

# From the Kingdom Equestrian Marshal

Greetings equestrians and future equestrians!

How many of you, as children, read the Black Stallion books? How many of you asked for a pony for your birthday or for Christmas? How many of you had Barbie's Palomino, but not Barbie? Children seem to have an unfettered love for horses, and a total lack of fear for them. They see the noble charger of the White Knight instead of the sleepy, easily surprised old mare dozing on her feet. Because of this, we need to take extra care to watch our children at events where there are horses. We don't want them to lose the wonder and awe they feel for these animals, but we also want them to be as safe as possible.

To this end, there will be classes offered on how to act around horses, how to get permission to approach them, how to feed and pet them, and how to walk SLOWLY around them. Horses have big heads, with eyes spaced high, and to the sides, and sometimes they can't see their own feet, let alone the little shoes of the child standing next to them; and fingers feel a lot like carrots when a treat is being offered. This sort of thing will be discussed in these classes. Best of all, all this education comes with the opportunity to pet a Real Live Horse!

As for the parents, please remind your children, UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES does one enter a stall or pasture without a parent or guardian AND the horse owner present; NEVER feed a horse anything without the horse owner's permission; if a horse owner or rider needs to raise their voice to get a child's attention, that child will have to return to their parents' side and remain there; there will be no running around the horses; and children must stay out of horse trailers and tents not belonging to them or their family.

These are things that have actually happened at the last three equestrian events. I don't know why we are surprised, kids love animals! But to ensure the safety of both sets of critters, two and four legged, we will be instituting some new policies. There will be a class for children and their parents at every event with horses. I strongly recommend they attend. If a child's parents are told more than twice that their children need to be more respectful of the horses and their owners, the third time the issue will be brought to the attention of the autocrat/seneschal for final resolution.

I hope such drastic measures will not be necessary, but I will make sure everyone is protected to the best of my ability. For those children who just can't stand it, and must do something with the horses, by all means, bring them on over to the equestrian field, but they must be accompanied by a guardian. And they must be patient! If they don't get to pet a horse RIGHT THAT MINUTE, don't sneak into the stall! There will be plenty of opportunities later on, as we plan to be around a good long while!

As always, feel free to contact me, my information is on the Kingdom web site, and feel free to join our Yahoo Groups list at [trimariancavalry-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:trimariancavalry-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

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