

Muzzles

R•E•A•C•H Therapeutic Riding Center

Winter 2010



Welcome to the premiere issue of *Muzzles* and a new session at REACH Therapeutic Riding Center! We are thrilled to have each and every one of you involved with us – whether you lead or walk beside a horse, clean their stalls or our barn, donate time, money or items, provide treatment for your patient, or share your precious family member with us – because the truth is we couldn't do what we do without you. And what we do is help empower those with disabilities to overcome some of their limitations and enjoy the healing power of horses.

It's been a cold and sloppy start to the new session, but we are confident the sun will come out, the arenas will dry up and the horses will stop rolling in the mud!

See you at the barn!

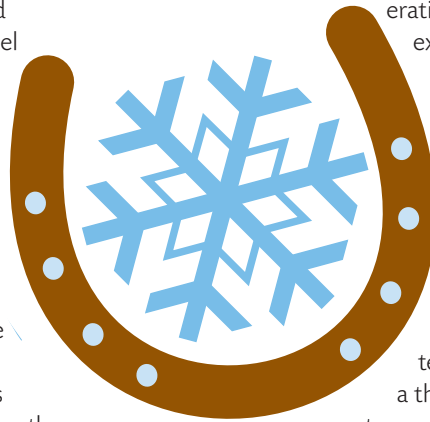
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Cold Temps Cause Cancellations

With temperatures in the 30's and below this winter, blowing rain and even some sleet and snow, we've had to cancel an abnormal number of lessons in the first few weeks of the session. We know it's frustrating for our riders and volunteers to schedule time at the Center, only to find out rides have been cancelled due to weather. In an effort to provide as many rides as possible without risking the health and safety of our riders, we have written and rewritten and written again our weather cancellation policies.



Our current policy reads:

The Center will remain open and in operation during session hours with the exception of the following:

1. Local ISD's have closed schools.
2. The National Weather Service has issued a severe weather alert.
3. There are high winds, lightning, thunder, hail, or tornado warnings.
4. The arena is flooded or too muddy.

The Center will not close for temperature extremes. However, if a therapist, parent, or rider feels the temperature will be too hot or too cold to ride, please notify the center by 5:00 the day before the scheduled ride so we can adjust our volunteer schedule accordingly.

Ridership Numbers On the Rise

At the end of the fall session, REACH had three therapeutic riders and six hippotherapy clients. The start of 2010 saw the number of TR riders double and our hippotherapy riders explode to 22! The increase in hippotherapy is thanks to Hope Therapy, which certified six therapists through the American Hippotherapy Association in the fall of 2009 at a clinic held at REACH. Welcome to the new therapists, we are looking forward to working with you and your clients!

We are now offering classes on Saturdays. In fact, half of our therapeutic riders come on Saturday morning, so we are now operating three days a week – Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday.



Gloria, one of our new therapeutic riders, leads Bailey into the arena.

New Outdoor Arena Possible through Generosity of Extraco Banks

As the number of riders increases at REACH, we need additional room for classes. Through the generosity of Extraco Banks, corral panels were donated and erected to enclose the area next to our covered arena and barn to create a large, outdoor arena. This arena will allow for group lessons, or be divided to hold two classes simultaneously. Thank you, Extraco Banks, for helping us provide our service to more riders!

Mark Your Calendars

Open House at REACH - March 13 and May 8, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Stop by our booth at:

Western Festival, HOT Coliseum - April 29 - May 2

Autism Walk, Baylor - May 1

REACH Therapeutic Riding Center Mission

Improving the health, increasing the confidence, and promoting the independence of persons with special needs through the use of horses.

The use of the riding facility is made possible through the generosity of Gary and Diane Heavin.