

The Mane Bit

HARROGATE HILLS' MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

MAY 2025

The kindest treatment of the horse is gained through knowledge.

Show season is now in full swing

Our show season is off to a very exciting and fun start...! This month we completed our second show at home. It continues to be so exciting to see all the progress our students have made since last year. Once again, there was a large turnout of riders from other barns, and the Harrogate



students held their own while displaying the cooperation and excellent horsemanship skills that make us all so proud. Read on for more pictures from these events.

Thank you!!!



Karen Dance and Sonia Gadoury went above and beyond making the show course beautiful with all their plants and decorations. They've set the bar pretty high for all our upcoming shows!



TRIVIA QUESTION:

A horse cannot extend his hock without also flexing his stifle. There is one injury a horse can sustain that will allow the hock to move without involving the stifle. (Many years ago, Ben had this injury.)

What is the name of the body part that has been damaged so that this otherwise impossible movement can be achieved?

The answer will be in next month's issue of The Mane Bit.





CAMP TEACHING STAFF TRAINING SESSION Friday, June 13

ALL CAMP STAFF TRAINING SESSION Friday, June 20

TINY TROTTERS LEVEL TESTING DAY Saturday, June 21

HARROGATE HUNTER HORSE SHOW SCHEDULE Sunday, October 5

AWAY HORSE SHOW SCHEDULE

Sunday, June 22 (Stonewood Equestrian)

Sunday, September 21 (Stonewood Equestrian)

SUMMER CAMP SESSIONS

June 30 – July 4 July 7 – 11 July 14 – 18 July 21 – 25 July 28 – August 1 For more information click here: *HarrogateHills.com/summercamp/*

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First Stonewood Equestrian Hunter show

Last month we were off to Stonewood Equestrian for our first off-property show of the season. After last year's first attempt at Stonewood there may have been a little trepidation(!!) but not only were the horses amazing this spring, the riders were the picture of calm, encouraging control. Everything to do with horses is such a mental game because our partner is aware of every fluctuation in our mood. Our show team rose to the occasion brilliantly, being there for their horses and showing them that, unlike last year, it need not be a harrowing experience! Their efforts at the end of the day were reflected in the ribbon count but we were most proud of the professional and composed way they showed up for their horses and for each other.

Wish us luck because we're venturing back to Stonewood on Sunday, June 22! If you want to come and cheer the HH team on, let us know and we'll give you all the details!





Jasmine ad Ash



Karina and Jackson



Valued helpers!



Karina and Jackson



Preparation at the show



Caitlin and Spirit

Harrogate Hills Hunter show June 8th



Emma and Maverick



Vivienne and Sprit



Karina and Mrs. V.



Yuling and Hannah



Caitlin and Ash

The answer to May's Trivia Question is:

• It is thought that there is only one truly wild breed of horse left in the world. What is their name and where in the world are they located?

A: Przewalski's horse, located in Mongolia.

This month's winner of a \$25 gift card from Greenhawk is **Noah M-V.** Honourable mention goes to **Marleigh B.**, **Annie L.**, **Vania S-F**.

All correct guesses have a chance to win, so don't miss the opportunity to be our next Trivia winner!

TRIVIA GUIDELINES:

- Place your answer in the box found in the lounge and include your name and contact information.
- There will be a random draw from the correctly submitted answers and one person will win a prize.
- The winner will be announced in the following month's Newsletter.



A special message for all our hard working Tiny Trotters...

There are five levels that Tiny Trotters need to pass before graduating to the regular lesson program (details below). On June 21st, we're going to have a special session where the students can go through their paces and show us how much they've learned.

See how far in the five levels they have progressed on their way to regular lesson program.

This will be followed by a graduation ceremony where the students will receive a certificate showing the level they have achieved.

Parents are welcome to attend.

Tiny Trotters level goals

LEVEL 1 - Falabella

- 1. Name three safety rules in the barn
- 2. Demonstrate knowledge of where to safely pet the horses
- 3. Demonstrate ability to give a horse a treat safely
- 4. Name the grooming tools
- 5. Name one horse colour
- 6. Name one horse breed
- 7. Demonstrate ability to maintain correct, basic position at the halt/walk
- 8. Demonstrate ability to get on the horse correctly with assistance
- 9. Demonstrate ability to maintain the balance at the walk while holding out both hands
- 10. Demonstrate ability to perform rising trot while holding the saddle
- 11. Demonstrate the ability to perform the exercise "Around the World"

LEVEL 2 - Shetland Pony

- 1. Name two parts of the saddle
- 2. Name two parts of the bridle
- 3. Name two reasons why we groom the horse
- 4. Identify how many beats, (footfalls) are in the walk, trot, canter, and gallop
- 5. Demonstrate understanding of the meaning of the terms inside/outside of the arena
- 6. Demonstrate knowledge of which part of the rider's leg communicates with the horse

- 7. Demonstrate ability to ask the horse to walk on from a halt
- 8. Demonstrate ability to find stirrups at the halt
- 9. Demonstrate ability to hold the reins correctly at a halt/walk
- 10. Demonstrate ability to perform rising trot while holding out one or both hands
- 11. Demonstrates the correct basic position at the trot
- 12. Demonstrate ability to dismount safely (with assistance if needed)

LEVEL 3 - Welsh Pony

- 1. Demonstrate knowledge of checking the 'safety bubble' before bringing their horse into the aisle
- 2. Demonstrate how to use the crossties
- 3. Name the three things we do before we get on
- 4. Demonstrate ability to tighten/loosen the girth while off of the horse
- 5. Demonstrate ability to groom properly with each brush
- 6. Name five of the horse's body parts
- 7. Demonstrate the ability to ask the horse to trot on from a walk
- 8. Demonstrate how to shorten/lengthen the reins without disturbing the horse
- 9. Name three examples of the horse's body language
- 10. Confidently perform a balanced rising trot while holding both hands out
- 11. Demonstrates understanding of feeling the horse's barrel swinging underneath their legs

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LEVEL 4 - Connemara Pony

- 1. Demonstrate increased independence while grooming and tacking up the horse
- 2. Demonstrate how to pick out the horse's front feet with assistance
- 3. Demonstrate how to sweep safely around your horse
- 4. Demonstrate ability to adjust the stirrups while off of the horse
- 5. Demonstrate what it means to ride 'on the buckle'
- 6. Demonstrate ability to maintain a soft, consistent rein contact with the horse's mouth at the walk
- 7. Demonstrate ability to drop/retake stirrups at the walk
- 8. Demonstrate ability to perform a balanced twopoint position at a halt or walk
- 9. Demonstrate ability to keep hands still and in place over the withers and in front of the saddle
- 10. Demonstrate ability to perform sitting trot in short periods



Stoney is continuing his education with Sarah Mark and by the looks of his performance this month, he's going to be ready to graduate soon!

- 11. Name three natural aids
- 12. Name three signs of a healthy horse

LEVEL 5 - New Forest Pony

- 1. Demonstrate how to put on/remove the horse's head collar
- 2. Demonstrate the ability to lead the horse out of the stall safely with assistance
- 3. Demonstrate knowledge of where the saddle should be placed on the horse
- 4. Name the steps taken to put the bridle on the horse
- 5. Demonstrate independence in the arena before they mount (tightening girth, adjusting stirrups)
- 6. Demonstrate knowledge of proper warm-up and explain why
- 7. Demonstrate ability to hold the reins correctly and quietly at a rising trot
- 8. Name the horse's vital signs when at rest
- 9. Name the most important thing that we always check when we put a horse in the stall.



Stay tuned to our monthly newsletter for unique and exciting adventures with horses, as we present new learning opportunities in our monthly newsletter that take you beyond your regular weekly lessons.





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