



# Riding Centre Updates

Issue #2  
November 2017

## NOT JUST ANY RIDING SCHOOL...

Welcome to the Alborak Pony Club Riding Centre update issue #2! Here we continue the education on farm safety and working SMART around horses.

Be sure to take notes and always think safety around the horses. Even though they are (for the most part) so well behaved, they are after all animals.

### Leading Awareness

When leading horses through the barn aisle, you must lead in **single file** and give space to other horses.

At the north end of the barn lives the stallion *Belshazzar*. He has a sign in front of his stall to help you identify his home.

He loves to stick his head out to look around and watch what's going on in the barn, but be aware that he is bossy and may try to nip at passing horses.



- **Do not stop in front of his stall with another horse**
- **Do not lead a horse close to his stall door**
- **Do not tie a horse to his stall or to the stall beside his**

### Tacking Tip-Tightening the girth

*Did you know...*

Where the girth goes there are sensitive nerves that run behind the elbow of a horse.



The trick to making a horse comfortable when it comes to tightening the girth is to do it slowly and in phases.

**Phase 1:** *Saddle is on the horse in the aisle*

Feel for a pressure around the girth area that is only tight enough so that the saddle will not slip off.

**Phase 2:** *Tack check in the arena*

After walking the horse around, tighten the girth enough so that you are able to fit your fingers in between the girth and the horse; the girth should be comfortably hugging your fingers.

**Phase 3:** *After Mounting*

The instructor will check the girth again as the weight of the rider normally loosens the girth. Riders in the novice level will be taught what to feel for and how to tighten the girth while mounted.

**Phase 4:** *After the warm up*

The instructor to check the girth prior to trotting as sometimes after the horse has walked, circled or performed other warmup exercises, the girth will loosen a bit.

### Farm Safety; Quick tip

Have you ever counted the amount of round bales on the front grass?



Did you know that a round bale can weigh up to **2000lbs!**

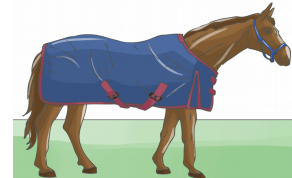
These round bales are used to feed our horses and cows.

\*\*Remember that rounds bales are not toys and no one should be climbing or playing near them.

## THINK SMART; THINK SAFE

### Brrr; it's blanket season!

Our school horses live outside and sometimes during the cold winter nights they need a bit more insulation to keep warm.



The guidelines for blanketing are:

#### a) Taking off a blanket:

Start with the back straps and make your way to the front.

#### b) Putting on a blanket:

Start with the front straps and make your way to the back.

#### c) Where to Hang the blankets during lesson time...

Ask yourself this question: "*Is the blanket wet or has snow/ice on it?*"

If the answer is YES, we need to hang them up on an empty tie stall next to the arena doors.

If the answer is NO, we hang them up on the south racks (near the wash station) on letters E to L ONLY. LIMIT 2 BLANKETS PER HOOK

### Online registration for the 2018 Winter Session

We are trying a new process for the winter session. We will be adding a closing date to the online registration. Please mark your calendars!

**Opening: November 14, 2017**

**Closing: December 10, 2017**