



EMERGENCY MEDICAL INFORMATION & LIABILITY RELEASE FORM

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY BEFORE SIGNING; SERIOUS INJURY MAY RESULT FROM YOUR PARTICIPATION IN THIS ACTIVITY. DENVER POLO CLUB, INC., DOING BUSINESS AS DENVER POLO CLUB, COTTONOOD RIDING CLUB AND/OR YOUR TRAINER and any owner, officer, agent, manager, employee, instructor, insurer or independent contractor of the same, or any landowner of land upon which I may ride or be present upon in equine activities (collectively referred to herein as "THE CLUB") DO NOT GUARANTEE YOUR SAFETY. THE CLUB requires that all students, boarders, guests, and visitors riding at our facilities have this form filled out and signed (by the parents if under 18) so that we will have information on your desires in case of an emergency. In addition to providing us with this information, we suggest that all persons who come to our Clubs regularly have inoculation to protect them against tetanus. Consult your physician for any other protection he may feel is necessary, such as allergies to hays, grasses, etc., and for his suggestions for the wearing of tags or medallions such as "Medicaid" tags pointing out any special conditions you or your children may have which would require special attention in case of emergency.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Sex:	D.O.B:
City:	Zip:
Other Emg. Phone:	
Physician's Phone:	
	lt. Phone: City:

If in the event of emergency we are unable to contact parents or physicians, please give us your preference for hospital, ambulance, etc. Please list any special conditions, allergies to drugs or any other medications, etc., which a physician should know about before administering treatment of any kind:

I further agree that should emergency medical treatment be required, I and/or my own accident/medical insurance company shall pay for such incurred expenses. My insurance company is______, policy number______.

[Continued on reverse.]

AGREEMENT FOR RELEASE AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY, COVENANT NOT TO SUE AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT

I acknowledge that the use, handling, and riding of a horse involves a risk of physical injuries to any individual undertaking such activities; and that a horse, irrespective of its training and usual past behavior and characteristics, may act or react unpredictably at times based upon instinct or fright which, likewise, is an inherent risk assumed by a horseback rider. The undersigned agrees to hold harmless and releases DENVER POLO CLUB INC., DOING BUSINESS AS DENVER POLO CLUB, COTTONWOOD RIDING CLUB, AND/OR YOUR INSTRUCTOR, and any owner, officer, agent, manager, employee, instructor, insurer, or independent contractor of the same, or any landowner of land upon which I may ride or be present upon in equine activities (collectively referred to herein as "THE CLUB") of all responsibility and risk of injury to persons, horses, and equipment while on the grounds.

1. In consideration of my being permitted to participate in any activity involving horses, tack, riding, using horses owned or let by, or organized by, or conducted at or by THE CLUB, or in exchange or relation to being granted permission to enter into the properties or polo fields, including arena, paddock, pastures, parking, track and polo field areas, whether I am participating in equine activities or merely a spectator or present on the property in any way, I, my legal representative(s), assigns, heirs, guardian(s), spouse and next of kin, hereby release, waive, and agree not to sue, assign, subrogate, or bring any claim of any kind against THE CLUB and "LANDOWNER" shall include the owner of any other land on which I may ride, whether intentionally or inadvertently, or be present upon, in connection with any activities with, sponsored by or on behalf of THE CLUB. "LANDOWNER' shall further include the shareholders, partners, officers, employees, agents, spouses, heirs, lessees, tenants, boarders, or permittees of any LANDOWNER, as herein defined.

2. I fully understand that any involvement with horses, including, but not limited to, proximity to horses, can be hazardous; and that participating in any horseback riding activities (which may include any equine related activity, including, but not limited to, polo, trail riding, showing, riding/jumping over fences and other obstacles, and steep and rough terrain, or even just being present where horses are present) is very dangerous and involves the risk of serious injury and/or death and/or property damage. I VOLUNTARILY ACCEPT AND EXPRESSLY ASSUME ALL RISK OF INJURY AND DANGERS OF SUCH INVOLVEMENT, INCLUDING PHYSICAL INJURY TO MYSELF, MY HORSE, AND MY PROPERTY.

3. This Agreement for Release and Waiver of Liability, Covenant Not to Sue and Indemnity Agreement are intended to be as broad and inclusive as permitted by the laws of the State of Colorado and include but are not limited to, any loss claims of negligence, breach of contract, strict liability and claims for bodily injurty, death, property damage, or other loss, whatsoever.

4. UNDER COLORADO LAW, AN EQUINE PROFESSIONAL IS NOT LIABLE FOR INJURY TO OR THE DEATH OF A PARTICIPANT IN EQUINE ACTIVITIES RESULTING FROM THE INHERENT RISKS OF EQUINE ACTIVITIES PURSUANT TO SECTION 13-21-119, COLORADO REVISED STATUTES.

5. I also agree if anyone makes any claim(s) because of any injury to me (including death), or for any damage to my property, I will indemnify, defend, and hold harmless all those released by this Agreement from any expenses, damages, or judgements, including legal expenses and attorney's fees, resulting from those claims.

6. I also acknowledge and agree that I have, or it is my responsibility to obtain and keep in force, sufficient insurance coverage (including, but not limited to liability, health, disability and life) to protect me from any expense, liability claims or damages mentioned or included in this Agreement and that whether or not I obtain such insurance and whether or not such insurance is sufficient, the above provisions shall be fully effective and enforceable and I will be bound and liable thereunder.

I/WE HAVE READ BOTH SIDES AND VOLUNTARILY SIGN THIS RELEASE AND AGREEMENT NOT TO SUE AND IT IS FURTHER UNDERSTOOD AND AGREED THAT BOTH SIDES OF THIS RELEASE AND ASSUMPTION OF THE RISK IS TO BE BINDING UPON MY HEIRS, ASSIGNS, LEGAL (PERSONAL) REPRESENTATIVES, SPOUSE AND NEXT OF KIN.

DATE

Parent's signature required if under 18. Individually and on behalf of any child under 18 years of age.

PRINT NAME

SIGNATURE

Cottonwood Riding (lub

Lesson Program Fees and Policies

Private Lessons - \$65Payment is expected at the time of the lesson.Group Lessons - \$55Payment is expected at the time of the lesson.Private Lesson Package - \$60 per lesson(A minimum of 4 lessons must be purchased.)Group Lesson Package - \$200 per month

All lesson prices are subject to change. Any account that is 30 days or more delinquent may be assessed a \$30 per month late fee.

Packages

- Payment for packages must be received by the first lesson of the month. The packages expire on the last day of the month, so all makeup lessons must be completed within the month of purchase. It is the student's responsibility to contact the office (not the trainer) to reschedule a canceled lesson.
- A No-Show is considered a lesson and is not eligible for a makeup.

Cancelations and No-Shows

- There is no cancelation fee if a lesson is canceled with more than 48 hours' notice.
- There is a \$25 cancelation fee for lessons canceled within 48 hours of the lesson unless a makeup lesson is scheduled at the time of cancelation.
- A No-Show is charged full lesson price.
- During inclement weather we may cancel or opt for a classroom session (see below). We will cancel when weather produces dangerous driving conditions.

Classroom Lessons

We are aligning our lesson program with United States Pony Club standards. Therefore, during inclement, but not dangerous driving weather, we may opt for a classroom session in lieu of a mounted lesson. These sessions will take place in the clubhouse. Parents are welcome to stay for these lessons. Prices remain the same (see above).

Homework for the New Rider

*This packet is designed to walk the new student through the process of getting a horse ready. It will also offer a few helpful hints and tricks that other students have learned along the way. Use this as reference and review. Remember, after your initial Evaluation Lesson, you will be getting your horse ready on your own. Should you have any questions, just ask!

Catching your horse:

- Always approach your horse slowly on its left side, and make sure it sees you coming. If you approach too quickly or surprise your horse it may kick or run off. This could hurt you or make it difficult to catch your horse. Remember, they are "prey" animals and we are "predators."
- Slowly slide the lead rope over your horse's neck and grab the end of the rope under the neck to hold the horse still. This is very important. If you do not hold the lead rope this way, your horse could wander off before you have a chance to put the halter on.
- To put the halter on, grab the two square rings and hold them so the lead rope is attached to the round ring at the bottom. By holding the halter this way, the straps form a circle that you can now slip over the horse's muzzle. With your right hand, grab the long strap and guide it over the horse's head, behind the ears. Buckle the strap.
- Your instructor will demonstrate how to lead your horse.
- Please make sure that there are no other horses blocking the gate when you bring your horse out. Even though all the school horses are friends, **they can still kick and bite each other!!** If there is a horse blocking the way, you can swing the end of your lead rope and wave your hands to ask the horse to move. If it still won't move, ask someone for help. This also applies to putting your horse away.

Tying your horse:

- It is very important that you tie your horse to the twine loops at the rail. This is a safety precaution to prevent injury if the horse spooks or pulls back. If a horse spooks and pulls back while tied directly to the rail, it could seriously injure itself (or you) while trying to get free. If it is tied to the twine, the twine will break and free the horse. In this case, just step back out of the way and let the horse go.
- It is also very important that we **never** tie a horse using the reins. If the horse were to pull back, the bit could cause serious damage to the horse's mouth in addition to breaking the bridle.
- Please be aware of how close you are tying your horse to others. To prevent kicking all horses should have at least two ties between them.
- Your instructor will show you how to tie the safety, quick-release knot that we use. When tying this knot make sure the length is about the distance from your hand to your elbow (for adults), or from your hand to your armpit (for kids). This prevents the horses from wandering, eating, or tripping over the rope while being groomed and tacked.

Brushing your horse:

- It is important to take your time when grooming your horse. This is a time to clean, but also a time to check for any cuts, bumps, or abnormalities. If you notice **anything** out of the ordinary, please notify the instructor. Grooming is also a time to get to know and bond with your horse. Handling a horse on the ground is just as important as in the saddle. Enjoy this time! **But never sit down or kneel by the horse.** If the horse makes a sudden movement while you are kneeling you will not have enough time to move aside.
- We use three primary brushes when grooming: a rubber curry comb; a hard dandy brush; and a soft dandy brush.
 - Always start with the curry. The curry brings the loose and caked-on dirt to the surface so you can brush it away with the other two brushes. Use the curry in small circles, starting high on the

neck, by the head, working back toward the tail. This brush can cover every part of the horse except for the face and legs.

- Next use the hard dandy brush. This brush gets off the dirt that the rubber curry comb brought up. Brush the horse in the direction of hair growth using a flicking motion with your wrist to really sweep off the dust and dirt. This brush is okay to use on the horse's legs, but not the face.
- Finally, the soft dandy brush is used to sweep off the remaining dirt and dust, and to give your horse that extra shine. This brush is used in the same way as the hard dandy brush. You may use this brush on the horse's face.
- Please make sure that dirt is removed from **all** areas of your horse (including their legs). **Most importantly, make sure to clean where the saddle and girth will go.** If these areas are not cleaned, the horse's skin may become irritated leading to sores.
- If your horse is kind enough to carry you around, please be kind enough to groom them thoroughly and properly.

Picking your horse's hooves:

- It is very important to pick out the horse's hooves **before and after** each ride. This removes any rocks and debris that may hurt the horse's feet, and also prevents an infection in the horse's feet called "thrush." Thrush is a condition caused by excess moisture and mud stuck in the horse's feet.
- Start with a front foot first. It doesn't matter which, though commonly people start on the horse's left. Stand next to the horse's leg facing the rear of the horse. Slide your hand down the back of horse's leg and squeeze the tendon right above the round joint called the "fetlock." When the horse lifts its foot, cup your hand around the hoof.
 - If your horse won't lift its foot, use your body to lean into your horse's shoulder. This will shift the horse's balance, making it easier to lift the foot.
- Once your horse has lifted its foot it is important to **really** hold on. Most horses will try to set their foot down after a few moments, but keep a good grip and don't let them set it down. It will make it easier to hold the horse's foot if you let the leg rest on your thigh (especially the back feet, as they can get quite heavy).
- Always keep your feet positioned to the side of the horse. It has happened more than once that a horse has set its foot down on a rider's foot. As you might have guessed, this hurts! Be aware of where your feet are.
- When picking the feet, hold the pick backwards with your thumb on top and pick from heel to toe. This will help you get more leverage.
- Don't be afraid to really dig in there! Most debris is really packed in. You will know you've thoroughly cleaned the foot when you can see the 'V' shape of the horse's frog. (Your instructor will explain this.)

Saddling your horse:

- After your horse has been brushed and its feet have been picked out you can get your pad, saddle, and girth from the tack room.
- Start with the saddle pad. From the left side, slowly and gently place the pad on your horse. Make sure your pad is even on both sides, and as a rule of thumb, the front of the blanket should be in line with the center of the horse's shoulder. If your horse uses one of the red half pads, place this on top of the regular saddle pad. (Check the label on the back of your horse's saddle to determine whether or not to use a half pad.)
- Next, gently place the saddle on top of the pad. Wiggle the pad up into the pommel of the saddle (that's the front part of the saddle that is shaped like a hump). This helps to hold the pad in place and keeps the pad from rubbing on the withers.
- Finding a girth that fits your horse can be tricky. Ideally, you should find your girth in its designated section (small, medium, or large), but with so many students, the girths often get mixed together. You may need to check all of the sections.
- The leather girths have the size (in inches) marked near the buckle. 52" is the longest that we have, and should fit the largest horses.
- All of our girths, aside from the string girths, have one side with elastic bands. When attaching your girth to the saddle, attach the non-elastic side first to the right side of the saddle. Next attach the elastic

side to your saddle on the horse's left side. This makes it easier to tighten the girth when you are preparing to mount.

- The girth should generally be buckled to the outside two billets of the saddle, unless there are only two billets.
- We generally like to leave the girth loose as the horse walks to the arena. This gives the horse a chance to relax their belly and breathe. Tighten your girth once you enter the arena. Always double check that your girth is tight before mounting!!!

Bridling your horse:

- This can be the toughest part of getting your horse ready when you are first learning, but the more practice you have, the easier it gets. It is a good idea to have your instructor assist you with this part the first few times, or until you are comfortable.
- First, unbuckle the halter and without letting go of it, lower it off your horse's nose and then re-buckle it around your horse's neck.
- Next, hold the top of your bridle in your right hand, facing it forward, as it would go on the horse.
- Place the reins over your horse's head. This keeps them out of the way and prevents your horse from tripping on them.
- It is important to hold your horse's head as you guide the bit into its mouth. There are two ways to do this between the ears or over the nose. Your instructor will demonstrate both ways for you.
- As you are holding the bridle and steadying your horse's head with your right hand, your left hand is free to help guide the bit in.
- Your horse has an area in the corner of its mouth where there are no teeth. Sliding your right thumb into this area and pressing down on your horse's bottom gum will ask the horse to open its mouth.
- Using the fingers of your left hand, position the bit between your horse's lips. As the horse opens its mouth gently push the bit between his teeth. Congratulations! The hardest part is over!
- Next, grab the base of each ear and guide it forward through the top of the bridle. When you are finished, the very top of the bridle should be behind the horse's ears and the brow band should be in front of the ears on the horse's forehead. Pull the forelock over the brow band.
- You are now ready to buckle the throat latch and the noseband.
 - The throatlatch is the piece of the bridle that buckles under the horse's jaw. It also comes across the area where the horse breaths, so it is important that this one is **loose**, otherwise it will affect your horse's breathing. Make sure you can fit your whole hand sideways under the throat latch.
 - The noseband is the bottom piece of the bridle. Before buckling, slide it under the cheek pieces of the bridle on both sides. The noseband is buckled fairly tight. You should be able to fit about two fingers underneath.

After you have finished riding, it is time to untack your horse. Your horse cannot go back home until it has been untacked!

Untacking your horse:

- Before leaving the arena, make sure to run your stirrups up and pull the reins over the horse's head. To do so, grab the stirrup iron and slide it up the back of the stirrup leather. Then tuck the stirrup leather through the iron.
- After you have exited the arena, walk your horse back to where its halter is hanging at the rail. Take the halter and buckle it around your horse's neck (like you did when you were bridling).
- Once your horse is secure, unbuckle the throat latch and nose band (only unbuckle what you buckled two buckles under the horse's face). Gently slide the bridle back over the ears and off the horse's head and let the bit drop out of the horse's mouth. Do not yank the bit out allow the horse to spit it out so it

<u>does not "clank" the teeth</u>. After you have taken the bridle off, make sure that you **put the halter back** on the horse's head before you do anything else.

- Now you may remove the saddle. Start by unbuckling the left side of the girth first, then the right. Lay the girth across the seat of the saddle. Grab the saddle and pad and remove them together.
- After your horse is untacked, take all of the tack back to the shed. Make sure you put everything away correctly and in the assigned spot.
- After your tack is put away, go back and brush your horse and pick out its feet. If your horse worked up a sweat, chances are there will be sweat marks where the saddle was and on the horse's neck and chest. Make sure you brush out the sweat marks. Also, make sure your horse is dry before you put it away!
- Once all that is done, you can untie your horse and take it back to the paddock (or stall) where it lives. Always make sure you close the gate behind you when you enter the paddock so the other horses do not get out. Finally, make sure you secure the gate closed before you leave.

For the parents:

• It is important that you are around to help your child, but make sure you let your child do as much as possible. (After all, it is your child who is taking the lesson!) But we know that many of our students don't have the strength or size to lift the saddle and hold the horse's feet and can use your assistance.

Thank you! Be safe and have fun!!!

ottonwood Riding (lub

Our Lesson Program Mission Statement

Welcome to Cottonwood Riding Club!!! We are very pleased to have you here taking lessons with us and we hope that we can be of great value to you and your future with horses. Cottonwood Riding Club started in 1982 as a small barn with one horse in the pasture. Since then, we have helped hundreds of people fall in love with horses and further their horse education. We are currently the largest privately owned boarding facility in the state of Colorado. However, this does not affect the customer service you will receive. We take extra time to see that you have a wonderful experience here and we encourage you to come and talk to us if you have any questions.

When dealing with our staff you are dealing with an extension of the owners, Tara Hieb and Erica Sachs, who have tried hard (like their parents before them) to make this family business one that has the feel of joining a family. We are not a "show barn," although we do attend and host horse shows. We encourage fun and learning through horses. There is a place and a need for "show barns" and if that is something that you would like to learn more about, please let us know. We will help you in any way we can. Our goal is to encourage people to be involved with horses at all levels and help them fulfill their own equestrian goals.

The Lesson Program

At Cottonwood we have a small group of school horses for our lessons. In the school program, students are not allowed to ride the same horse every week, and may be required to ride a variety of types of horses. We do this so that we can better evaluate the rider on horses of different levels and accurately assess the rider's level. When you begin your lesson experience, you are evaluated and placed in a category of riders. As you learn and improve, you will be tested to see if you pass specific basic elements before you move to the next level (move into a group lesson, start to canter, ready to lease, start jumping, etc.). Once placed in a group with others of similar age and riding ability, you and your group will progress together. Therefore lessons every other week are STRONGLY DISCOURAGED and will be accommodated only if space availability permits. The most crucial stage of riding is when you learn how to canter. Because cantering is a faster gait and has a slight jump to it, it can be very intimidating. We do not allow a student to canter until he or she can safely trot around the arena without stirrups. Once you can canter on both leads (both directions) easily and safely, you may be ready to lease a horse and start to learn to jump. We do not allow our school horses to teach riders how to jump. We feel that if you are ready to jump, you are ready to make the next commitment with horses and should either lease or purchase one of your own. We offer many programs to make this next step as easy as possible. Your instructor will inform you as to when you are ready for that next step.

The Leasing Program

Our leasing program is designed to encourage riders of all ages to become more involved with horses, giving the rider the opportunity to develop a one-on-one relationship with a single horse. When you reach a point where you are safe around a horse without the constant guidance of an instructor, then you will benefit from riding more often and on your own. This is why the leasing program is such a great opportunity. The horses on our lease list are primarily horses that are boarded at Cottonwood whose owners do not have enough time to ride. In addition, a few of our school horses are available to lease. All the horses here are members of our family and we do everything we can to make sure that the wellbeing of the horse is considered during the entire lease. We start by evaluating the student and looking for a horse that would be the best fit. We then talk to the owner, and set up a time for the student to ride the potential lease horse. Usually this is done during a lesson so that all parties know the rider is supervised and safe. It also gives our instructors a chance to evaluate the match. If all goes well we contact the owner and give them the information that they need to contact the student. From that point on, all communication regarding the lease is done between the student and the owner.

<u>Most leases are \$350 a month, which allows the student to ride the horse 3 to 4 days a week</u>. It is up to the owner and the student to schedule how many days a week the horse is ridden, and on which days. <u>All leases</u> require 30-day notice to cancel and most require that the student remain in weekly lessons throughout the lease.

The Resale Program

For those of you who are ready to purchase a horse, Cottonwood offers several programs to make the purchase of a horse as easy as possible, financially and otherwise. We do this so that you and the horse you choose will have a long and enjoyable life together. <u>Cottonwood offers several horses for sale at all times</u> <u>during the year at a wide range of prices and training levels.</u> Through our training program, we get to know these horses very well and will recommend only the horses that we feel are a good match for you. <u>We also offer all of our school horses for sale</u>. If you find you have fallen in love with one of our school horses and are interested in purchasing him/her let your instructor or the office know. You can view and learn about all of our resale horses on our website (<u>www.cottonwoodridingclub.com</u>). If you would like further information on any horse please contact us.

Horse prices start at \$4500. However, most horses are going to be priced between \$6,000 and \$9,000. Many people find it hard to commit to spending such a large amount of money at one time. At Cottonwood we have solved this problem by **offering a payment plan for any of our sale horses**. It requires that \$2000 be put down up front, and you will then need to make minimum payments of \$200 a month for a maximum of a year. This way more people can afford to purchase their dream horse. Here you will also be able to afford a better quality horse than you might elsewhere. **This program is offered without any additional fees or interest to further assist you in your first purchase**. During the time you are paying off the balance of the purchase price the horse must stay at Cottonwood, and you will be responsible for board and all medical expenses. In everyone's eyes the horse is owned by you, however we will keep the paper work (the title so to speak) until the horse is paid off. This is a wonderful program that allows many people who at first felt they could not afford a horse, to purchase the "perfect" horse.

<u>We encourage all first-time buyers to lease before they purchase a horse so that they can make</u> <u>sure that the horse is the right match</u>. All of our resale horses are available to lease with the option to buy. <u>This program is a maximum of 30 days and the cost is \$350</u>. The \$350 does not apply to the purchase price of the horse, but allows you time to ensure that you are making the right decision. Please talk to us if you are interested in any of our programs.

> We are always here for you and we encourage you to ask as many questions as you wish so that you feel comfortable about any phase of your riding.

> > Thank you again for choosing Cottonwood Riding Club!

Cottonwood I	Riding Club Student A	Assessment
Name:	Date:	Level:
√=Mastered Skill	WOS=Working on Skill	NT= not tested
Level 1		
Haltering	Walk on Rail	Walk Circles
Grooming	Two-point at Walk	Walk Figure-8
Picking Feet	Posting at Walk	Walk Reverse
Tacking Up	Stand at Walk Down Long Side	Walk Across Diagonal
Mounting	Stand from Halt to Walk	Trot on the Lunge
Shortening Reins		
Comments:		
Level 2		
Trot on the Rail	Trot Across the Diagonal	Trot w/o Stirrups on Rail
Sitting Trot	Trot Circles	Trot w/Reins in One Hand
Posting Trot	Trot Figure-8 w/Diagonals	Correct Heel Position
Hand Position - Stillness	Consistant Trot Rhythm	Correct Leg Position
Two-point at Trot Down Long Side _	Walk/Trot/Halt Transitions	Identify 3 Parts of Bridle/Saddle
Standing at Trot Down Long Side	Drop/Pick Up Stirrups	Identify 5 Parts of Horse
Posting Diagonals	Trot Cavalettis	
Comments:		
Level 3		
Trot Cavalettis w/o Stirrups	Adjust Stirrups – Mounted	Canter Pole Course
Walk/Trot on Rail w/o Stirrups	Adjust Girth - Mounted	Canter/Trot Transitions
20 Meter Circles	Trot Pole Course Two-Point	Canter w/o Stirrups
15 Meter Circles	Canter Individually on Rail	Canter Pole Course w/o Stirrups
<u>1</u> 0 Meter Circles		
Comments:		
Congratulations! You are ready to l	ease or buy a horse!!	
This is what you did well today:		
This is what we will continue to work on:		