

# Spirit Equestrian - Facility FAQ

## **What is the speed limit inside Spirit Equestrian?**

The speed limit is 5 mph and horses ALWAYS have the right of way. If a horse is becoming upset, slow down or stop and ask the rider or handler if it is ok to proceed.

## **I need to load/unload some items into my tack room, where can I park my car?**

Non-staff gas powered vehicles are restricted to the main fire road surrounding the property. The interior roads are strictly off-limits. The only exceptions are for loading and unloading, provided the speed limit of 5mph is maintained and care is taken not to frighten horses.

## **What is the policy regarding dogs?**

Dogs are allowed at Spirit providing they are kept on leash at all times and that poop is scooped and disposed of in the trash receptacles by the dog's owner. If a dog is determined to be aggressive by the Spirit staff, the owner will be asked to keep the dog at home.

## **My horse needs a change in feed, what's the protocol?**

Simply fill out a feed change form in the office and place the form in the wire basket marked "Completed Forms InBox." Feed change forms are generally processed the following business day unless special arrangements have been made.

## **My horse may need services such as supplement feeding, turnouts, blanketing, etc. What's the protocol?**

You can contract for services through your trainer or directly through Spirit Equestrian. We can provide feeding of supplements/pellets, blanketing, grooming, holding for the farrier or vet, and turnout or time on the Euro-walker. Check with the office or on our website for a full menu of offerings.

## **What if I can't get to the barn for a few days?**

At Spirit Equestrian, Horses Come First. Horses may not be left in stalls with no attention for extended periods. If you won't be able to get to the barn, simply arrange with your trainer or with Spirit Equestrian to provide your horse with much needed exercise and/or attention.

## **I'm a trainer, which arena is mine?**

No trainers at Spirit Equestrian can claim exclusive rights to any arena. Each dressage trainer has a "primary" arena, but there may be many reasons why they or their clients/boarders need to utilize a different arena. Hunter/Jumper trainers have a need for both a more controlled (smaller) jump course (ex. young or timid students) and a larger jump course, so the Hunter/Jumper trainers share the two jump arenas.

## **There's an empty arena, can I use it?**

Absolutely! If a trainer needs the arena for a lesson or a fractious horse, they will let you know. Most trainers are happy to share their primary arena unless there is a situation that warrants a solo ride (like practicing a test/course for an upcoming show or a difficult/young horse).

## **What if the arena I want to use is occupied?**

If the arena is occupied, simply ask the trainers or riders if it is OK to join them. Most times, they're happy to have company.

**Why are some arenas more desirable than others?**

Different arenas are desirable depending on the specific situation. For example, a trainer who needs to increase the endurance of a horse may wish to utilize the North Dressage Arena or the North Jump Arena because of their large size. Another trainer may be working on a movement and need mirrors, which are present in the East and West Dressage Arenas.

**I want to lunge my horse, where can I do that?**

The ideal location to lunge your horse is our covered round pen. If the round pen is busy, the second-most ideal location for lunging is an empty arena. Trainers and their clients should use their primary arena for lunging, except during arena closures. Controlled lunging is permitted in an empty arena; however, the lunger must continuously vary the location of the circle (slightly) to prevent the footing from being negatively impacted. During closures or when all arenas are in use, the same rules as for riding apply, simply ask the occupant. Lunging **MUST** be controlled, and this is especially important if other riders are present. If you suspect your horse will be difficult when arenas are busy, please utilize the covered round pen.

**I work, and can't get to Spirit until late, what can I do?**

The Middle Jump Arena and East Dressage arena have lights on a timer. Set the timer before you enter the arena, and you are free to ride late (facility hours are 7am-8pm).

**When it rains, which arenas close first, which open first?**

The first arena to close when there is a threat of rain is the North Jump Arena. We "seal" our arenas by rolling them flat before it rains. The North Jump Arena takes the longest to seal, and therefore is the first arena closed. The last arena to close, and also the first to open is the North Dressage Arena.

**How will I know if arenas are closed or about to close? How will I know when the arenas are back open?**

When the weather is threatening, simply check the Spirit Equestrian website at [www.spiritequestrian.com](http://www.spiritequestrian.com) and/or check with your trainer. We'll do our best to keep you updated and let you know when arenas start to open back up.

**It's been raining for days and my horse is going bonkers in the stall, how can I provide exercise?**

During rainy days and arena closures there is a posted schedule for trainers' use of the round pen. Anyone else may utilize the round pen during open periods. Trainers and clients/boarders are free to hand walk or ride along the paths within Spirit Equestrian, provided they stay clear of muddy and eroding areas.

**I've been warming up in one of the jump arenas and I'd like to go over a few obstacles, what is the protocol?**

Simply let anyone else utilizing the arena know that you're about to start jumping. You can announce a particular line, a single jump, and when you're ready, even the entire course. Just be sure to share and show others the same courtesies.

**I'd like to work on a particular jumping obstacle (or set of jumps) with my horse, who designs the course?**

The jump trainers get together periodically to set the course. If you have a special request, simply contact any of the jump trainers and they will do their best to accommodate you.

**I've never ridden in a busy arena before, what's the protocol?**

It's actually very similar to driving. Generally the slowest traffic stays on the rail, and the faster traffic moves around them to the inside. Sometimes however, a rider or trainer may ask those not working to come to the middle of the arena while they work on a particular movement or line. When warming up or cooling down, it's a

good idea to simply ask the other riders where the best place is to stay out of the way. When two horses come toward each other in opposite directions, the normal protocol is to pass left shoulder to left shoulder. It never hurts to make your intentions clear. Simply calling out “inside” or “outside” or “rail” can clarify your intentions.

#### **I'd like to use the Euro-walker, when is it available for my use?**

Most of our trainers use the walker in the morning through early afternoon hours. Peak hours tend to be 8:30am-2pm, Monday through Friday. Trainers and boarders are restricted to 2 horses at a time during peak hours on days when the majority of trainers are present. On slow days and off-peak hours, trainers and boarders may utilize up to 3 spaces on the Euro-walker, however, if the fourth spot fills up, the person with 3 horses should plan to remove one horse within 15 minutes. Before using the walker for the first time, be sure to enlist the help of a trainer or an experienced groom to be certain you are well-versed in its use.

#### **I'd like to use the turnouts, when are they available for my use?**

Most of our trainers use the turnouts on the west end of the jump arenas in the morning through early afternoon hours. Peak hours tend to be 9am-2pm, Monday through Friday and early mornings on Saturday. Trainers and boarders are restricted to using 2-3 turnouts at a time during peak hours on days when the majority of trainers are present. On slow days and off-peak hours, trainers and boarders may utilize more turnout space, making sure to leave at least 3 turnouts open for other trainers and boarders. Weekends are our busiest boarder times, so trainers should take care not to put too many horses on the turnouts if quite a few boarders are present. If a trainer or boarder is utilizing a majority of the turnout space and the remaining spaces begin to fill up, they should plan to remove a horse or more from the turnouts within 15 minutes. Boarders and trainers may also sign up for and use the grass pastures to the West of Oak Barn for \$5.00 per hour.

#### **I want to use the grass pastures, what's the protocol for their use?**

The sign-up sheets are posted near the gate of each pasture. Be sure to check the day/date before you sign up, several sign up sheets are posted at once, so you may have to put the newest sheet on top. You can sign up in advance for your time, just be sure not to stay past your allotted time, as others may be waiting. If a pasture is empty and no one is signed up on the sheet, you may put your name down and turn out your horse. If your horse is not used to fresh grass, start with 15 minutes of hand grazing and build up slowly. If the pasture is empty and no one is signed up you may hand graze in the pasture for free until someone comes to sign up.

#### **I'd like to turn more than one horse out in a turnout, is that allowed?**

If the horses are owned by you – or leased by you and you have permission from the owner – you may turn out more than one horse at a time, provided the horses get along well. If the horses have never been together, have an extra pair of hands available and watch them closely the first couple of times. If another boarder agrees to turn out their horse with yours, the same rules apply.

#### **How long can I keep my horse in the turnouts?**

Turnout time is limited to 1 hour when all turnouts are occupied. Horses may be left in the turnouts for a longer period on slow days, but they MUST be provided with fresh water. If you plan to leave your horse out for longer than an hour, please bring a bucket and hanging strap with you and fill up from the spigot near the turnouts.

#### **Is there a waiting list for stalls?**

Yes! If there is a stall that is currently unavailable, you may ask to be put on a waiting list for that stall.

#### **Is there a waiting list for paddocks/pastures?**

Yes! If there is a paddock or pasture that you would like to have your horse occupy, either full or part-time, come see us in the office. We'll let you know if an opening becomes available.

**If there is a misunderstanding or a mistake, what do I do?**

The smartest road is always to apologize and try as best as possible to correct the problem or not make the mistake again. We encourage everyone to use common sense and common courtesy whenever possible. Many misunderstandings can be prevented by simply asking BEFORE doing something. It never hurts to ask!