

HOOFBEATS



Monthly Newsletter from the Jester Park Equestrian Center

April 2015 • Issue III

www.polkcountyiowa.gov/equestriancenter

COMMANCHE LESSON HORSE OF THE MONTH

Many people will recognize this sweet face, our dear lesson horse Commanche! Commanche is a 16 year old American Quarter Horse gelding and is pretty perfect. He's got a bit of a bouncy trot sometimes, but is the best to learn how to lope or canter on with a smooth, slow gait that he picks up with a 'kiss'. He will safely carry the most timid of riders and is used in both our camp programs and standard lessons. He's also got one of the longest manes out of all our program horses! We try to keep it brushed and conditioned so it's soft and smooth but need our riders help to remember to brush through it before they ride. If you ride Commanche be sure to give him a kiss or hug for us because we love him and all he does for the Jester Park Equestrian Center!



APRIL

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4 Open House Event
5	6	7	8	9	10 Iowa Horse Fair	11 Iowa Horse Fair
12 Iowa Horse Fair	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 Trail Clinic	27	28	29	30	1 No Lessons	2

- **Special JPEC Sponsored Events**
 - Spring Open House
 - Easter Fun Event
 - Trail Ride Tune-Up Clinic
- **Outside Events**
 - Iowa Horse Fair

Find a detail calendar of events of all the happenings at JPEC on our facebook page!

HORSEY TERMS

"Bit":

(eq-ui-ta-tion)

A bit is an object, usually a metal bar, placed into the mouth of a horse. It is held on by a bridle and used with reins to direct and guide the animal. It can be one solid bar of metal or have different joints to conform different to the horses mouth. They sometimes may have rollers or other attachments added, usually in the center for the horse to chew on and play with while wearing their bit.

JPEC CAMPS - Right Around the Corner!

If your child has some free time this summer, and enjoys horses, the outdoors, or wants to learn more- Jester Park Riding Camps are an option for you. This year's summer riding camps commence on June 8th and conclude with our last camp beginning on August 10th. These camps are designed for all-around rider development and topics (and themes!) vary each week according to age, previous riding experience, and specific areas of interest. Participants will spend their days learning how to interact with and care for their horses, in addition to improving their riding abilities. Activities at the barn vary depending on the camp option. Week-long camps take place Monday through Friday from 9am to 2pm and will include a lunch break. Half day camps occur Tuesday through Thursday from 9am to noon. Don't miss out on our options for adults such as the Adult and Parent/Child specialty camps.

To find our more about our camp programs including dates, space availability, and registration information, please visit our Services page at www.jesterparkec.com or search "Riding Camp" at www.mycountyparks.com.

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5 Signs Spring has Sprung at JPEC!

1

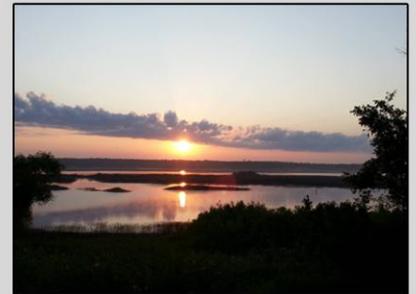
The horses are shedding EVERYWHERE! The point of grooming a horse is to take the hair off the horse and put it on us, right? This seems to happen a lot at this time of year. We all end up covered in horse hair, but it doesn't even matter because it means longer days are finally here!



Lucy thinks it's hilarious to get herself covered head-to-toe in mud! Can you see her sticking her tongue out at us?

2

There is so much laundry. Working at a barn, there is plenty of laundry to be done year around. However, when Spring hits we never seem to run out. Blankets, coveralls, coolers, towels and anything else that could possibly get dirty all seems to be dirty at the same time. Our washing machine and dryer have to work required overtime to get through this season.



We can't wait to enjoy more of these spectacular sunsets over Saylorville Lake this year. We have the best views!

3

The barn is busy again! We know Spring is here when we have birthday parties, lessons, wagon rides, volunteer training and more going on all at the same time. There's no reason to stay inside now, we love seeing everyone that comes out to enjoy the horses!

4

Staff are coming to work in sweatshirts. No more coveralls, hats or gloves! We are excited to leave the barn doors open to let in the sun and fresh air. No more huddling in the office to drink massive amounts of hot chocolate. Put away the hand warmers, we are ready to go outside!



Spring is Freckles favorite time of year! Mud and gunk everywhere to help him turn his pretty fluffy white coat brown. We get an arm work-out groom him!

5

Last, but not least - Who asked for all this mud?? Sleigh rides were fun while they lasted, but we sure didn't ask for this mess! Boots covered in mud. Towels covered in mud. Horses covered in mud. The list goes on and on. Good thing it's warm enough to give the horses baths again, as you can see - some of them really need it!

OUR JESTER PARK EQUESTRIAN CENTER PHILOSOPHY

We believe in creating well educated horse people from the ground up, focusing on not only riding, but many aspects of horse care and handling. Our students are encouraged to ask questions, set goals, and actively participate in their equine education.