



Course Syllabus

Simplified Horse Care: HC101

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Course Description:

Horse ownership is a life-long learning process with many "helpful suggestions" from many people and online sources. Where do you begin? This course helps cut through the clutter of information and brings you up to speed quickly so you can meet your horse's basic health and nutrition needs, as well as learn what basic equipment you will need for handling, training and enjoying your horse. It is designed to the new horse owner or anyone interested in a deeper understanding of horse care.

Pre-requisite:

No horse experience necessary.

Required/Recommended Materials:

Notebook or journal and pen

Excel software or other budgeting application

Goals: To give students a solid introductory understanding of the nutritional and health needs of their horse, how to budget for day-to-day needs and the unexpected, advantages/disadvantages of stall v. pasture boarding, stable maintenance, basic horse handling, hoof care needs and options, what health requirements and issues to plan for, equine first aid, how to choose and fit a saddle and tack, blanketing, how to choose a trailer, and how to make informed choices based on horse need and budget.



Expectations:

1. Student will review and study required reading materials
2. Student will study readings and practice outside of classroom time
3. Student will be supportive and respectful of students, teachers and horses (including no texting or phone use during class)

Outcomes:

You will be able to:

1. Develop a horse care budget
2. Determine the best boarding option for your horse and your lifestyle.
3. Implement whichever boarding option you choose.
4. Knowledgeably assess and provide for your horse's nutritional requirements.
5. Identify common equine health issues and know how to treat.
6. Prepare for and provide first aid for day-to-day injuries and sickness.
7. Choose hoof care options and requirements.
8. Choose and budget for horse care professionals (vet, farrier/trimmer, chiropractor, bodyworker, trainer, etc.)
9. Prepare your horse for vet and farrier handling
10. Make appropriate blanketing choices for your horse
11. Determine what tack and equipment you will need for day-to-day use.
12. Understand the concepts and methods of saddle fit
13. Know what grooming tools are necessary for daily care, their use, and how to groom safely.
14. How to choose a trailer that fits your needs and budget

1st Class:

Your Budget, Boarding Options, Nutritional Needs

Developing a horse budget
What expenses to expect and plan for
Start filling in the expenses
Choosing pasture v. stall boarding
Pasture needs
Herd dynamics

Further Reading:

Pasture Paradise, Jamie Jackson



2nd Class

Daily Chores and Nutritional Needs

Stall cleaning, tools and bedding
Nutritional requirements of the horse
Hay, feed, water, supplements
Choosing the products for your horse's health and your budget
Assessing body condition

3rd Class:

Common Health Issues & Treatments:

Identifying common medical issues and treating them
Preventative care: vaccinations and worming
First aid and care for cuts, bites, bruises
Wound dressing and care
Treatment of abscess and hoof ailments
Creating your first aid kit



4th Class:

Hoof Care, Prepping for Farrier & Vet

Hoof anatomy and function
Choosing shoes or barefoot
Care considerations for shod and barefoot horses
Choosing horse boots
Everyday hoof care and tools
Hoof health and supplements
Founder
Standing still for the farrier, trimmer and vet



Further Reading:

Horse Owners Guide to Natural Hoof Care, Jamie Jackson

The Natural Trim: Principles and Practice, Jamie Jackson

5th Class:

Saddles, Saddle Fit, Tack & Blanketing

Types of saddles
Saddle basics
Fitting Western and English Saddles
Basic tack and horse handling equipment
To blanket or not
Types of blankets and maintenance
Headstalls, reins and bits



6th Class:

Spa Treatments, Knots to Know, Trailers

Alternative therapies: Chiropractic, Massage, Essential Oils, Bodywork
Knots you should know
Choosing a trailer to fit your needs and budget