

HOOFBEATS



Monthly Newsletter from the Jester Park Equestrian Center

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SUNNY

LESSON HORSE OF THE MONTH

Say hello to Sunny! Sunny has been a active team member of the JPEC family for about 5 years but we're excited to announce that as of this July, we finally officially own our dear dependable lesson horse! Sunny first came to JPEC as a part of the trail string. We quickly noticed his talents with kids and his steady nature and gave him a shot at being promoted to a bon-a-fide lesson horse. Well, the rest was history. He thrived and has been teaching the smallest most timid kids to the most able adults to ride. We love and value this beautiful Palomino gelding and are thrilled to finally be able to say that JPEC is his true home! It's ironic due to his golden color, but the phrase, 'Worth their weight in gold,' applies truer to no other 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 Trail Ride	11 Campout Trail Ride
12 TtR Event	13 Summer Camp - Tiny Tots	14 Summer Camp - Tiny Tots	15 Summer Camp - Tiny Tots	16	17	18 JPEC Open Show
Volunteer Training	20 Summer Camp - Tiny Tots	21 Summer Camp - Tiny Tots	22 Summer Camp - Tiny Tots	23	24	25 Overnight Trail Ride
26 TtR Event	27 Summer Camp - Beginner Camp "Horse'n Around"	28 Summer Camp - Beginner Camp "Horse'n Around"	29 Summer Camp - Beginner Camp "Horse'n Around"	30 Summer Camp - Beginner Camp "Horse'n Around"	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!

HORSEY TERMS

"Farrier":

(fair-E-er)

A farrier is a specialist in equine hoof care, including the trimming and balancing of horses' hooves and the placing of shoes on their hooves, if necessary. A farrier combines some blacksmith's skills (fabricating, adapting, and adjusting metal shoes) with some veterinarian's skills (knowledge of the anatomy and physiology of the lower limb) to care for horses' feet.

Breed Spotlight

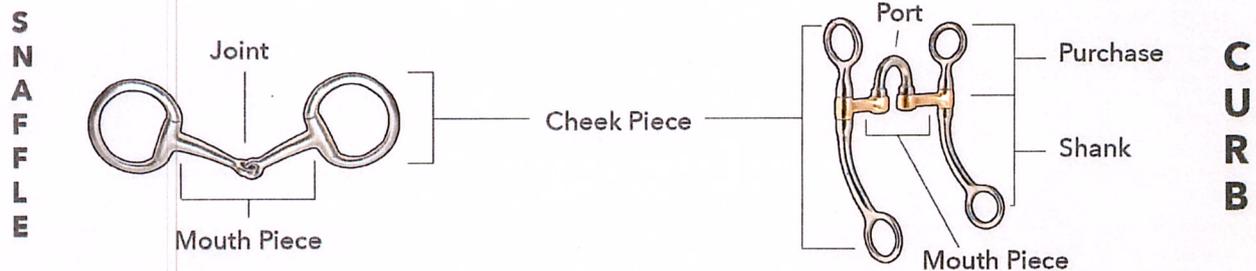


The Arabian

The Arabian horse is a breed that originated on the Arabian Peninsula. With a distinctive dished head shape and high tail carriage, the Arabian is one of the most recognizable horse breeds in the world. It is one of the oldest breeds as well with evidence that they were horses that resembled the modern Arabian over 4,500 years ago. Arabians were used to improve other breeds by adding speed, refinement and endurance so almost every modern breed of riding horse has some influence of Arabian descent. The Arabian developed in a desert climate and was prized by nomadic people, often being brought inside the family tent for shelter and protection from theft. They bred for a horse that was good natured, quick to learn, and willing to please as well as one that was high-spirited and alert for the use in raiding and war. The combination makes an Arabian horse a very useful and dedicated to its owner if trained properly and with respect. The modern Arabian is a very versatile breed but dominates the riding sport of endurance riding. At JPEC we own one Arabian horse, who some of you may know; Airo! Our friendly Arabian doesn't much live up to his ancestors high-energy and reactive nature, but does do his breeding proud because of his willingness to please and love for people.



A Bit About Bits!



Once you know the parts of the bit and how each part affects the horse it becomes fairly easy to understand how different bits will work on your horse! Above are two types of bits; on the left is a basic **"SNAFFLE"** and on the right a **"CURB"** bit. The snaffle is a very simple bit that is usually used on horses that are young or with a trained horse that is teaching an inexperienced rider how to ride. It is often a very mild bit. You can see above the big circles on each end are called **cheek pieces** and are what the reins and headstall connect to. The **mouthpiece** is where the horse will hold on to and get direction from. Pretty simple, right?

Now the bit on the right looks kind of intimidating, but really it's not! It's a fairly basic curb bit. Many people only associate curb bits with the western style of riding, but English riders use curbs all the time too! Just like a snaffle bit a curb has cheek pieces and a mouth piece. It just then has some more additional things that you need to know about. The cheek piece on a curb bit always has a **shank** and a **purchase** which will vary in length. The purchase is the area between the mouth piece and where the headstall attaches. The shank is the area where the mouth piece and where the reins attach to. Now, for the mouth piece in a curb. We have included a curb bridle that includes what's called a **port**, or a deviation in the mouth piece that curves upwards where the tongue would be. But be aware, not every curb has a port! But you will never see a snaffle with a port.

And last, but certainly not least, is your **curb strap**. You will ALWAYS have a curb strap on a curb type of bit. If you don't you can severely misuse the bit and can hurt the horse. The curb strap attaches to the top of the purchase around where the headstall will attach, often times in the same hole, and reach around the bottom of the horse's jaw and should hang loose enough that you can fit two fingers between the curb strap and the horse's jaw. A curb strap can be made of various material but is most commonly leather or a type of smooth chain.

While you will always have a curb strap on a curb bit, you can also see something very similar looking sometimes on a snaffle bit too. You'll notice at JPEC almost all of our bridles have something that looks like a curb strap even if they're fitted with a snaffle. In that case, we would refer to them as a **chin-strap** because they help keep the bit centered in the horse's mouth and prevent the bit from being pulled too far left or right.

And there you have it, the basic parts of the bit! Pretty easy right? See if you can spot a snaffle bit and a curb bit at Jester Park - we've got plenty of both!

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.