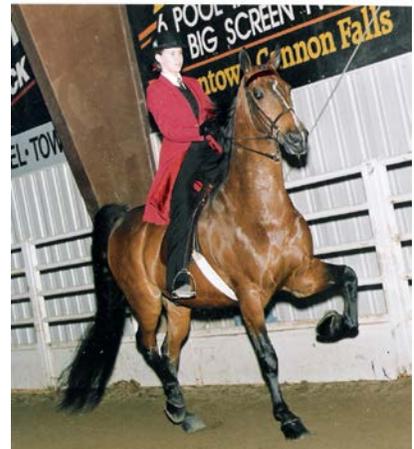
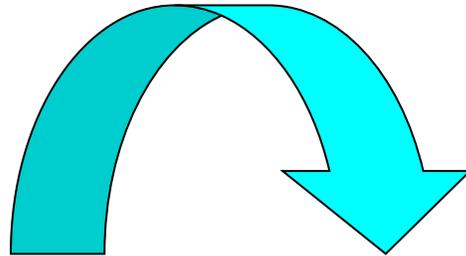




LESSONS



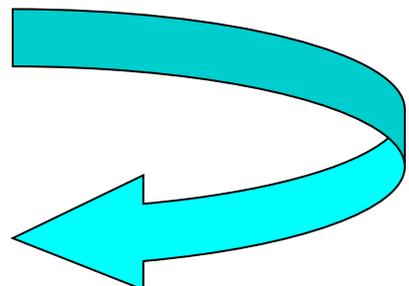
From the home arena...



...to the show ring...



...to the winner's circle.





GENERAL

Centre Pointe riding lessons are individual lessons so the rider benefits from the instructor's full attention. Lessons are generally 30 minutes from the time the horse is brought into the arena (with tack on) until it is led out.

Please be aware that lesson length is at the discretion of the instructor. Some beginning riders may only go for half a lesson. At times lessons may be shortened due to weather, fatigue, or some other factor. On the other hand if an issue needs to be worked out, the lesson may be lengthened. Costs will be adjusted accordingly.

Group showmanship lessons are the exception to the individual lesson rule. These are specifically designed to teach riders the skills they need to be seen in the show ring. Group showmanship lessons are available on a limited basis. They last 45 minutes.

Horse owners generally ride their own horse once or twice a week but can sign up for lessons on school horses also (including showmanship lessons.)

Getting Your Horse Ready

We employ grooms who get horses ready and take care of them after the lesson. You can participate in this process as much or as little as you choose. Our grooms are always happy to teach you.



If you want to help get your horse ready, arrive at the stable about 30 minutes before your lesson time. Let the grooms know you're there to help with your horse.

If you want to help with your horse after your lesson, plan on staying at the stable for about 30 minutes after your lesson ends.

Beginning students usually start by helping put their horse away. More tasks will be introduced as they gain competence and confidence.

Watch and learn

Watching lessons is a great way to learn more about riding.



SCHEDULING

Monthly Schedule

Centre Pointe publishes a monthly lesson schedule in a clearly-labeled three-ring binder with a separate page for each day of the month. The schedule binders are kept on Judy's desk.

This schedule includes valuable information such as:

- dates when the barn is closed for shows, holidays and regular Mondays off
- instructors available for lessons
- school horses available for lessons
- regular vet and farrier visits

The schedule changes throughout the month, so it's a good idea to check it each time you're at the stable.

Signing Up for Lessons

For the first 10 days of the current month the schedule book for the **coming** month is **ONLY** available to Centre Pointe clients with horses in training. (ONLY horse owner can sign up for April lessons March 1-10.)

After the 10th of the current month the schedule book is available to everyone. (Non-owners can sign up for April lessons starting March 11)

When signing up for a lesson:

- Write the rider's name on the schedule
- If you're a horse owner riding your horse, write in the horse's name.
- If a school (lesson) horse is going to be used, note that on the schedule. A horse will be assigned to you based on your goals and riding skill.
- Note clearly if the lesson is for anything other than saddle seat. For example: DRIVE, WESTERN or HUNT
- Note the date and time of your lesson in your calendar. You will be charged for missed lessons if they're not cancelled **24** hours before the scheduled time.





COST/PAYMENT

For clients with horses in training:

- Four lessons are included in the monthly training charge.
- Additional lessons are invoiced at \$25/lesson.

For others:

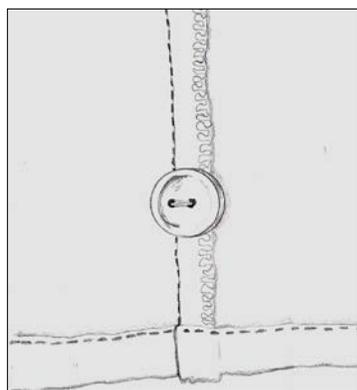
- Lessons are \$40 if paid at the lesson.
- If invoiced, lessons are \$45 each.

WHAT TO WEAR

There is no required riding attire for lessons, but we suggest:

- Jeans, jods or other pants LONG and COMFORTABLE enough to accommodate sitting on a horse. **Avoid low rise jeans and crop tops.**
- Something to keep pants legs from riding up, such as:
 - Jod straps or underpasses*
 - Half-chaps
- Lace-up shoes or short boots with smooth, stiff soles. Avoid heavy soled shoes, like hiking boots, since they can get stuck on the rubber treads of the stirrup.
- Riding helmet, if desired
- Riding gloves, if desired. Can be the inexpensive, stretch gloves if they have textured, “grippy” palms.
- Shirt, sweatshirt, jacket or vest appropriate for weather. Nothing too baggy or bulky, please. It makes it difficult for your instructor to judge your riding form.

Long hair should be tied back securely.



*If jeans are worn, you can sew buttons on the inside seams about 3” from the hem. Then cut button-sized slits in pajama webbing or elastic for easy, effective underpasses.

Illustration by Taffy Miller



HORSES

Lesson Horses

Centre Pointe maintains a string of lesson horses to match the skills and abilities of a range of riders. We value these horses for their patience with new riders and their superb work ethic.

Because lessons are tiring, our lesson horses are usually used for one lesson a day. (When you sign up for a lesson, check the list of school horses on the daily page to be sure there is an appropriate horse available. If you have questions about which horses are appropriate, check with Judy Jensen.)

Lesson horses can also be used in horse shows. (See Showing section of this handbook for information on horse shows.)

Privately-Owned Show Horses

See separate section on “Owning a Show Horse.”

Tack

Centre Pointe has saddles and bridles for use in our lesson program. Our staff matches saddles to individual riders and determines the appropriate bridle to be used for each lesson.

If you decide to purchase a saddle, check with Judy Jensen for advice on size, type and brand. Also our staff may be aware of used equipment for sale.

If you want to begin buying your own equipment, a good place to start is with stirrups and leathers. It saves adjustment time at lessons. Keep them in your car if you don't own a saddle. When you buy a saddle the leathers and stirrups can be attached to it and kept at the barn.

Treats

All horses LOVE being rewarded after lessons. Carrots, apples, peppermints* and commercially-made horse treats are all good choices. To avoid nipping and other bad behavior in the aisles, put treats in the feed bin in your horse's stall. **No hand feeding!**

*Give peppermints at home ONLY; never at shows. Peppermints and caffeine can cause problems in drug test results.

