

Beginner's Horsemanship at Gingerbread Acres



Taught by Miss Kaylan Murphy

Photo: Lexy, Miss Kaylan, Virginia

This is a unique class taught exclusively at Gingerbread Acres. Miss Kaylan Murphy is one of Mrs. Amy Barnett's apprentices and one of our camp counselors. She has been with Gingerbread Acres since we opened in July 2009. She owns her horse, Harmony, and Harmony lives at Gingerbread Acres. Miss Kaylan teaches Beginner's Horsemanship the way that she was taught by Mrs. Amy and the way Mrs. Amy designed it, specifically for beginners.

What you can expect at Beginner's Horsemanship:

The first four weeks you will not be riding, but learning all the essential ground skills involved in working with horses: grooming the hair coat, cleaning the hooves, putting on the saddle pad, saddle, and bridle. You will also be introduced to basic horse psychology and why it is important for you to be a leader and get the horse's respect. You will be taught how to move the horse's feet forward and backward while you are on the ground. You will also be taught how to be safe around horses.

After four weeks, you will share a couple of ponies with other students in the class and will learn the one rein-emergency stop, the steps in asking the horse to walk, and the steps in turning the horse (controlling horse's movement from atop the horse).

After six years of learning, using, and teaching these skills, Mrs. Amy believes that this is the best way to introduce people to horses in what we hope will be a lifelong love.

We completed our first session of Beginner's Horsemanship in the Fall of 2011 and we believe it was a great success. We are happy to see the progress that the students from that class are continuing to make.

After Beginner's Horsemanship, you progress to the Beginner 1 class, where you will have your own horse to ride and you will learn to trot.

Due to the fact that we use fewer horses during Beginner's Horsemanship, it is a reduced rate class.

Why teach this way?

We find that people rush to "get on" the horse (ie. "When are we going to ride?"), when in reality they need to learn how to handle the horse on the ground to truly be safe. If

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we remove the expectation of getting on the horse from the equation, we can help ensure that they are paying attention to the important ground skills.

We hope this helps in your understanding of Beginner's Horsemanship and we hope to see you soon "down on the farm".