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*Established 1960*

## **GROUP LESSON INFORMATION**

Group lessons are an excellent resource for those who are just starting out all the way to high intermediate skill levels. They are economical and perfect for those who juggle a hectic schedule and need a regular time slot. They are also great for those who enjoy the social aspect of being around horses.

Group riding lessons require a minimum of about an hour and a half to be spent at Black Horse each time. In addition to an hour of riding time, students also learn to care for the horse and are guided towards the eventual goal of being able to prepare their own horse for a lesson and then properly care for it afterwards.

Group lessons consist of general horsemanship skills, not specialized disciplines such as jumping. We do teach English and Western though we strongly recommend English for beginners. Western is very easy to learn after English while the opposite is much more difficult.

We have a unique system of teaching beginners by using Western tack even though they are being taught English. We find the Western saddle and bridle makes the student feel much more comfortable and secure to start off. As the student's ability grows, we switch first the saddle to an English version, and then the bridle.

Students are supervised at all times by our instructors or staff, which consists of advanced students who have been with us for quite some time.

Horses are assigned based on capability of the student. As the student advances, the pool of horses available widens.

Students are allowed to advance at their own rate. We hold no one back based on the abilities of others in their class. Classes are of mixed skill levels. We find this method hastens the learning process.

Group lessons are scheduled once a week, though there are people who enjoy and are capable who come more often. The day and time slot remain constant each week. There is one instructor assigned to each day, though we do rotate others in occasionally for a change of pace.

Our lessons are sold in blocks of eight at a time. At the end of each eight lesson block, you may continue on in your time slot if you wish by purchasing another block. Due to our tight scheduling, we cannot sell group lessons in less than blocks of 8 at this time.

Our current rate is \$200 per block of eight lessons. Please call Sue Hobbie at (908) 872-0420 to schedule lessons.