

T.H.R.I.L



Therapeutic Horse Riding In Lindsay

Rider Policy Manual

Overview of Field of Dreams Farm and T.H.R.I.L

Field of Dreams Farm opened its doors officially in late 2014, after months of renovating the farm to meet the needs of individuals with different abilities. Wheelchair accessible buildings, barns and bathrooms, wonderful volunteers and fabulous horses combine to make a wonderful experience. Offering a fully insured, CanTRA certified program called THRIL, Field of Dreams Farm welcomes both the special needs and able-bodied communities. The renovations to the stables were developed by Kelly Russell and her husband Guy Poliquin. They were designed to be fully accessible and meet the needs of both elite equestrian competitors and serious pleasure riders with and without special needs and provide equine therapy on horseback to the community.

We plan to operate 4 days a week with the help of approximately 25 volunteers, and Certified Therapeutic Riding Instructors. We continue to receive requests from people who would like to participate in our programs and hope to accommodate as many as possible, but a rider waiting list is probable. We strive to keep costs at a minimum for our THRIL riders. Please note that all mounted lessons consist of flat work only, we do not offer jumping for our therapy program

Registration Process

Registration forms are available from THRIL organizing committee, by contacting fodfarm@live.com or calling (705) 324-2756. Registration and payment deadlines for each session are listed on the registration forms. Payment (post-dated cheque, cash etc.) must accompany registration forms to confirm a space in the program. You can submit your forms in person, via regular mail, or by e mail. Once the registration has been processed, our volunteer staff will contact you (by phone or email) to confirm your registration and riding time. If the time slot you have requested is not available or the group riding at that time is not appropriate for your abilities our coordinator will call and try to fit you into another appropriate timeslot.

Registration Forms

Registration forms, Rider General Information forms, Physician Referral (or) Physician Update forms must be completed and signed on an annual basis. In order to remain a CanTRA accredited center we must maintain annual updates of these forms for the protection, safety and therapeutic benefit of the rider. Riders will not be allowed to participate in the program if their forms are not current.

All registration forms must be completely filled out, signed and dated in the required areas in order for registration to be processed. It is the rider/guardians responsibility to ensure that all necessary emergency information, be it medical or special needs, is disclosed on the forms.

Rider Weight

THRIL has a weight limit policy of 180lbs (82 kg). This weight restriction has been put in place for the safety of the riders, horses and volunteers. It also follows the guidelines of the Canadian Therapeutic Riding Association (CanTRA).

Payment

Payment must be received with your registration forms by the due date in order for your registration to be processed. Payment can be made by cheque (made payable to THRIL) or in person by cash. If you pay by cheque and it does not clear, you must pay by cash, or certified cheque plus a \$25 NSF administration fee. In order for a rider to participate in a new term all past due accounts must be paid in full before they will be scheduled into the program.

Withdrawals, Refunds, and Credits

THRIL must be notified of all cancellations/withdrawals from the program by phone and in writing. If a rider withdraws **before** the beginning of the term they will be issued a refund. However THRIL will retain a \$50.00 administration fee. If a rider withdraws without medical cause once the term has begun, no refund will be issued. If a rider withdraws due to medical reasons once the term has begun, a refund will be issued for the remaining classes. The rider/guardian must submit written proof of the condition, signed and stamped by the riders physician.

Lesson Attendance Policy

Due to scheduling implications and the specific requirements of our programs, make-up lessons **are not** possible. THRIL may cancel lessons in the event of inclement weather, unsafe driving conditions, power outages, horse health/welfare etc. We will do our best to come to a decision about a cancellation at least a few hours before the riding time and will make every effort to contact the riders and volunteers as soon as we possibly can. We will do this by email and do our best to call all those who are affected. For this reason it is very important that you include regular and emergency contact phone numbers on your registration forms and notify us if there are any changes to these numbers over the course of the session. In such cases, riders will be contacted regarding alternate arrangements for the lesson.

THRIL does **not** provide credits or refunds for lessons that **you** cancel. Please contact the Program Coordinator as soon as possible if you cannot make your riding time. At least 24 hours' notice would be preferable, so that we can contact volunteers and instructors. For unavoidable, last minute cancellations please leave a text message at (905) 809-7087 or a voice mail on the land line (705) 324-2756 or email info@thril.ca

We ask that all participants be on time for their lesson. Please arrive at the stables 10 minutes before your start time but please be courteous and respectful to any lessons already running. If a rider is more than 20 minutes late for a class the horse will be put away and you will not be able to ride that day.

Arrival and Departure Policy

Please note that when a parent or caregiver brings an underage student to the stables for their lesson they cannot leave the child unattended before, during or after the lesson. THRIL and Field of Dreams Farm staff and volunteers are only responsible for monitoring riders during the lesson itself.

Lesson Breakdown

The majority of our lessons are groups that consist of 2 riders. Private lesson slots can only be assigned by the THRIL administration and are reserved for cases where the special needs of the rider dictate that a group lesson environment would have an undesirable impact on that particular rider or on the other riders in the lesson. Riders cannot opt for a private lesson.

All lessons are an hour in duration. Lesson format consists of 10 minutes of grooming and tacking up, 40 minutes to mount, ride and dismount, followed by 10 minutes to untack and groom. Riders are welcome to assist the volunteers with grooming and untacking prior to and after the lesson time providing it doesn't interfere with the lessons that are running at the time. Please confirm with the instructor if it is your intention to assist in this capacity.

Safety

At Field of Dreams Farm, the safety of our visitors, riders, volunteers, staff and horses is our top priority. Riders will not ride if a lack of volunteers deems it unsafe. The majority of our lessons rely heavily on the participation of our volunteers in order to run safely. If for any reason there are insufficient volunteers for a lesson one of the following steps will be taken:

- Parents, caregivers, or friends may be asked to assist as sidewalkers
- The class will be split according to the number of volunteers present
- The class will participate in an unmounted stable management/animal care lesson.

The THRIL program at Field of Dreams Farm can only run with the great generosity of our volunteers. We do our best to ensure that there are an adequate number of volunteers available for each lesson, however there are still times when unforeseen circumstances result in a shortage of volunteers. It is for this reason that we ask parents, caregivers and/or guardians to come to the stables prepared to help with the lesson if needed. All visitors to the stables are asked to wear closed toe, comfortable shoes when on the premises. If you would like to have a higher comfort level in assisting with the lessons we encourage you to participate in a volunteer orientation.

Changes in a Client's Condition

In order for THRIL to provide a safe and effective lesson environment for our riders, volunteers, staff and horses we ask that the Stable Coordinator be promptly advised of any changes to the riders condition. These changes can be physical, mental or changes in medication that can have unfortunate consequences for the rider in terms of balance, coordination, stamina, vision or hearing.

Dress Code for Riders

When working with and around horses proper footwear is essential; it is a requirement of our insurance policy. Boots or solid hiking style shoes with enclosed toes and heels of at least a ¼ inch will be worn at all times. A heel is required to prevent the foot from sliding through the stirrup and becoming lodged. Sandals, Crocs or open toed shoes **are not** acceptable. For riders who cannot wear a boot due to the need of an ankle-foot orthotic (AFO) special arrangements can be made for alternate safety stirrups to be used.

Students must wear long pants to ride in the program, no one wearing shorts or skirts will be allowed to ride as they will experience painful rubs and bruising. Students should be dressed according to the weather. Lessons may be held outside, in the indoor arena or in the stable, all of which are NOT heated. Long underwear and gloves are strongly recommended in the fall, and early spring months. In the summer months, sunscreen and riding gloves are strongly recommended.

ASTM approved riding helmets must be worn by all riders. Riders can purchase their own or use one of THRIL's selection of helmets for the duration of their lesson. For safety reasons long hair must be tied back and secured off the shoulders. Jewelry such as necklaces and long earrings are not permitted when working around the horses.

Denial of Services

Field of Dreams Farm and THRIL reserves the right to deny services to any individual based on concerns for the clients/potential client's safety and/or the safety of the horses, volunteers, staff, property etc.

The Canadian Therapeutic Riding Association (CanTRA) has established a list of precautions and contraindications for people wishing to participate in therapeutic riding programs. THRIL follows the recommendations set forth by CanTRA and so retains the right to refuse services to any participant that we cannot safely accommodate.

THRIL and Field of Dreams Farm can also deny services to individuals who display threatening behaviours, abuse the animals; abuse (verbally or physically) other clients, volunteers or instructors or use inappropriate language or behaviour with any of the staff, volunteers, instructors, visitors or horses.

General Rules

- Please treat our horses and volunteers with respect – without them there would be no program.
- Children must be supervised at all times. Please do not leave children unattended or allow them to run and play loudly around the stables, arena or outdoor ring.
- No smoking anywhere on the premises.
- No dogs are allowed anywhere on the property.
- Please do not feed the horses anything, especially not by hand. If a special occasion arises where you have permission from the Instructor treats may be fed to the horses in their feed bins only.
- No chewing gum (riders or volunteers). There is a risk of choking while riding or running alongside the horse.
- Please wear appropriate footwear in the barn or while working with the horses to ensure safety. i.e. No open toed shoes or sandals.
- Please walk in the barn, **no running**.
- Please keep noise to a minimum and put cell phone on vibrate.
- Please do not take any pictures without consent from the instructor, rider and volunteers involved.
- Please use appropriate language at all times.

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Visit Us www.thril.ca

Charitable # 76982 4913 RR0001

A non-profit charitable organization located at

Field Of Dreams Farm – Where Dreams Come True!

1072 Monarch Rd, Lindsay, On K9V 4R1 (705) 324 2756