

NEER North Barn Rules and Volunteer Information

Welcome! This information pack contains all you need to make sure your experience at NEER North is safe and fun.

BARN RULES

We strive to maintain a happy, safe and serene environment for the horses and other equines who call NEER North home, and for those you are interested in helping them recuperate and get ready for new, loving homes. Please read and abide by these barn rules for everyone's safety, well-being and comfort. Questions? Contact volunteer@neernorth.org.

All visitors and volunteers must acknowledge and abide by these rules.

Farm Hours and Visiting

- Volunteer hours are anytime between 8:30 am and 5:30 pm. We start feeding between 8:30 and 9 am for morning, and afternoon feed is 4:00 pm in winter, between 4 and 5 pm in summer.
- Visitors are welcome on weekdays from 10 to 11:30 am, or on Saturdays from 9:30 to noon, or by appointment. On arrival, they should be directed to the senior volunteer onsite or to Mary if she is available.
- Please do not drive faster than 10mph on farm property. When parking, please do not park on the grass or block the barn or paddock entrances.

Release of Liability

- All visitors and volunteers need to understand the risks inherent to an equestrian facility and are required to sign a release of liability in order to be in the barn, paddocks, arena, or enclosures.
- Our liability sign is posted in the barn. If you do not understand it, please ask.

Age Limits

- NEER North strives to ensure the safety of all volunteers, visitors, equines, and staff at all time. Therefore:
 - Volunteers 14-18 years of age may only come unaccompanied if they (i) have intermediate level equine experience, (ii) have attended a volunteer orientation session and (iii) have parental approval to do so.
 - Volunteers 12-13 years of age must work with parent, supervised at all times.
 - We regret that we are unable to allow children younger than 12 years of age to volunteer. This age limit is set by our insurance company.

Warning - Under Massachusetts law, an equine professional is not liable for an injury to, or death of, a participant in equine activities resulting from the inherent risks of equine activities, pursuant to section 2D of chapter 128 of the General Laws.

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Pets

- To avoid the risk of incidents, please do not bring pets to the farm unless specifically approved to do so.

Barn Safety and Cleanliness

- Keep our barn clean and the aisles clear. Store pitch forks, shovels and buckets safely out of the way. Proper storage eliminates tripping hazards and extends the working life of our tools.
- If you get it out, put it away. Trash goes into marked trash bins only. Sweep up hair, hoof dirt and other debris when you are done grooming.

Doors/Gates/Fences

- Check stall doors, sliding doors and paddock gates.
- Paddock gates should remain closed at all times.
- Tack room and feed/medicine area doors must be closed and latched at all times!
- Be aware that paddock fences may be electrified – if touched, this will not harm you but it is definitely uncomfortable, especially when conditions are wet.

Safety/Respect

- Do not climb on gates, fences, stalls, etc. Please: no yelling, profanity, aggression or drama.
- If you notice something that needs repair or looks dangerous, advise Mary or shift leader, and/or note it on the board so that it can be attended to.

Supplies

- If you break an item, please let us know or note it on the board.
- Tack in the tack room is reserved for NEER North horses only. If you are approved to ride, please return everything to its proper place when you are done with it.
- Do not take or use supplies from the medicine/feed areas without permission from Mary.
- Please only use what you need for grooming supplies. Make sure to close the items so they do not leak and store properly.

Promoting NEER North

- The best way to help us raise funds, recruit new volunteers and advertise adoptable horses is to tell your friends and post flyers at local businesses. Printed flyers are available at the barn or can be downloaded from our website, www.neernorth.org.
- Please “like” us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/neernorth) and invite your friends to like or follow us too.

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