



Welcome to Earthbound Country House!

Earthbound Country House is pleased to offer a variety of riding programs and packages, tailored to each stage of riding. With our experienced staff and gentle natured horses, we are confident that you will find a suitable program and the right mount to reach your riding goals! We offer riding lesson throughout the year, ensuring that our students are able to stay on pace for completing our thoroughly planned curriculum. As our students see their skill set develop, they will have the opportunity to participate in horse shows, and in Equestrian Canada Rider Level Testing.

Earthbound Country House welcomes riders 4 years of age and up with lessons that are scheduled with the age and experience level of the rider in mind. Our group lessons, which include a maximum of 5 riders, are available to riders who have the minimum ability to steer at a walk and have basic grooming and tacking skills. Private lessons, Pony Pals and 123 Ride lessons are available for new or very inexperienced riders.

All our programs require riders to spend supervised time in the stable where they will be learning a variety of horsemanship topics, cleaning their equipment, and looking after their horses.

Our Earthbound Country House instructors work hard to teach each rider in the environment that best suits their skill level and experience; if our riders ever have any questions or concerns, they are encouraged to speak to their instructor.

By way of reminder, all riders are required to come with proper footwear, long pants and ASTM certified riding helmets. We also have helmets available to rent for a fee, helmets are also provided in our Beginner riding programs as part of the program cost.

Reading this handbook, and signing the [Covid-19 Waiver](#) are both requirements of signing up for lessons with Earthbound Country House.

Once you have completed these steps, you can register your child with our online scheduler at equilesson.com/earthboundcountryhouse. (This link can also be found on the homepage and program pages at earthboundcountryhouse.ca). Please include any prior riding experience and medical notes we should be aware of in your child's profile. Upon completing your child's profile you will be able to see lesson availability.

We have different types of lessons at different times to accommodate busy schedules. Please note that if you are a returning family, you simply need to log into your Equilesson to sign up for lessons.



Riding Programs

Pony Pals: Designed for younger and timid riders that are interested in a basic horsemanship lesson and pony ride. These rides are a great introduction for riders that are new, or nervous, as the rider will be on a lead and have the instructor's undivided attention for the whole hour. These lessons include 20 minutes of grooming and tacking, followed by 30 minutes of riding and 10 minutes of untacking.

Length: 1 hour / single lesson
Fee: \$60+HST per lesson (includes helmet rental)

123 Ride Program: Our 1,2,3 Ride Program is all about having fun, developing good posture and having an excellent understanding of horses and horsemanship. Earthbound instructors provide an enjoyable and positive learning experience, incorporating games and fun activities into the lesson plans. All of the horses and ponies at Earthbound are gentle-natured and are experienced with all levels of riders. Each 2 hour lesson is comprised of 1 hour of riding and 1 hour of horsemanship.

Length: 2 hours / 4 consecutive weeks
Fee: \$300+HST (includes helmet rental)

Riding Session Program: Designed for dedicated riders, this program is based on the Earthbound Country House Riding Curriculum. Lessons are booked based on skill level, and are scheduled for the same day and time each week. Sessions run for 10-12 consecutive weeks. Riders will progress at their own pace and move through levels Starter 1 to Advanced. These lessons are available in Private and Group formats. We offer three sessions throughout the calendar year: spring, summer and fall.

Group Lessons / 10-12 consecutive weeks

Length: 2 hours (30 min in barn before/after + 1 hour riding)
Fee: \$60+HST per lesson

Private Lessons / 10-12 consecutive weeks

Length: 1.5 hours (30 min in barn before/after + 45 min riding)
Fee: \$65+HST per lesson

Pay As You Go Riding Program: Our Pay As You Go option give riders the ability to book Group and Private Lessons whenever available on our online scheduler.

Group Lessons

Length: 2 hours (30 min in barn before/after + 1 hour riding)
Fee: \$65+HST per lesson

Private Lessons

Length: 1.5 hours (30 min in barn before/after + 45 min riding)
Fee: \$70+HST per lesson



Lesson Levels

Our Earthbound riding curriculum is based on Equestrian Canada Rider Levels, with safety and fun being our top priorities. Each lesson level has a number of required skills and topics to be taught, practiced, and learned. Our Instructors will be happy to discuss your rider's progress.

Levels

New Rider	Little to no experience.
Beginner	Some experience (camps or a few lessons).
Starter 1	Can trot controlled in a group format, learning posting diagonals and steering patterns.
Starter 2	Comfortable and confident at the trot through obstacle courses and ready to learn how to canter.
Novice 1	Canter in a group format, and practicing small jumps.
Novice 2	Trotting and cantering small courses of jumps, basic walk, trot, canter flat tests.
Intermediate	Cantering courses of jumps, accurate walk trot canter tests. Ready for off property shows.
Advanced	Cantering full courses of jumps at 3-foot height. EC Rider Level 6 obtained, and/or competing at Horse Shows.

Horse Requests

We know your riders have their favourite horses, and we are so lucky to have many wonderful mounts at our farm. We encourage our riders to let their instructor know who they love to ride, but we also inform them that riding a variety of horses will enhance their development! Our instructors assign horses based on what skills each rider needs to develop to progress at their level. If your rider is interested in learning from one specific horse, then we encourage you to ask our Stables office carol@earthboundcountryhouse.ca about our Part Boarding Program.



Lesson Time

All riders and parents must first sign in and complete the Covid screening before entering the stable. Students signed up for our Riding Session or Pay As You Go Program are requested to arrive 30 minutes before each lesson to bring in the horse, groom and tack up. There will be Tack-Up Staff in the stable to assist the students as needed and teach weekly horsemanship topics.

Students should be entering the ring, ready to ride by the scheduled start of the lesson. The first 5-10 minutes of every lesson is for our riders to organize their equipment, mount, and warm their horse up at the walk. The last 5 minutes of the lesson time is for our riders and horses to properly cool out at the walk, dismount, and prepare to exit the arena, so our next lesson can enter on time.

After the lesson, students will spend 15-30 minutes to untack, groom and put away equipment. All equipment must be cleaned, put away properly, and the work areas must be left tidy. Overall, a group lesson is allotted 2 hours, and Private lessons are 1.5 hours in length.

If you prefer not to enter the stable or require your horse to be tacked and untacked, please let our office know and we will try and accommodate your request.

Coronavirus Precautions

As of September 2020, we require all riders and staff in the stable to wear a mask, as well as all parents viewing the lesson in our indoor arena. Masks are not required when mounted, and instructors do not have to wear one when instructing as they will be in the centre of the ring.

All riders must read the [Coronavirus Policy and complete a waiver](#) prior to their first lesson.



Rider Turnout

It is highly recommended that students label all riding equipment. All riders must have the following equipment:

- Correctly fitted ASTM helmet. Earthbound Country House can provide helmets to new riders. Helmet rental \$15 per lesson.
- Boots with a 1/2" – 1" heel.
- Long pants for riding. We suggest breeches or snug fitting pants or leggings as loose pants and jeans can rub.
- Hair pulled back into a low ponytail or braid.
- Shirts must have sleeves. Please no tank tops. In cool weather please dress in removable layers.
- Gloves are recommended

Payment

All lessons must be paid for prior to the start of the lesson. To take advantage of the discounted rate offered by purchasing a lesson package, you have two options: to pay monthly on the 1st of the month for the lessons scheduled that month or to provide a one-time payment at the start of the session. If payment has not been received by the second lesson of the session, you will be charged the per lesson rate for all the lessons that session. If payment still has not been received by the third lesson, you will not be assigned a horse and you may lose your spot. Lesson packages are non-refundable and non-transferable.

Pay As You Go lesson amounts are due the day of the lesson. If lesson fees have not been paid, Earthbound Country House will charge the credit card on file.

Drop-Off & Pick-up Policy

All parents/guardians are asked to accompany their rider to the sign-in/screening station before their lesson. During the two-hour time slot, your child will be fully supervised by Earthbound staff and qualified volunteers. There is a maximum of 7 people allowed in the stable at a time, so we ask parents to stay in their vehicles or outside the barn until it is your child's time to ride if there are other riders in the barn.

Please note that Students that arrive more than 30 minutes before a scheduled lesson start time, or remain on the property 30 minutes must be supervised by a parent or guardian as our attention will be on assisting students in the next lesson.



Make-up Lesson Policy

We realize that students occasionally have to cancel a lesson. We appreciate if you please be courteous and provide as much notice as possible if your child is going to miss a class. It is the responsibility of the student to book any make-up lessons by the end of the session.

Make-up Lesson Scenarios:

1. If you book a full session and you already know of family vacation dates, it is easy for us to schedule make-up classes for you at the time of the session booking.
2. If you need to cancel a lesson with at least 48 hours' notice, you can log into your Equilesson account and cancel/drop the lesson online. You will receive a make-up lesson credit in your account which you can then use to book your make-up lesson.
3. In the event of last-minute emergency cancellation (illness, car problems, etc.), please call or email our office as soon as possible. Please note that the opportunity to make-up a lesson may not always be possible in these instances. A make-up lesson is something we hope will be available; but it is not something we can guarantee in last minute cancellations.

Make-up Lesson Details:

1. If you cancel a private lesson, we cannot guarantee there will be private lesson make-up space available – a group lesson may have to be scheduled instead.
2. Make-ups are only available to students during the current session of lessons.
3. Make-up lessons cannot be deducted off the next session fees.
4. Dropping a lesson through our Equilesson system for Pay As You Go lessons does not change the charges on your account. This will be done by our Stables office, so please email us if you notice a charge on your account for a dropped lesson.
5. In the event that Earthbound Country House has to cancel a class (due to weather or power outage), we will ensure that you are offered a make-up lesson.



Inclement Weather Cancellations

We know that there are going to be some unpleasant days, and we do not want anyone riding or driving to the barn in unsafe conditions, which may include heavy winds and rain, thunder and lightning and extreme heat (over 30 degrees). In the event that we cancel classes due to an Extreme Weather Warning, we ask that students schedule a make-up lesson (can be in the following session as well). Our office will put a credit on your account for you to book an available make up lesson.

Please note that cancellations will be communicated through an email message. Weekend cancellations will be posted on the day of the lesson by 8:00 am and weeknight lessons by 2:00 pm.

Please check before heading to your lesson.

Earthbound Show Team

At Earthbound Country House our riders will now have the opportunity to participate in off property local Bronze Horse Shows. With our experienced coaches and horses we can offer a positive experience for riders looking to experience the challenge of competition. Being a member of our Show Team allows riders to learn the value of practice, builds team spirit and character, and it is fun!

Our Off Property Bronze Shows are scheduled in the late summer and fall.

For more information on signing up for off-property shows please speak to our Riding Director, and we will send you a Horse Show Package.

Homework Rides

Earthbound Country House is pleased to be offering Homework Rides to all of our students who are confident at the Novice 1 level. These rides are intended for our students to practice and improve on their skills. Our coaches will have a homework board in our arena with a list of exercises that the students can work on. For the safety of all riders, one of our coaches will be on site to supervise.

Part-Board Program

We are pleased to offer our Part-Board Program to riders at the Novice 1 level and up. This is a great opportunity for our riders to bond and care for their favourite horse, as well as progress on their skills and development as a team. Part-board includes 2 group lessons and 1 homework ride a week, on a specific Earthbound horse. The horse would also be available to use in clinics, and horse shows. Part-board rates include lesson fees, homework rides, tack and equipment, veterinarian and farrier expenses of the horse. Our minimum part-board contract is a 3-month term.