking, running, sudden movements.
- Be aware that your horse may be scared if you take him away from his herd.
- Don't lead, tie, or ride your horse too close to another horse.
- Be respectful of your pony's space bubble and require him to respect yours.
- Don't suddenly move into your horse's blind spots – he may spook.
- Leave the loud behind – always talk in a calm, quiet voice when working around your pony.
- Approach your pony like a confident leader so that he won't be afraid.
- Approach your pony at the shoulder – the friendly zone – and keep your hand on him as you move towards his hindquarters so he knows where you are at all times.
- Keep your feet away from your pony's feet – he can't see them!
- Know your horse's body language: ears and tail signals.
- Always wear boots or shoes with protective toes.
- Wear a helmet when catching your pony in the pasture, especially if he is near other horses.
- Always lead and tie safely with a properly fitted halter and lead rope.
- Tie your pony when grooming and tacking up – using a quick release knot.
- Tie to something safe and sturdy, like a post (not a fence rail), with a safety ring or string.
- Don't sit or kneel when grooming pony legs or hooves – always bend over or squat so you can move quickly.
- Don't stand directly behind your pony – stand to the side when grooming his tail.
- Don't get trapped between your pony and a wall – gently make him move so you have space to escape.
- Ask permission to feed treats.

BARN RULES

- No smoking around the barn.
- Keep aisles clear of trash, tack, and equipment.
- No running or loud voices.
- No protruding nails or broken boards in the stalls or around the barn aisles.
- No glass containers in the barn area or pastures.
- Dogs should be on a leash when horses are tied or someone is riding.
- Gates and feed room doors must be kept closed at all times.
- Unplug electrical appliances when not in use.
- Make sure you have safety equipment: first aid kits and a fire extinguisher.
- Pay attention to your horse and your surroundings.

PASTURE RULES

- Check pastured horses daily for cuts or injuries and pick out feet every day.
- Horses must ALWAYS have access to fresh water and salt.
- No trash or hazardous machinery in pasture.
- Check pastures regularly for rocks, broken branches, and critter holes.
- Clean manure from pastures regularly to prevent parasites.
- Get rid of any poisonous plants in the pasture.
- Safe pasture fencing should be at least 3.5 ft tall and easily visible, and made of safe material.
- Check wooden fencing regularly for rotted or broken boards.
- Wire fences should be closely woven so hoof can't go through, with board on top to prevent sagging.
- Electric fencing should be kept weed-free and checked frequently.
- Barbed wire is not safe for horses!

ARENA RULES

- Keep arena free of trash and debris.
- Take jump cups off of jump standards when not in use.
- Always watch where you're going and be respectful of other riders.
- Keep one horse length away from other riders – pass to the inside or circle if necessary.
- Pass oncoming riders left shoulder to left shoulder.
- If another rider has a fall, loses control, or calls out "Heads up!" - STOP IMMEDIATELY!

FEEDING RULES

- Feed little meals often: horses are designed to graze. A small stomach and long intestinal tract means they can't eat just one big meal per day.
- Follow the feed chart: the type and amount of feed (and daily schedule) must be in writing so everyone knows how to feed your ponies.
- Make feeding changes gradually over a period of at least 10 days so horse's digestive system can adapt to new food.
- Always provide fresh water and salt.
- Feed only the good stuff: check hay and grain for mold every time before feeding – if in doubt, don't!
- Stick to the schedule: feed at the same time every day.
- Allow at least an hour after feeding before you ride.
- After riding, make sure your horse is completely cooled out before feeding.
- Feed treats in a flat hand or bucket, with permission only.
- Play it safe – ask if you're not sure.