

Know someone who wants to learn to ride a horse/pony?

Pickwick Stables, Inc. (6020 Emerald Lane, Sykesville, MD) has the right introductory lesson program for beginners of all ages – Rising Trotters.



4 Beginning Horsemanship & Riding Lessons - \$150

Budding equestrians are introduced to our Pickwick Pony Partners through the first steps of horsemanship and riding. Safety is continually taught and stressed. This fun, educational program is for both children and adults. Our patient, experienced instructors will give you 1-on-1 attention.

First lesson: Basic and necessary skills are first introduced to help the Rising Trotter become familiar and comfortable with the Pickwick Pony Partners. These skills are essential for further fun and success in horsemanship and riding. Basic Skills covered include:

- Grooming (brushing and cleaning),
- Leading (halter and lead shank; how to get the pony where you want it to be),
- Tacking up (how to get the bridle and saddle on/off anyway),
- Propensities of the horse (difference between a friendly greeting and a serious warning in horse language)
- Mounting/Dismounting (safest and easiest way is taught/practiced several times)

Second lesson: The Rising Trotter reviews and applies the first lesson, plus adds the fundamentals of the control needed once he/she is mounted:

- Attire (safe, traditional and required riding clothes are a must)
- Position (the correct way of sitting, holding the reins and behaving while mounted)
- Steering (not quite like riding a bike)
- Stopping (WHOOAA big fella!)

Third lesson: The Rising Trotter practices the skills learned in lessons 1 and 2 to get tacked up and mounted. An introduction to the Pickwick Pony Partner's trot is the focus:

- Gaits (what is the difference between a walk, trot, canter and gallop)
- Walk (practice and discuss the slowest, most steady pace while steering around obstacles)
- Trot (a bumpy road, so students are led as they get their first try at it)

Fourth lesson: It's time to rise to the challenges of the trot. After a little more steering at the walk, the trot is again presented, along with ways to be most comfortable and effective while enjoying riding.

Students who complete this program get a \$10.00 discount on their next lesson package, regularly \$195.00 for 4 lessons (either private ½ hour or small group 1 hour lessons).

You don't need to buy special equipment to be a Rising Trotter. Simply wear long pants and hard-soled shoes with a small heel, and bring a carrot for your Pony Partner. (We supply required safety headwear if you do not have it.)

Visit us on the web at <http://www.pickwickstables.com>. We look forward to your call – you can reach us to schedule Rising Trotter lessons, or lessons for more advanced riders, at 410-795-4000.