

HOOFBEATS



Monthly Newsletter from the Jester Park Equestrian Center

July 2015 • Issue VI

www.polkcountyiowa.gov/equestriancenter

SQUISHY

LESSON HORSE OF THE MONTH

Say hello to our delightfully spunky Shetland mare, Squishy! Squishy is a pony that wears many hats here at JPEC. She's an active member in our Therapeutic Riding Program as well as helps with camps, events, and of course, pony rides. Some people are surprised to learn that she's a pretty young little gal at 9 years old, but does her job just as well as any of our older horses. We're lucky to have come across this little black wonder pony and are excited for the years yet to come. If you're out around JPEC you'll need to check out her summer hair cut! She looks like a little miniature war horse!



JULY

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4 Trail "Poker Run" Event
5 TtR Event	6	7	8	9	10 Overnight Campout Trail Ride	11
12 TtR Event	13 Summer Camp - Tiny Tots	14	15	16	17	18 JPEC Open Show
19 Volunteer Training	20 Summer Camp - Tiny Tots	21	22	23	24	25 Overnight Trail Ride
26 TtR Event	27 Summer Camp - Beginner Camp "Horse'n Around"	28	29	30	31	

• Special JPEC Sponsored Events

- TtR: Time to Ride Event
- Overnight Trail Ride Series
- JPEC Open Show

• Volunteer Training

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

"Our riders don't need perfect, they just need possible."

JPEC Therapeutic Horsemanship Program Motto

TIME TO RIDE (Preferably all day everyday!!)

JPEC is proud to announce participation in the "Time to Ride" program. Offering unique opportunities to learn about horses, and experience them for the first time. Event is open to the public and free of charge. Visit: www.timetoride.com. Proudly partnering with AQHA and the American Horse Council. These events are open to the public and FREE OF CHARGE!

Upcoming Time to Ride Events:

Sunday July 5: **Horse's Role in America**

1:00-4:00pm Come out and celebrate the importance of July 4th with our horses at JPEC! This event will be a celebration of horses and their role in America's history. Activities will include Wagon Rides, a salute to our military veterans, a themed horse costume contest, and Reenactments of key horses in American history. Event will conclude with a marshmallow roast and sparklers for the kids.

Sunday July 12: **Horses and the Games We Play**

12:00-3:00pm Bring your children out for a great first experience with our well-trained horses and knowledgeable staff! Rediscover your inner child, and enjoy fun for the whole family! Participants will have an opportunity to play a short game on horseback, lead a pony thru an obstacle course, participate in interactive and educational games, and take a "game day" photo with a live horse!

Sunday July 26: Horses, the Natural Way! - More info coming soon! Check on our Facebook for more information!

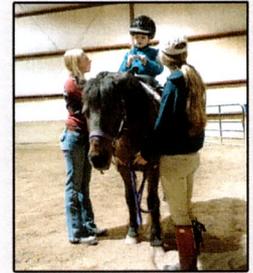
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Game Spotlight: Beanie Baby Picnic



One of the favorite games to play out here at Jester Park Equestrian Center (at least for our therapeutic horsemanship program) is the Beanie Baby Picnic! It is a fun activity that offers many degrees of difficulty! Here is all about this favored game!

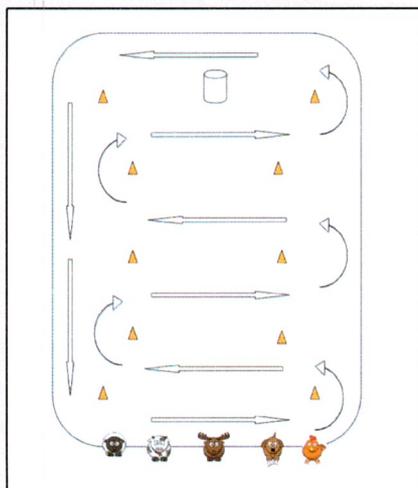


Rules: The rules to the beanie baby picnic are that the rider must help the "critters" get to a picnic on top of a hill with their friends! The rider first picks an animal and finds a safe place for that animal to ride. The rider then must serpentine (snake back and forth across the arena) "up" the arena pretending that they are climbing the hill! Once they are at the top of the hill they can drop their critter off at the barrel with the picnic bandana on it! Then they ride back "down" the hill on the rail to retrieve another critter!

Variations: There can be many varieties to the beanie baby picnic offering new challenges to each rider! Some of the variations are as follows:

- *Silent Picnic:* The rider will learn the names of the animals in sign language and must refer to that animal with the proper sign name.
- *Food and Friends:* The rider will say what kinds of food the critter might eat at the picnic and which other critters might make good picnic buddies.
- *Habitat:* The rider must discuss what kind of habitat the critter might live in that they are coming out of to go on their picnic!

The Course



Skills Worked On

Stopping and Starting

Steering

Riding a Pattern

Thinking about Animals Backgrounds

Stretching for Animals and Barrel