



2019 Handbook



2019 Handbook

Sea Star Lesson Rates.....	1
Lesson Preparation Protocol.....	2
What to Wear for Lessons.....	3
Around the Barn.....	3
Horsemanship Lessons.....	4
Sea Star Lease Program.....	4
Do You Want to Jump?	5
Show Policies and Rates.....	6
Shows or Clinics Off Property: Rider's Responsibilities.....	7
Sea Star á-la-Carte Services.....	8
If Your Own Your Own Horse.....	9
Horse Training.....	10
Buying a Horse.....	11
Working Student Program.....	11

Sea Star Lesson Rates

Sea Star creates customized programs for each student. After an initial assessment, all riders start with private lessons where they can receive one-on-one attention. As riders gain skill and experience, they can begin semi-private lessons.

Individual private lessons are 45-minutes; semi-private or group lessons are 1 hour.

Lessons	Price per package	Price per lesson
1/wk.	\$65	\$65.00
4 lesson package*	\$240	\$60.00
2/wk (8 lessons)	\$400	\$50.00
3/wk.(12 lessons)	\$576	\$48.00

*Must be taken in consecutive weeks at minimum.

- Single-lesson payment is due the day of the lesson.
Lessons cancelled with less than 24-hour notification will be charged in full.
- All lesson packages are prepaid and should be completed within one month of payment.
- Make-up lessons, including those due to rider's vacation or illness, *must* be rescheduled within 30 days of the originally scheduled lesson. Training rides can also substitute for lessons during a rider's vacation in case of complications in scheduling make-up lessons.

Lesson Preparation Protocol

Grooming and tacking up are to be done by the rider *outside* the lesson time; riders should be mounted and ready when lesson is scheduled to start. Riders should allow enough time to lunge before the lesson without delaying the lesson's start.

If the more-advanced rider is taking a jumping lesson, she should have her horse warmed up and ready to go when the lesson is due to begin.

After each lesson, riders are expected to remove horses' sweat and saddle marks with a good curry, sponge, or rinse. Sometimes additional treatments, such as applying liniment to legs and/or wrapping legs, etc. are necessary. These are essential components in maintaining horses' health.

Tack should be cleaned and properly stored and the aisle swept.

The last person to leave for the day must store tack-cleaning station, lock the tack room, and make sure the barn aisle is tidy and swept.

After each lesson, riders are expected to remove sweat and saddle marks with a good curry, sponge, or rinse. Sometimes additional treatments, such as applying liniment to legs and/or wrapping legs, etc. are necessary. These are essential components in maintaining horses' health.

What to Wear for Lessons

Riders should attend lessons "turned out." This entails wearing *clean* tall boots or paddock boots, conservatively-colored breeches, riding shirts or collared shirts (tucked in), belts, and hair nets. Jewelry should be limited due to safety concerns.

When at all possible, riders are encouraged to wear Sea Star clothing (polos, t-shirts, tank tops, team jackets) to lessons. Parents are also encouraged to sport Sea Star items when possible. This helps promote team spirit both at home and at off-property events. Sea Star merchandise forms are available in the office or from Edie. Orders are submitted seasonally. Please contact Edie with any questions.

See "Turnout Tip Sheet" for more details. These forms are available in the tack room (or ask Edie).

Around the Barn

The everyday activities at a barn require a wide assortment of items--equipment, tools, medicine, food, clothing, and more. It's important to keep the barn as tidy as possible, which includes putting things away in their place, keeping your personal items stored in your tack trunk or bag, and keeping the barn aisle free of any items that aren't out for immediate use.

Sweep the cross-tie area where you've been working and clear away any horse manure *before* taking your horse out to ride. Please neatly fold and hang blankets while grooming and riding, hang halters and lead lines by the hooks affixed to barn aisle posts, and clean up horse poop and pee immediately.

Help one another keep the Sea Star area immaculate.

Remember—Sea Stars are always on stage. Sea Stars always represent.

Horsemanship Lessons and Rainy Day Lessons

The "Sea Star Way" includes not just what to do when you're on your horse, but all the elements that go into the care, training, and development of a strong relationship with any horse. These lessons are designed according to age and experience and include reading articles about horsemanship theory, reviewing video of recent rides, discussing personal riding goals and more. Sometimes these lessons will be incorporated into a riding lesson. Occasionally, riders should expect to take a horsemanship lesson that does not include riding.

Riders are expected to attend Rainy Day Lessons in case of inclement weather. Cancellation requires 24-hour notice or lesson fee applies.

Sea Star Lease Program

Leasing a horse is a step toward ownership and is appropriate for riders looking to intensify their skills, increase their riding time, participate in off-property events such as trail rides and clinics, and compete in away schooling shows and rated shows.

In some cases, privately-owned horses at Briarcliff Farm are available for lease. Rates and terms are then determined by owner and rider.

Eddie can also work with the rider to find the horse that matches the student's abilities and goals.

Occasionally, Sea Star has a horse available for lease. The cost of leasing includes lessons and the lease fee. Any additional expenses outside of lessons and board (which includes the stall & two meals) are covered by the student, except medical care, which will be split according to the percentage of the lease.

Sea Star leases are for 6 months or 1 year.

Partial lease of a Sea Star horse: \$700/month. Includes 2 lessons and 1 free ride per week.

Full lease of a Sea Star horse: \$1000/month. Includes 2 lessons and 3 free rides per week.

Do You Want to Jump?

Sea Star's goal is to help you acquire the skills to do whatever kind of riding that interests you. Jumping is one part of this experience, and while jumping can be exciting, it is also very demanding.

Jumping requires a set of foundational skills that includes substantial flat work. Having solid flat work is vital for your safety and security.

The following guidelines provide the minimum essentials required before you are able to safely and securely start cantering jumps:

- Must be able to maintain good balance, steering, and control of the horse at all gaits.
- Must be able to walk and trot without stirrups. The instructor should not notice any difference in leg position or effectiveness with or without stirrups.
- Two-point seat must be strong and balanced, with the ability to do poles at the trot and canter.
- Must be able to stay in two-point at the canter two times around the arena.
- Must be able to execute circles at the canter effectively.
- Must be able to drop and regain stirrups at all gaits.
- Must know leads and diagonals.
- Must have basic knowledge of simple and flying lead changes.

As heights increase, so does the need to have better command of all the foundational flat skills. For this reason, taking regular flat lessons is a part of any serious jumping program. Riders who jump must take one flat lesson *and* one jumping lesson per week.

Show Policies and Rates

A notice about upcoming shows and clinics will be posted on the Sea Star bulletin board and a shared Google Doc. Those interested in participating should sign up early in the competition year. 3 horse/rider teams required for Sea Star to attend. 2 horse/rider teams minimum required for clinics.

Show Use Fee

For the occasional use of a leased Sea Star horse at a show: \$50 per day. The use fee covers wear and tear on the horse as well as upkeep and loss of lessons. If horse is shared between two riders, the fee is \$25/rider per day.

Day Fees

Day fees include instructor's time, assistance, supervision, problem solving, schooling, warm-up as needed, answering questions, organizing prior to the show and the selection of classes for the show. This also covers the cost of additional Sea Star staff assisting in the schooling, care and safety of horse and rider. Day fees apply to *each day the trainer/horse are at show* and are as follows:

- Off-property schooling shows: \$55/day
- Santa Cruz County Fair or Ocean Breeze show: \$55/day
- Rated shows: \$60/day
- Trainer Rides: \$20/ride (Sometimes it is beneficial for horse and rider to have the trainer ride in one or more classes).

Bathing, Clipping, Tack Cleaning

Show horses are expected to be bathed and clipped, mane pulled/neatened, and tack needs to be cleaned and oiled. A rider unable to attend Prep Day should make arrangements for someone else to prepare the horse and tack. These services are available according to the following fee schedule:

- Bathing: \$10
- Show clip: \$15-\$25
- Mane: \$15-\$20
- Tack cleaned/oiled (saddle, girth & bridle): \$15

Braiding is only required at rated shows (except jumpers). Sea Star does not provide braiding services.

Day Shows or Clinics Off Property: Rider's Responsibilities

Proper care of horses is first priority always. Keep these responsibilities in mind at all times:

1. Each rider is responsible for her own horse equipment. When not on the horse, the equipment should be kept in the trailer in which the horse is hauled or stored in tack box as appropriate. Any lost or broken equipment will be replaced at the rider's expense.
2. Sea Star staff will handle tying horses, hanging hay nets, placing buckets, etc. Please ask for assistance and check with staff if you decide to help with this.
3. Do not leave a tied horse alone. Advise helpers to watch or keep the horse with you.
4. Make sure the horse has enough water. Water should be offered to the horse every hour.
5. Girth should be loosened and the horse sponged in between classes or during any breaks and when the horse is at leisure.
6. Bridle must be removed when horse is tied to the trailer.
7. Horses must be cleaned up and backs washed off after returning from off property. If needed, the horse's legs should be rubbed down with alcohol and wrapped in standing bandages for the night. Check with Sea Star staff on this. Fees for these services are as follows:

Groom & wash back: \$5

Legs rubbed with alcohol & wrapped as necessary: \$10

8. All equipment needs to be removed from the trailer and put away upon return. This includes wiping down tack and putting this and other equipment in its proper place. Sea Star service fee for doing this is \$20.
9. If a horse is braided, the rider must remove its braids.

Sea Star á-la-Carte Services

Sea Star horses are expected to be as turned out as their riders. Owning or leasing comes with the expectation that the horse's mane is tidy, its muzzle neatly clipped, its coat well-groomed, etc. Sea Star staff can complete these services for a fee:

- Mane pulls \$20
- Show clips (muzzle, fetlocks, bridle path) \$15-\$25

- Bathing \$10
- Holding for vet/farrier/chiropractor \$10
- Hand walking \$10
- Lunging \$20

- Making lunch baggies \$10/week
- Feeding lunch baggies \$5/week
- Grooming --Basic \$25/week
- Spa (bathe/clip) \$45/week

- Medical services \$15-\$60
 - Soaking/cold hosing/wrapping \$5
 - Shots \$5
 - Pills left by vet \$2.50/dose

Before every horse show, clinic, or similar event, there is a Prep Day, during which Sea Star riders prepare horses *and* tack for the event. Riders sharing a horse should coordinate sharing of preparation tasks. If a rider is unable to attend Prep Day and hasn't made arrangements with another rider, Sea Star staff will complete the tasks for the following fees:

- Bridle cleaned/oiled \$5
- Saddle cleaned/oiled \$5

If You Own or Lease a Horse

Horse ownership or leasing is a special opportunity that comes with important responsibilities. Sea Star horse owners are expected to do their utmost to keep their horses safe and fit, their equipment clean and in working order, and their turnout polished and prepared.

Sea Star horse owners or lessees must:

- Purchase and use their own:
 - Tack (saddle, bridle, leather halter, girth, etc.)
 - Horse blankets
 - Grooming equipment and tote, etc., show sheen and fly spray
 - Bathing supplies, shampoo and conditioner
 - Sea Star embroidered square pad
 - Splint boots, possibly bell boots
 - Half-pad if your horse uses one.
 - Helmet, spurs, gloves, crops, hair nets
 - Medical supplies
 - Standing wraps (quilts and wraps)
 - Clippers and blades (Sea Star clippers can be rented; see Edie)

- Be responsible for making their horse's lunch supplements weekly.
- Keep their horse neatly clipped.
- Keep their horse's mane pulled/tidy.
- Be responsible for their horse's fitness and training schedule. This is a year-round, all-weather responsibility. Many tasks involved in horse ownership can be done on inclement days. If a rider cannot get to the ranch enough to guarantee her horse's fitness and training, the rider (or parent) must make arrangements with the Sea Star staff.
- Be responsible for their horse's health: Sea Star arranges twice yearly vaccination clinics for all horses, both school and privately-owned, to reduce the ranch call fee. Horse owners will be billed separately. We will let you know when the chiropractor is due to make a ranch call and will recommend treatment on an as-needed basis.
- Keep their tack and blankets clean and in good working order.
- Assume responsibility for yearlong turnouts. Briarcliff handles this this service for \$50/mo. Generally blanketing is from September-May.

Horse Training

Sea Star offers additional services that will enhance the experiences of the rider with a privately-owned or leased horse.

Training Rides (\$40/ride)

For the horse owner whose time constraints create obstacles for a consistent training program. A Sea Star trainer will provide appropriate schooling, including focused flat work, work over fences, and conditioning exercises such as trot/canter sets and hill work.

Full Training (\$800/mo.)

Sea Star offers a comprehensive Training and Equine Care Program. The full-training program is tailored to the specific needs of horse and rider and includes the following services:

Training Program

- Training five days a week. Training includes a combination of lessons and trainer rides, to be determined upon trainer evaluation of rider and horse.
- Equine maintenance – mane pulling and show clipping

Equine Care Program

- Daily administration of supplements and medications
- Minor injury care, management and rehabilitation
- Farrier and veterinarian scheduling (includes all worming and injections)
- Standing for vet, chiropractic, and farrier calls and visits
- Monthly administration of joint supplements (e.g. Pentosan, Adequan, Legend, etc.)

Buying a Horse

There are many factors to consider when buying a horse, money just being one. Owning a horse represents a significant investment of time and energy. It also represents an opportunity to form a special relationship with an amazing animal.

It is standard practice to buy a horse in consultation with one's trainer, so that a horse can be selected that is best matched to the rider's abilities and preferences. The many variables at play include the horse's age, size, temperament, and potential, along with the rider's own abilities, experience, and goals. Involving the trainer in this decision helps assure the best possible match.

The trainer's commission for this is 10%, which is added to the purchase price (the industry standard ranges from 10-15%). For example, if a horse were purchased for \$5,000, the total price with commission would be \$5,500.

As a general rule, a pre-purchase veterinary exam is recommended. Such an exam may bring to light previous injuries and current conditions that may reduce either the short-term or long-term value of the horse. The cost of this exam is normally covered by the buyer.

Working Student Program

A limited number of Sea Star students are chosen at Edie's discretion to participate in Sea Star's Working Student Program, which allows students to exchange work for additional lessons. Entrance into this program is based on criteria that includes skills, behavior, and need. See Edie for details about this program.