**The Riding Arena**

**A few “good to knows...:**

Welcome to The Riding Arena! We are thrilled to have you come play with us!

This handout is for people who are either new to, or not regular users of The Riding Arena, and may wonder what “the rules are”. Actually, we have little in the way of “rules”, but we do have a few “good to know’s”.! If you have more questions, they are answered in our more lengthy Handbook available at [www.ridingarena.weebly.com](http://www.ridingarena.weebly.com) . There’s also a copy in the stabling area on the table.

The Riding Arena is operated by a not for profit Society, “North Ridge Community Assn.” This is our first year, so if you have any suggestions, questions or concerns, please don’t hesitate to pass them along to the Executive: Greg Fekete, MaryJane Warshawki and Inge Sumanik: you can email ridingarena.yk@gmail.com

How do I get there?

The Arena is located off of the Klondike Hwy. If you are coming from Whitehorse, - drive west on the Alaska Hwy then turn right onto the Klondike Hwy, or “Mayo Road”. At Km 204, or 12 kms from the Alaska Hwy, turn right onto Burma Road. Turn right onto Bea Firth Road and continue to the end; drive through the turn around, past the gate, and down the hill – the Arena is the big blue building on your left. Drive past the arena and stay left for parking

Where do I park?

Park in the large area on the south (left) side of the building. Please do not drive through the barricade. While there is a small road that goes around the Arena and comes out on the north side, in the winter, it is only used by the staff. Generally, cars park facing the barricade, and most people park their horse trailers further back to allow room to turn around. If you have a bunch of tack to haul, grab a wheel barrow from under the deck.

How do I bring my horse into the Arena?

We generally bring horses into the riding arena through the stabling area. The stalls are available for tacking and un-tacking, so we enter and exit the riding arena through the garage door. We don’t use the outside doors in the riding area in the winter because we save fuel by sealing the doors with blankets. These can become a hazard for a nervous horse coming into an unknown place.

If your horse is simply is not courageous enough to come into the stall area, use the machinery door at the west end (opposite end to the stabling area). Always open the door from inside so that riders are aware that the door is going to open. Feel free to ask for help! Anyone around the Arena area will be happy to give you a hand opening and closing doors. We’re horse people, and all of us have had to deal with a nervous horse.

The garage door between the stalls and the Arena

Some horses don’t blink an eye when the garage door is lifted, but others are very concerned with both the noise and something moving over their head. If your horse is nervous, open the door first, then go back and get him. Closing the door from the Arena side seems to be less problematic, but again – ask someone for help if you need it.

Before opening the garage door, wait until any horses are nowhere near the door, knock a couple of times and yell “door”. People who are riding will look and signal that it’s OK to open it (or not!). We use the same procedure to close the door.

Recently we have found that the stabling area stays cooler with less humidity if the garage door is left open. To discourage horses from leaving, we block the door with a jump standard. While this works for many of us, if your horse seems to be looking for “an out”, close the garage door. If you do use just the jump standard, please make sure that you keep it up when you are in the arena – this is for safety. The garage door should always be left closed at night: close it if you are the last horse in the arena.

Manure

The footing in the Arena is ground up running shoes, and is quite expensive. It provides a wonderful cushion for the horses, but needs to be kept clean. Please pick up manure regularly, and try not to grind it in. There is a wheel barrow and manure fork in the Arena. The manure gets dumped near the north-east corner of the building. Go through the garage door, turn left through the stabling area and out the door. The pile will be in front of you to the right of the outside stalls.

There is another wheel barrow, brooms, shovels and forks in the stall area. Please leave the stalls clean. Pick up any manure outside too. You may need to sweep your stall to get the corners. Please sweep the aisles as well.

Urine – urine is really hard on the footing in the Arena – it makes soft spots that take time to dry, and it gets under the mats in the stall area creating both smell and a health concern. We know it isn’t easy, but if you possibly can, please try not to let your horse urinate in the arena - the stalls are a better option than the arena.

Shavings are expensive too, and are not provided to “bed” the stalls. They are only intended to help keep the mats dry. Use shavings sparingly to sop up urine or snow in the stalls. If the stall is dry, no shavings are necessary.

Water

Water is available through the hoses attached to the stalls. Please turn the water off at the tap when you are done, and don’t hang tack on the taps. If you need to dump a bucket, use the wash area at the south east corner of the stall area. There is a drain in the middle.

We sometimes use the sink or shower in the washroom to fill buckets with warm water – please make sure you clean up any dirt – the bathroom and shower are used by riders and staff!

The Mezzanine

Provided that the area is not privately booked, you are welcome to use the area for breaks. Heating costs for the Arena are very expensive, so we keep the heat turned right down. There is a remote control for the propane fire place – turn up the heat, but please turn it down when you leave. The fridge, stove and microwave are all available for your use. Please leave the area tidy. Leaving your boots at the top of the stairs keeps the floors clean.

Payment

Everyone who uses the arena must be a have paid the Arena and Grounds (A&G) fee and have a signed waiver on file in addition to your clinic or lesson rates. Your clinic organizer is in charge of ensuring that everyone pays this fee and has signed the waiver. You may choose the Daily rate, the Punch Card Rate or the monthly rate. You don’t need to sign a waiver every time: just be sure we’ve got one for the year (Oct 1-Sept 30). Payments can by cheque (payable to North Ridge Community Association) or cash and can be left in the mailbox on the table in the stabling area. Please put it in an envelope and be sure to indicate from whom, for what. You will also see waivers, forms and a copy of our complete Handbook there. These are also on line at [www.ridingarena.weebly.com](http://www.ridingarena.weebly.com). Our website also has a calendar of events and riding times: we hope that you will come back often!