

**2017 Handbook**



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**Sea Star Training Stables & Riding School**

Big Tree Ranch

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**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. as a rider. 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.



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**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
* Turn-outs $100
* 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.)

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**If You Own Your Own Horse**

Horse ownership 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 must:**

* Purchase and use their own:
* Tack (saddle, bridle, leather halter, girth, etc.)
* Horse blankets
* Grooming equipment and tote, inc. show sheen and fly spray
* Bathing supplies, shampoo and conditioner
* Sea Star embroidered square pad
* Splint boots
* Half-pad if your horse uses one.
* Helmet
* Spurs
* Gloves
* Crops
* Hair nets
* Be responsible for making their horse's lunch supplements weekly.
* Keep their horse neatly clipped. Sea Star will provide clippers on a temporary basis as they are for the school horses and are expensive both to buy and maintain.
* 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 winter blanketing and yearlong turnouts. Sea Star handles both these services for a fee.

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**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-$20
* Body clips $140-$175
* Bathing $10
* Holding for vet/farrier/chiropractor $10
* Hand walking $10
* Lunging $15
* Blanketing $40/month
* Turn outs: 2-5 hours $5/day, $100/month (5 days)  
   $140/month (7 days)
* 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

**Sea Star Lesson Rates**

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

**School Horses**

**Lessons Price per package Price per lesson**

1/wk. $60 $60.00

4 lesson package\* $220 $55.00

2/wk. (8 lessons) $415 $51.88

3/wk. (12 lessons) $600 $50.00

\*Must be taken in consecutive weeks at minimum.

**Private Horses**

**Lessons Price per package Price per lesson**

1/wk. $55 $55.00

4 lesson package\* $200 $50.00

2/wk (8 lessons) $375 $46.88

3/wk. (12 lessons) $540 $45.00

\*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.

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**Becoming a Sea Star Rider**

Riders with Sea Star learn to do things the "Sea Star Way," which includes learning all the things one needs to know about caring for a horse and the equipment, plus the habits and values needed to be a successful rider and part of a successful team.

As soon as your instructor says you're ready, you'll be given the Tack-up Lesson.

**The Tack-up Lesson**

The Tack-up Lesson includes the proper and safe ways to

* Enter the stall and put on the halter
* Lead the horse out of the stall and into the crossties.
* Groom the horse
* Put on the tack
* Lead the horse to a mounting block and mount the horse
* Dismount the horse
* Do a proper post-ride inspection of the horse and groom.
* Clean tack

If you're old enough (and when the instructor says you are ready) and you haven't taken the tack-up lesson, your horse will be tacked up for a fee of $10.

**Taking Lessons**

Riders should arrive for lessons early enough to allow for the time it takes to groom and tack up the horse--generally about 30-45 minutes.

New riders should expect to spend less time in the saddle while they're learning to groom and tack up.

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

**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 his/her own horse equipment. When not on the horse, the equipment should be kept in the trailer in which the horse is vanned 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 should 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 fee for doing this is $10.
9. If a horse is braided, there is a $15 removal fee for removal of braids if the rider cannot do so herself.

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**Show Policies and Rates**

A notice about upcoming White Rock or away shows will be posted on the Sea Star bulletin board. Those interested in participating in away should sign their names to the show of interest form.

**Home Show Use Fee**

Use fee for Sea Star horses for home shows and the Santa Cruz County Fair show: $15 per day. If horse is shared between two riders, the fee is $10/rider per day. Unleased school horses are not available for showing off-site except for the Santa Cruz County Fair show.

**Day Fees**

Day fees include instructor’s 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 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 trainer/horse are at show and are as follows:

* Home schooling show: $45
* Off-property schooling shows: $50
* Santa Cruz County Fair show: $55
* Rated shows: $60
* Trainer Rides: $20 (Sometimes it is beneficial for horse and rider to have the trainer ride in one or more classes).

**Bathing, Clipping, Tack Cleaning**

Horses are expected to be bathed and clipped, mane pulled/neatened, and tack needs to be cleaned and oiled. Riders 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: $20
* Show clip: $10
* Mane: $15-$30
* Tack cleaned/oiled (saddle, girth & bridle): $20

Students in the lesson program can expect to ride a variety of horses at the instructor's discretion, according to availability and the long-term health and care of Sea Star's horses. Sea Star instructors do all they can to best match horse and rider, taking safety into account first.

After each lesson, riders are expected to remove sweat and saddle marks with a good curry, sponge, or rinse. New riders will be helped with this until they can do this independently. This is an essential component in maintaining each horse's health.

**What to Wear for Lessons**

Riders should wear boots or paddock boots (or shoes with a heel for first lessons). We provide helmets and a limited number of half chaps, but it is recommended that you purchase your own if you will be riding on a regular basis. Breeches are strongly recommended but jeans can be worn early on. Young riders should have hair neatly pulled into a ponytail or braid. Jewelry should be limited due to safety concerns. As soon as possible, riders should attend lessons with their hair up in a hair net.

When at all possible, riders are encouraged to wear Sea Star clothing (polos, t-shirts, jackets) to lessons. This helps promote team spirit and solidarity. 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. Orders are submitted quarterly. Stephanie Briskey handles merchandise ordering. Please contact her with any questions.

See "Being Turned Out" for details about what to wear at shows and when representing Sea Star.

**Around the Barn**

The everyday activities at a barn require a wide assortment of stuff--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.

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**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 helping riders prepare for the ASHJA Horsemanship Quiz Challenge, viewing video tutorials by leaders in the sport such as George Morris, reviewing video of recent rides, 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**

Sea Star Riding School students 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 move into the Sea Star lease program. Edie works with the rider to find the horse that matches the student's abilities and goals. 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.

**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.

In some cases privately-owned horses within the Sea Star program are available for lease. Rates and terms are determined by owner and rider.

**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 should work toward taking one flat lesson and one jumping lesson per week.