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Rider Progression & Expectation Agreement

Welcome to Great Escape Stables goal-oriented lesson program! In choosing a top-quality lesson & training barn you will be committing yourself or your rider to focusing on traditional horsemanship and riding to prepare for leasing or buying a horse or pony of your own and attending horse shows.

Joining a competitive lesson & training program takes a financial and time commitment. This document outlines those commitments as required by Great Escape Stables depending on a rider’s level. Our lesson program openings are limited, and priority is given to those who have goals of showing, leasing, or buying. If you don’t have your own horse and equipment our lesson program offers a selection of lesson horses and tack that you are able to borrow and learn on. Please note that there is a horse use & tack use fee included in our monthly lesson costs.

We often have a waiting list so ensuring everyone is on the same page from the beginning is important. Below is an outline of our levels with time, equipment and the cost commitment that is expected from participants at Great Escape Stables.

As riders progress through each level they are given skill sheets noting their skill achievement.

**Level A riders:** Participate in a minimum of 1 lesson per week for approximately 1 month & then move to 2 lessons per week. The lessons are 1-hour private/semi-private lesson.

* + Riders attend lessons in paddock boots, half chaps, breeches, helmet & gloves.
  + Riders have their own grooming kit and crop.
  + Riders are usually in this level for 1 to 12 months depending on age/focus/experience.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Beginner Pre-Teen/Adult NO Experience | 2 to 3 Months @ Level A |
| Beginner Youth 10 & Under No Experience | 6 Months to a Year @ Level A |
| Pre-Teen/Adult w/ Experience | 1 to 2 Months @ Level A |
| Youth 10 & Under w/ Experience | 2 to 3 Months @ Level A |

* + **WHAT’S NEXT:** Riders are usually in Level A for 1 to 12 months depending on their age/focus/experience. Riders must be able to halter/lead/groom and tack up with very little to no help as well as steer on the rail without assistance at the walk & trot before advancing to Level B. You should be familiar with the Level B outline and requirements so riders’ transition smoothly from one level to the next.

**Level B riders:** Riders participate in a min. of 2 lessons per week, 30 min. private lessons or 1-hr. group lessons or a combination of both depending on the lesson schedule & availability.

**Level B+ riders:** (those who can groom, saddle, mount unassisted and ride in a group) B+ riders 7 & older who have been

taking lessons for more than 8 months MUST follow the guidelines below in addition to the lesson guidelines above:

* + Sign-up for a practice ride at least 1x a month, parents may be required to assist.
  + Attend at least 1 horse show within 6 months of reaching Level B+. Don’t worry, we assure you you’re ready!
  + Level B+ riders should get their own saddle pad and start looking for their own saddle which they will need by Level C.

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| --- | --- |
| Beginner Pre-Teen/Adult NO Experience | 3 to 6 Months @ Level B |
| Beginner Youth 10 & Under No Experience | 6 Months to a Year @ Level B |
| Pre-Teen/Adult w/ Experience | 1 to 6 Months @ Level B |
| Youth 10 & Under w/ Experience | 3 to 6 Months @ Level B |

* + **WHAT’S NEXT:** Riders are usually in level B+ for 3 to 6 months as they need to be comfortable riding at the trot without stirrups and over small cross-rails before advancing to level C. You should be familiar with the Level C outline and requirements so riders’ transition smoothly from one level to the next.

**Level C riders:** Participate in a minimum of 2 lessons per week attend at least a horse show, horsemanship classes & participate in one of the following:

* + 3+ practice rides per month
  + Lease or Buy a horse
* This is the level where you will seriously start considering full leasing or buying a horse/pony. Great Escape offers lesson horses to get riders started but as riders progress to more jumping and advanced skills they will need their own horse to work with either full leased or purchased. See Attached Document.
  + Join the Show Team
  + Level C riders must have their own saddle pads (2), their own saddle & bathing supplies.

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| --- | --- |
| Beginner Pre-Teen/Adult NO Experience | 6 Months to a Year + @ Level C |
| Beginner Youth 10 & Under No Experience | A Year+ @ Level C |
| Pre-Teen/Adult w/ Experience | 3 to 6 Months @ Level C |
| Youth 10 & Under w/ Experience | 6 Months to a Year @ Level C |

* + **WHAT’S NEXT:** Riders in Level C have usually been riding for a year. They have mastered all Walk/Trot skills with and without stirrups and can correctly trot a Cross-pole course as well was work at the canter on the rail and over cross-rails. These riders are ready to move to jumping verticals and cantering courses. They should have attended their first show and be working on practice rides/leasing/buying/volunteering in the barn.

**Level 1 Jump riders & above:** Participate in a minimum of 2 lessons per week, attend regular horsemanship classes or volunteer in the barn & participate in one of the following:

* + 3+ practice rides per month
  + Lease or Buy a horse
* This is the level where you will work with your trainer to find the right full lease or horse/pony to purchase. Great Escape offers lesson horses to get riders started but they are not used for jumping more than cross-rails to 2’ and riders need their own mount. \*See Attached Document.
  + Join the Show Team

Level 1 Jump & above riders must have their own saddle pads (2) and their own saddle.

**Summary Chart:**

The following chart is a guideline and goes over the cost & time commitment regarding the minimum requirements for Great Escape’s lesson program from the information above which you will need to have read over before referencing the chart. Totals are based off minimum requirements stated above not options.

* Horse show column is based off the lower cost horses shows. See our price list for exact show costs.
* Items listed under 1-time purchase should have the amount deducted off the Year Total after the first year at that level.
* Horse show time commitment depends on the type of show your trainer recommends you attend.
* The Total for a Year is what you should budget for as you or your rider moves through the levels of our lesson program.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Cost**  **Commitment**  NR = Not Required | **Cost per Month** | **Lessons per**  **Month** | **Practice**  **Rides per Month** | **Lesson Equipment**  1x purchase | **Total for a Year** | **Horse shows per show**  **(min).** | **Show**  **Equip-ment**  1x Purch. |
| **Level A** | $795 | 4-8 | 0 | $175 | $9,715 | $200 (NR) | $75 (NR) |
| **Level B** | $795 | 8 | 0 | 0 | $9,540 | $200 (NR) | $75 (NR) |
| **Level B+** | $755 | 8 | 1 | 0 - $800 | $9,860 | $1,800 (1) | $200 |
| **Level C** | $735 | 8 | 3+ | 0 - $800 | $9,860 | $1,500 (NR) | $500 |
| **Jump 1/2/3** | $735 | 8 | 3+ | 0 | $8,820 | $1,500 (NR) | $500 |
| **Lease Rider** | $700 | 8 | 4+ | $400 | $8,800 | $1,100 (NR) | $500 |
| **Full Lease OR Boarder** | $975 | 8 | 4+ | $600 | $12,300 | $1,100 | $500 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Time**  **Commitment** | **Barn Time per Wk-Mth** | **Horse**  **Show Time** | **Minimum Number of Shows** |  |  |  |  |
| **Level A** | 2-8 Hr. | 1 day NR | 1 NR |  |  |  |  |
| **Level B** | 2-8 Hr. | 1 day NR | 1 NR |  |  |  |  |
| **Level B+** | 4-18 Hr. | 1-2 days | 1 |  |  |  |  |
| **Level C** | 4-21 Hr. | 1-3 days | 2 NR |  |  |  |  |
| **Jump 1/2/3** | 4-21 Hrs. | 1-5 days | 2 NR |  |  |  |  |
| **Lease Rider** | 8-32 Hrs. | 1-5 days | NR |  |  |  |  |
| **Full Lease OR Boarder** | 8-32 Hrs. | 1-5 days | Varies |  |  |  |  |

Due to the nature of our program we are only able to accept students who are fully committed to their riding goals as they correspond with our program. If Great Escape Stables is too progressive of a program, we can suggest other facilities that may work for casual riding.

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**Great Escape Stables Lease & Purchase Options (Level B+, C & Jump 1/2/3 Riders)**

For riders to be successful they need to be working with the right horse. Lesson horses are intended to start riders confidently into riding and horsemanship. Then riders move on to their own personal horse (either leased or purchased). Please note that finding horses to lease/purchase can take anywhere from 1 month to 6 months. The more limited your budget or narrow the preferences the longer it takes. You have a trainer to assist you on this wonderful journey.

**Please reference the chart below for a cost summary and comparison.**

**Full Lease** –

* A Full Lease has unlimited options, is similar to owning but without the long-term commitment. There are lots of horses/pony’s out there that need jobs both at GES & in other barns. A private lease or out-of-barn lease is finding a horse (either at GES or in a another barn and bringing them to GES) that is compatible with the rider and you lease them from the owner, similar to leasing a car from the dealership.
* Terms are usually 6 months to a year term.
* Average cost for a competitive 2’ to 2’6 level horse is $5,000 to $12,000 +
* Options are sometimes available as care leases with no upfront lease cost.
* Leasee is financially responsible for the horses board, vet & farrier (hoof) care. In most cases insurance as well.
* Pre-Lease vetting will be done and costs anywhere from $500 to $900.
* This is a good option for riders who want to progress, show, have a horse of their own and may only spend a year or two at a certain level or have a limited purchase budget. This option also alleviates the hassle of selling the horse in the future.

**Purchase –**

* Purchasing has unlimited options as most riders need a horse of their own to learn to work with. Most owned horses are kept by riders for several years while riders move from cross-rails & 2’ to 2’3” to 2’6” and so on as they advance. If a rider decides to move past the 2’3/2’6” level they usually move to a different horse. Beginner level horses and advanced level horses are generally not the same horse.
* Riders who have their own horse tend to progress faster as they spend more time at the barn and riding.
* Average cost for a beginner level show horse is anywhere from $2,000 (such as a rescue horse/pony who will need additional work under a trainer) to over $15,000 for very experienced show horses. Competitive show horses/ponys like Max Jr. or Flynn are about $15,000 to $20,000. The longer the horses resume (show experience and winnings) the higher the price tag.
* On occasion we can find diamonds in the rough at rescues or back yard barns and while their purchase price is less you will be paying for Trainer training rides to bring the horse along in suitability. While this saves on the up-front cost it can sometimes take longer to find these horses.
* Horse owners are financially responsible for the horses board, vet & farrier (hoof) care. Optional insurance as well.
* Pre-Purchase vetting will be done and costs anywhere from $500 to $900.

**Share Board –**

* Share board is when 2 riders share board on a horse that is either leased or purchased by one rider or both riders and board is shared by both riders. While cost effective and convenient for some, this option may limit lesson days/times, horse shows or classes at shows for one or both parties involved. Both parties also have to mutually agreeable and work together.
* Both riders share the board/vet/farrier cost. Insurance should be considered as well.

**GES Half Lease** –

* GES offers half leases on some horses when a compatible horse is available for a rider. Riders have limited options with this and the horse available will depend on the rider’s age/level/ability. Rider lesson days and practice rides are given priority but maybe limited at times. Show riders interested in leasing are given priority based on limited availability of horses.
* Riders will be billed for horses coggins annually for the horse to be able to horse show.

**Additional Board/Lease Costs -** On occasion performance horses require extra care including the following:

**Supplements:** Joint/mussel support, extra vitamins, hoof care etc. ($25 to $50 month)

**Massage Therapy & Chiropractor:** Relieves sore shoulders, backs, neck & haunches. ($90/appointment)

**Seasonal Trace or body clipping**: $75 to $175

**Regular Health & Hoof Care**

**VET – Regular annual Vet Visits are as follows**:

Jan. – Coggins

April – Spring Vaccinations & Teeth check (Teeth needing to be cleaned/floated get scheduled in May/June)

Sept. – Fall Vaccinations

**FARRIER** – Bi – Monthly or every 6 to 8 weeks.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Up Front Cost | Monthly Cost  Board & Lessons | Included  Weekly Lessons | Included  Weekly  Practice Rides | Vet -Avg.  $700-Yearly  $58/monthly | Farrier – Avg. Monthly w/shoes  Less if no shoes | Total Monthly Budget | Time Commitment - Weekly | Insurance |
| Full Lease | $2,000 - $15,000+ | $975 | 2 | 3-4 | $58 | $45 | $1,003 | 12 hours | $85 |
| Purchase | $1,000 - $20,000+ | $975 | 2-3 | 3-4 | $58 | $45 | $1,003 | 12 hours | $85 |
| Share Board | $1,000 - $10,000+ | $488 | 2 | 1-2 | $29 | $22 | $681 | 8 hours | $85 |
| Half Lease | - | $700 | 2 | 1-2 | $BOE | - | $700 | 8 hours | Varies |