

# Why Lease a Horse?

We are constantly learning from the horses, both about ourselves and them. If your goals include higher levels of understanding, improved riding skills or competing, then leasing a horse can be a great investment. Leasing or owning a horse gives a rider more options of activities to participate in such as clinics, shows and other adventures! River Mist Equestrian hosts several on-site shows and clinics throughout the year and everyone is encouraged to participate in these events! An added financial bonus is anyone leasing a horse will no longer be charged a horse use fee at horse shows or adventures.

Owning a horse is a big commitment of time and money. A great way to be introduced to that level of responsibility and commitment is to lease! This ensures that you are ready. At River Mist we have a couple of options starting with a 6 month or 12 month commitment, in either a full or half lease option. Leasing a horse eases you into ownership and the equestrian life style! It also allow parents to measure their child's commitment to the sport, and finally it's a bit less emotional for the riders at the end of the experience.

## How Leases work at River Mist:

Leasing a horse at River Mist allows students to spend additional days with their favorite horse. On lease days you may groom, hack, practice your last flat lesson and of course just hang out and love on them! Depending on your skill level there may be some restrictions on what you are allowed to do, this is in order to keep you and the River Mist horses safe! For example, NO ONE is able to jump outside of lessons.

Since our horses are also used for lessons or may have other leaser, River Mist is unable to guarantee make-up lease days if you skip a day due to inclement weather, holidays or other scheduling conflicts!

## What are the costs of leasing??

We have both half and full leases available. In the event that River Mist does not have a horse suitable for you we will need to look outside River Mist and in most cases that will mean you will be responsible for a Full Lease.

### LEASE FEE

A lease fee is a lump sum fee paid at the beginning of the lease period. The lease fee represents the risk you would not have to assume yourself in actual ownership of the horse. It also compensates the owner of the horse for the reduced use of the horse. Generally speaking, a lease fee is based off a portion of the purchase price. A purchase price (and therefore lease fee) of a horse is determined by a horse's skill level and competitiveness. Each horse and lease situation is different.

For **example**:

Level	Yearly Half Lease	Yearly Full Lease
Walk, Trot, Canter - "Starter"	\$2,500	\$7,500
Beginner Novice - Novice	\$5,000	\$20,000
Novice +	Typically very hard to find!	\$15,000- \$20,000
Training+	—	\$20,000 - \$30,000+

\*These are just to give you a range of costs - not a guarantee of pricing!\*

-Discounts are available to those who pay for the year up front.

## 1/2 LEASE MONTHLY MAINTENANCE AND LESSON FEES: \$1,200/MONTH

This price is subject to change in the event board/lesson or other fees change, however the fee **includes** the horses monthly maintenance(board), shoeing, general vet care, 8 lessons per month and 2 lease rides per week. Vet care required for a horse to perform at it's peak will be assessed at the semi annual vet visits in the spring/fall. In the event, the lease horse requires "performance maintenance" those fees will be split between leasers or River Mist. Farrier extras (IE studs) will be the responsibility of the lessee acquiring them. Fees incurred from injuries while at a horse show or due to lessee's negligence will be the sole responsibility of the lessee.

### FULL LEASE

In a full lease situation a lessee is responsible for ALL BOARD AND CARE for the horse. In many cases a lessee will be required to hold an insurance policy payable to the owner of the horse in the event of tragedy.

Samples of Maintenance and Recommended Care for the Competitive Equine:

	1/2 Lease	Full Lease	Fee
<b>Farrier</b>	As needed (included)	As needed (every 4-5 weeks)	Depends on horse - full set of regular shoes is \$175 - studs are extra!
<b>Bodywork</b> Equine massage keeps horses muscles feeling their best and helps prevent injury	2 included per year - above that will be lessee's responsibility	Quarterly or if in heavy competition monthly is recommended	\$100/session
<b>Chiropractic</b>	2 included per year - above that will be lessee's responsibility	Quarterly unless horse requires more.	\$100/session
<b>Magnawave</b> Helps alleviate overall body soreness and reduces inflammation	As needed (not included)	As needed (not included)	\$100/session
<b>Saddle fitting</b> As a horse gains/loses muscle mass this may change the fit of a saddle overtime. It's important to keep our horses feeling their best!	Responsibility of saddle owner - as needed but typically every 6 months	Responsibility of saddle owner - as needed but typically every 6 months	Varies on amount done
<b>Body clipping</b> Keeps horses cooler in their work and will be done as needed	Depends on horse and competition demands 1-2x per year. 1 Irish clip included	Depends on horse and competition demands	Irish Clip \$100 Full Body Clip \$200
<b>Vet Maintenance</b> A performance review, to assess and address any underlying issues that would prevent the horse from being the best it can be.	1-2 times per year, prices vary, some lesse's this is included, some not.	1-2 times per year	Prices vary depending on vet recommendations.

\*Keep in mind these are a general rule of thumb and not set in stone. In some cases there may be surprises that pop up.\*

**Contact River Mist today about securing your lease!**

## Caring for the River Mist Horses:

At River Mist we take great pride in our horsemanship and care of the horses. The expectation is that if you are lessoning or leasing a horse here at RME you have the same devotion to these amazing animals as we do!

As a general rule of thumb, if you are unsure of a situation or the way any animal looks or behaves on the farm please ask for confirmation that all is ok! A thorough grooming of a horses entire body including picking out hooves is an excellent way to determine that the horse is fit to ride that day!

### **Here is a general guideline for before you ride!**

1. Curry and brush the horses body, followed up by a brush of the legs to determine no presence of scratches, injuries or swelling.
2. Pick out hooves, do a quick inspection of shoes to be sure they are on tight. While some horses can be ridden without a shoe, some can NOT! If you're not sure of the shoe, please let RME know or place the horse on the farrier list for his next visit.
3. Most horse at RME do not use wraps or boots, but in the event you are using them, please be sure to put them on correctly! If you're not sure **ASK!!!**
4. When tacking your horse, be mindful that the saddle pad is pulled up into the gusset of the saddle to prevent tightness around the withers.
5. While girthing your horse, please do NOT tighten it all the way as soon as you put on the girth! Many horses will be very offended and you can make them girthy by doing this often. By doing this, it will eventually turn into behavioral issues such as biting or kicking! Tightening a little at a time is the best practice! If you are skilled enough to stretch the horses front legs feel free to do so!
6. Before heading down to ride, please be sure that ALL messes made by the grooming process ie hoof pickings, manure, etc. are cleaned up!
7. After your ride, please be sure that the horse is completely cooled off before placing it back in his/her stall or in turnout. This means that the horse will have been groomed according to the weather and free of ANY saddle or bridle marks.
8. There is a tack cleaning station outside the boarder tack room with supplies for cleaning the tack you use. If you are wanting to use your own cleaner that is totally acceptable!! As long as bits and tack are clean before being returned to the tack room.
9. Lastly, please make sure that you have cleaned up any areas that you used in taking care of your horse ie aisle way or wash rack need to be free of dirt, hair and manure before you leave for the day.
10. The horses love treats!! Feel free to stuff them full, just make sure they are small bites (not whole carrots or apples at one time ;-))