

# *Paradox Country Farm LLC Show Team*

Here at Paradox Country Farm, we would like to foster a fun loving showing community.

Winning is not about what ribbons you bring home at the end of the day, but the smile you have for obtaining your goal for the day.

Even though you ride by yourself in your class, we compete as a team. We will help each other get ready, cheer each other on, and congratulate each other no matter what the day's outcome brings.

## Show Team Goals:

- Riders will compete in hunter/jumper shows, on the flat and over fences, at local, regional, state, and national level competitions.
- Riders will develop goal setting skills along with other qualities sets such as a work ethic, good sportsmanship, patience, determination, communication skills, leadership, self-confidence, independence, and responsibility.
- Riders will acquire a deeper understanding of all aspects of horsemanship.
- Riders will develop a comradeship with other riders.

## Individual Rider Objectives:

- Set year end competition goals for the show season.
- Set training objectives that will help them meet their competition goals.
- Horse shows and lessons will reveal strengths and weaknesses and help define objectives.

## Trainer Objectives:

- Trainer's main objective is safety for both horse and rider. Preparation is key in being as safe as possible. Putting safety first will allow everyone to have fun and meet their goals.
- Trainer will select the specific shows, divisions, and what horse the student will use in competition based on their level of riding.
- Trainer will observe sportsmanship skills and help guide riders to understanding the idea of a subjective sport and forming their own "win".

## Expectations of Show Team Riders::

- Arrive on time for lessons, most cases 30 minutes early if using a PCF lesson horse.
- Join appropriate clubs: PCF Year End Awards, Freedom Horse Show Series, USEF (Rated Shows), and/or USHJA(Rated Shows). Joining is not necessary but may result in additional office fees at certain shows.
- Review show schedule with trainer and sign up for desired shows by paying the deposit of \$25 when show is posted.
- Check all show clothing for fit. Clean clothes and replace items that do not fit properly. Clarify issues of horse or rider apparel.
- Learn the rules and specifications for the classes you are riding in.

- Make sure to go to bed early the night before a show and has a healthy breakfast the morning of. Show days are long and tiring so riders will need to be rested for the day.
- Bring a change of clothes and comfortable shoes to change into.
- Arrive on time for horse shows, allowing time for yourself to get horses prepared for the show at the barn (sometimes horse show prep may need to take place the night before a show), allowing time for you to be mentally prepared and physically warmed up for the horse show.
- Bring water and snacks for small meals throughout the day.

#### Preparation:

- Lesson students should take a minimum of one lesson per week. An additional Private lesson may be scheduled if you'd like before a show.
- Private Horse Owners will also take a minimum of 1 lesson per week and put an additional 2-4 rides in on their horse per week.
- Show team riders will maintain their horse, tack, and barn space in a manner that is supportive of their training goals.

#### Horse Preparation:

- Show Team riders understand that their horse is their partner and that preparation for competition begins months before the horse show day with lessons, training, nutrition, grooming, and conditioning. It is of utmost importance that your horse be properly groomed on the day of the show.
- Regular daily grooming is best for maintaining your horse's coat and healthy skin. Show Team riders should practice these skills and show what they know at each lesson.
- Tails should be sprayed with a detangler and the tangles worked through with fingers before putting a brush through it.
- Manes should be kept pulled and hooves should be conditioned regularly.
- Regular clipping: muzzle, ears, and fetlocks should also be practiced.

#### Preparation Checklist:

##### Before the Show

- Entries for shows will be filled out prior to the show by your trainer if you turned in a \$25 deposit, unless otherwise stated. Some shows may require payment at time of entries, your trainer will let you know.
- Trainer, Use of Horse, and shipping fees are due the day of the competition.
- Bathe horse
- Clip horse: bridle path, nose, ears, under jowl, and fetlocks.
- Clean tack and polish boots
- Wash pads
- Gather clean show clothes into garment bag
- Pack tack, helmet, crop, spurs, grooming equipment, show clothes, hay, grain, water buckets, bedding, and bathing supplies in horse trailer.
- Review show schedule.

##### Show Day

- Arrive at the barn early, allowing time to organize, feed your horse, groom and load your horse.
- Go to horse show office, fill out entry form, leave an open check, obtain a show schedule, and pick up the rider's number.
- Learn your jump courses for the day.

- Between classes, offer your horse water and let him rest in the shade or in his stall.
- Throughout the day, be sure all horses have hay and water. Pick stalls regularly throughout the day.
- Mane braiding is required for 'A' shows. Tails are to be done at 'A' shows only for special classes, such as a Hunter Derby. A non-sticky ace bandage attached to the horse's halters needs to be left outside the horse's stall for the braider if the tail is being braided. Manes can be left in for two days if the horse does not rub. Tails should never be left in overnight.
- After showing, return horse to stall and un-tack, groom him or hose him off, unbraid him, and make sure he has hay and water.
- Clean tack if showing the next day.
- Help prepare other students and horses for their classes.
- Be at the ringside to cheer on fellow riders.
- When everyone is done showing, help get horses settled for the night, or if it's a one day show, help pack the trailer and load the horses.

### Horse Show Etiquette

- Be polite and considerate at all times when dealing with the gate stewards and show secretaries. You are only one of many people they have to deal with during the day. Recognize that they may be tired. Please be patient and cooperative.
- Addressing the judge: While it may seem reasonable to voice your unhappiness over a judge's decision, doing so is against USEF rules and not acceptable. It is against USEF rules to talk to the judge without receiving permission from the show steward and judge. Judging is subjective and we must accept the judge's decision.
- Parent Policies: Your child, as a competitor, needs the full benefit of their trainer's comments and can be distracted by the presence of their parents while preparing with their trainer. Please feel free to watch from the spectator area. Allow the trainer and your child a few minutes after the completion of the class to critique and review it.
- Show respect for yourself, your parents, your teammates, your competitors, and your trainer.
- Treat fellow competitors as you would like to be treated.
- Show respect for the judges and their decisions even if you do not agree with them.
- Admit when you make a mistake and when someone has more skills than you.
- Good sports are generous and gracious, and congratulate winners promptly and willingly.
- Good sports acknowledge their victories without humiliating their opponents.
- Good sports understand that in sports as in life, you may not always win but you can always learn something.
- Good sports do not make comments to other riders about "beating" another opponent.

### Social Media (Riders & Parents)

Only positive posts to fellow riders, show associations, and yourself. What you post is a reflection of Paradox Country Farm and your sportsmanship skills.

(Please print or send any negative comments directed towards you to your trainer, the incident will be addressed and could possibly result in loss of privileges if you are an offender. I'm sure this will not have to be used ☺ )

## Show Equipment

### Tack for the Horse:

- Saddle
- White wool fleece show pad (with half pad if necessary) – cleaned ahead of time
- Bridle
- Martingale if necessary
- Leather Girth
- Leather halter for shipping and shipping boots or wraps if necessary
- Sheets, coolers and blankets for the horse depending on weather

### For the Rider:

- Hunt coat: navy, hunter green, grey, black or brown. No piping or added “Bling”.
- Beige show breeches for riders 12 & older and beige Jodhpurs for riders 11 & under
- Leather belt
- Long sleeve riding blouse with collar – short sleeve blouse may be used in schooling shows
- Black ASTM/SEI approved helmet
- Black gloves
- Tall black boots for riders 12 & older, and brown or black paddock boots with leather garters for riders 11 & under
- Hair under helmet in a hair net for riders 12 & older, two braids with bows for riders 11 & under
- Spurs and a crop