

# HOTEA



*heart of texas equestrian academy*

## Welcome Packet

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### LESSONS 2021



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# WELCOME

Heart of Texas Equestrian Academy (H.O.T. Equestrian Academy, or HOTEA) would like to welcome you to Central Texas's most elite riding program! Our goal is to create an



outstanding horse and rider combination through knowledge, experience, understanding, and enjoyment of equestrian sports. Please take the time to read the following pages of our policies and procedures and let us know if you have any questions. We strive to maintain a positive and healthy learning environment, so don't hesitate to notify us of any serious problems that arise. Thank you for choosing to ride with us, and we look forward to working with you this year!

## WHAT'S NEW IN 2021

- The ranch will continue to receive several updates this year, including a heated wash rack, arena lights, new trailer parking area, a restroom, and an office. Our Eventing Team will benefit from our new dressage court, a new location for our full stadium jump course, and the expansion of the cross country course with fun new jumps!
- We plan to hold a horse show at our ranch this summer for H.O.T. Equestrian Academy students! There will be a variety of English and Western classes for all levels of riders.
- We are now using Schedulicity to schedule lessons. You can book via the Schedulicity mobile app or on [www.schedulicity.com](http://www.schedulicity.com) – search for HOT Equestrian Academy.
- Follow us on Instagram (@hotequestrianacademy) and Like us on Facebook (H.O.T. Equestrian Academy)!
- T-shirts, hats, and other merchandise is available from our online store.

## OUR PHILOSOPHY

- ✔ To support the horses that are in our care, educate our community about horses and horsemanship, and to have fun and be safe while doing these things.
- ✔ To dedicate ourselves to the beautiful horses and strong industry that we are blessed to be a part of.
- ✔ To let everyone – parents, spectators, and riders – take part in and enjoy the many facets of the sport.

# LOCATION

We are located at 14245 N Hwy 6 in Valley Mills, TX.

**From Waco** – Take Hwy 6. Once you have passed Hwy 185 (China Spring/Crawford), we are 6.2 miles down on the left across from Del Mar Ranch and ½ mile before the Top Hand Cowboy Church

Please park cars along the left side of the driveway on the gravel pad. Speed limit is 5mph. This is a private home and ranch – please be courteous and respectful of our property and home.

If you're hauling in your own horse, enter the **Truck & Trailer Parking** area through the east gate (*not the main entrance*), drive down the path, and park near the arena. You will enter the arena through the gate adjacent to the cow pen.



# CONTACT INFORMATION

- 🐾 **ADDRESS:** 14245 N Hwy 6  
Valley Mills, TX 76689
- 🐾 **PHONE (text messages preferred):**
  - Main (Jennifer): 254-716-1200
  - Instructors: Katelyn 254-749-4025; Kirsten 214-458-9240; Jessica 805-459-2878
- 🐾 **WEBSITE:** [www.hotequestrianacademy.com](http://www.hotequestrianacademy.com)
- 🐾 **EMAIL:** [hotequestrianacademy@gmail.com](mailto:hotequestrianacademy@gmail.com)
- 🐾 **FACEBOOK:** Heart of Texas Equestrian Academy (@hotequestrianacademy)
- 🐾 **INSTAGRAM:** @hotequestrianacademy  
#heartoftexasequestrianacademy #hotea  
#hotequestrianacademy

# BARN RULES & SAFETY

We strive to maintain the safest environment possible for our riders and their families. Please be mindful of the following rules at all times, and if you have a question... ASK!

1. **Do not touch** any of the horses or animals on the ranch
2. **Do not feed** any of the horses or animals on the ranch – some may be on a special diet
3. Lessons and tours by appointment only
4. Arrive 10 minutes early to complete any paperwork and/or make a payment
5. Payment is due before a lesson begins
6. Only students and staff are allowed in the barn area and arena. To observe lessons, please sit in the designated lesson observation area by the arena
7. No running in the barn, arena, or round pens
8. Any safety instruction given by staff must be implemented immediately
9. Riders under the age of 18 must wear an ASTM/SEI approved riding helmet any time they are riding. We strongly suggest that all riders regardless of age wear helmets at all times
10. All riders must wear a helmet when jumping
11. A cross country vest must be worn when jumping cross country jumps or stadium jumps in the pasture. ASTM/SEI approved vests are preferred
12. No jumping without supervision by an instructor
13. Riders' cell phones should not be on their person while riding – please keep them in the tack room or in the car
14. We are not responsible for lost or stolen articles
15. No smoking or use of tobacco products on the property
16. Alcoholic beverages are not permitted on the property at any time
17. No dogs allowed



# LESSON INFORMATION

Lessons are taught by Katelyn Lauer, Kirsten Cozart, and Jessica Dawson. Riders of all abilities will gain valuable experience from our Western and English lesson programs. In our new curriculum, students will progress through six levels of instruction that covers:

- ✔ Handling horses
- ✔ Grooming and tacking up (saddling)
- ✔ Horsemanship/equitation
- ✔ Horse health and psychology
- ✔ Basic riding foundation, then specialization (Western performance, jumping, etc.)
- ✔ Drills and exercises to develop a balanced, independent seat and confidence

If you wish to purchase your own equipment or tack, we encourage you to speak with an instructor first for recommendations

**Parents and friends** – Please refrain from talking to your rider during the lesson and feel free to visit with the instructor afterwards to discuss your comments and questions.

## LESSON INSTRUCTORS

**Katelyn Lauer** – Evaluation lessons, Intermediate and Advanced Western

**Kirsten Cozart** – Beginner Western, Beginner and Intermediate English

**Jessica Dawson** – Advanced English and HOTEA Eventing Team coach

## DRESS CODE

Please arrive to your lesson dressed in the following and prepared to ride:

- ✔ Shirt that is long enough to be tucked in while riding. No spaghetti straps.
- ✔ Jeans or breeches – no sweatpants, shorts, capris, or leggings.
- ✔ Boots with a heel (cowboy boots, short English boots with half-chaps, tall English boots) are required. No sandals, sneakers, crocs, flat boots, rain boots, etc.
- ✔ Long hair pulled back in a ponytail, braid, or bun
- ✔ ASTM/SEI certified riding helmet that is up to date (helmets have an expiration!). We have helmets available to use if you do not have your own. No bicycle helmets.
- ✔ Baggy clothing, jewelry, and chewing gum are discouraged
- ✔ Parents – please wear closed toed shoes when visiting the ranch

## PRICING

- 🐾 We are now using Schedulicity to schedule riding lessons online! Search for "HOT Equestrian Academy" on [www.schedulicity.com](http://www.schedulicity.com) or the Schedulicity mobile app.
- 🐾 If you're new to our barn you will need to schedule an evaluation lesson; after your evaluation you will book lessons with the appropriate instructor based on your riding ability and chosen discipline.
- 🐾 Lesson fees are due at time of booking. All cancelled lessons will incur a \$10 cancellation fee.
- 🐾 **At least 24 hours' notice is required for lesson cancellation or rescheduling. If the appropriate notice is not given, the lesson will be forfeited at the rider's/parent's expense. Please speak with your instructor if you have questions about this policy.**

<b>Lessons</b>	Ages 4-6	30-minute lesson	\$60 per lesson
	Ages 7+	1-hour lesson	\$60 per lesson
	Barn Parent Clinics	HOTEA will be offering clinics for parents of riders that include ground safety, grooming, and tacking. You may sign up with an instructor for a private lesson as well	\$30-\$50

## WEATHER

Lessons will be rescheduled on a case by case basis if it is thundering, raining, too wet, or too cold to ride. We check the weekly forecast on KXXV every Monday before we plan our lessons and ride times. If there is a 50% or more chance of rain predicted for the day of your lesson it will most likely be rescheduled to a different time. We will text, email, or call you to let you know of any changes. **If we have not contacted you prior to your scheduled lesson time then lessons are still being held. Absences will result in forfeited lessons.**

# HORSE SHOWS

Horse shows are a wonderful opportunity to set goals for you and your horse and then test your skills. We attend horse shows regularly and will discuss logistics with you before the show. As a general rule, please:

- 🐾 Make sure all tack is cleaned and oiled.
- 🐾 Pack all of your tack, brushes, riding apparel, helmets, horse boots, etc. in the trailer well before the show so nothing is forgotten.
- 🐾 Know your schedule of classes and their patterns/courses.
- 🐾 Arrive to the show meeting place on time or early, well rested, and ready to shine!

## HORSE SHOW CONDUCT

We are adamant about the conduct expected at horse shows. When we are at a show, we are on display in the way we handle our horses *and* how we handle the competitive atmosphere. Our expectations are as follows:

1. It is very expensive for parents to send their children to shows. Students riding with HOTEA are expected to appreciate the privilege they've been given. Be rested and prepared to ride to your ability
2. We will not tolerate students – youth or adults – to treat us, their parents, or their horse in a disrespectful manner. We believe in self-control when it relates to “attitude abuse” of the horses, trainers, or the people paying the bills
3. Parents – Please understand that showing can be very stressful for the rider. We will prepare your child for their show classes and ask that you encourage your child, take photos, and provide support and enthusiasm from the bleachers.
4. When we sign your entry forms, we are responsible for you. We take this very seriously. Please try to make our jobs easier by following show rules, paying fees early, etc.
5. The barn area and tack rooms must be kept clean. Put everything away as you use it – don't plan to do it later or expect someone else to do it for you
6. At 2+ day shows we (along with volunteers) are responsible for stall cleaning and feeding
7. Payment for shows is due one week prior the show date
8. There will be times when things go wrong either for you or for us. If you encounter a problem at or in the ring, please control your temper and vocabulary until we are away from the back/entry gate. Emotions tend to run hot at competitions so having a cool off time is a wise choice. After that, please inform us so we can work towards a solution



## HORSE SHOW FEES

<b>Hauling Fee</b>	\$0.75/mile - \$50 minimum
<b>Trainer Fee</b>	\$75/day
<b>Horse Use Fee</b>	\$150
<b>Trainer Lodging/Meals/Groom</b>	Varies – will be split among all competitors
<b>Community Tack Room</b>	\$5-10 – will be split among all competitors
<b>Stall and Shavings</b>	\$25+ per night for stall, \$10 per bag of shavings
<b>Show Fees</b>	\$150+
<b>Your Hotel</b>	Varies
<b>Earnings when JWB Performance Horses/HOTEA shows a client's horse</b>	50% of total amount won goes to owner and 50% to JWB Performance Horses/HOTEA

## HORSE SHOW DRESS CODE

The following is the standard dress code for Western and English horse shows. When not riding, we encourage you to wear your HOTEA t-shirts, hats, and jackets around the show grounds. Many sanctioned and upper-level shows require more formal or specific attire than what is listed below – your instructor will discuss this with you prior to your show.

### Western Riders:

- 👉 Button-up show shirt – any color
- 👉 Jeans
- 👉 Belt
- 👉 Chaps, if necessary
- 👉 Cowboy boots
- 👉 Hat or helmet
- 👉 Long hair pulled back

### English Riders:

- 👉 Show shirt and show jacket
- 👉 Light tan or white breeches
- 👉 Belt
- 👉 Tall black riding boots
- 👉 Hair tucked into helmet with a hair net
- 👉 Cross country vest
- 👉 Medical armband or bracelet

## RIDING INSTRUCTION AND LIABILITY RELEASE FORM FOR INDIVIDUALS

*This form must be completed by and for each participant.*

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY BEFORE SIGNING. SERIOUS INJURY MAY RESULT FROM YOUR PARTICIPATION IN THIS ACTIVITY.

Heart of Texas Equestrian Academy, LLC, JWB Performance Horses, Jennifer Matthews Williams and all heirs, family, employees, officers or contract laborers are hereinafter known as "THIS STABLE".

IT IS HEREBY AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

That I, the undersigned, do for myself or on behalf of my child or legal ward, hereby voluntarily request to participate in riding instructions as a student at THIS STABLE, and that student will either ride his or her own horse, or school horses provided by THIS STABLE for instructional purpose

That in the last two years the student(s) has ridden horses:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Less than 10 hrs \_\_ 10 to 20 hrs \_\_ 20+ hrs \_\_

That parent or guardian and student understand that horses are unpredictable by nature; that when frightened or angry or under stress, a horse's natural instincts are to jump forward or sideways, to run away from danger at a trot or gallop, to kick, to buck, to rear up in front, or bite; that horses are extremely powerful; and that if a rider falls to the ground, the fall distance will be generally from 3 ½ to 5 ½ feet. I understand these risks, and I voluntarily assume these risks and dangers.

That parent or guardian and student understands that upon mounting the horse and taking up the reins the student is in primary control of the horse and that THIS STABLE is not responsible for the results of the student's actions or inactions. The student further agrees to not abuse, misuse or deliberately agitate the horse as these actions may result in increased risk to himself and others.

That I have been advised that students should wear a safety helmet while riding and around the stable to prevent horse related head injuries.

LIABILITY RELEASE: That I understand that, except in the event of THIS STABLE's wanton and willful negligence, I am responsible for bodily injury or property damage which I or my child or legal ward should sustain on THIS STABLE's premises and/or trails and/or while riding a horse, and/or while in transit to or at horse shows, trail rides, or similar expeditions, and for any time I or my child or legal ward shall loose from employment or school or other activity, and for medical expenses or any other expenses incurred because of such bodily or property damage and that I hereby, for myself, my heirs, administrators and assigns release and discharge the owners, operators, and sponsors of THIS STABLE and their respective servants, agents, officers, and all

## HEART OF TEXAS EQUESTRIAN ACADEMY

other participants of and from all claims, demands, actions and causes of action for such injuries sustained to my person, or that of my child or legal charge and/or property.

That the student is currently covered by accident-medical insurance and will remain insured for the duration of all riding instructions at THIS STABLE.

Name of insurance company \_\_\_\_\_

Policy number \_\_\_\_\_

That I further understand that should medical emergency treatment be required, the current insurance information here listed will be provided to the attending clinic or hospital to cover future payment of incurred bills. **Listed on reverse side are the details of any allergies, ailments or handicaps a student may have, and of which THIS STABLE should be aware.**

Upon the signing of this agreement, student acknowledges that he/she has read and agrees to be bound to THIS STABLE's rules.

### WARNING

**UNDER TEXAS LAW (CHAPTER.87, CIVIL PRACTICE AND REMEDIES CODE), AN EQUINE PROFESSIONAL IS NOT LIABLE FOR AN INJURY TO OR THE DEATH OF A PARTICIPANT IN EQUINE ACTIVITIES RESULTING FROM THE INHERENT RISKS OF EQUINE ACTIVITIES.**

I, THE UNDERSIGNED, BEING OF LEGAL AGE AND OF SOUND MIND AND NOT BEING UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL, DRUGS, OR INTOXICANTS, HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE FOREGOING AGREEMENT AND RELEASE. I ALSO ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF A COPY OF THIS AGREEMENT THIS DATE.

Rider Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age (if under 18): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Photo/Video Release Form

I, \_\_\_\_\_(please print), grant permission to Heart of Texas Equestrian Academy, LLC, JWB Performance Horses, Jennifer Matthews Williams, Meaghan Carr Photography, and all agents and employees the irrevocable and unrestricted right to reproduce the photographs and/or video images taken of me, the minor named below, members of my family, or my horse for the purpose of publication, promotion, illustration, advertising, or trade, in any manner or in any medium in perpetuity. I hereby release Heart of Texas Equestrian Academy, LLC, JWB Performance Horses, Jennifer Matthews Williams, Meaghan Carr Photography, and its legal representatives for all claims and liability relating to said images or video. Furthermore, I grant permission to use my statements that were given during an interview, with or without my name, for the purpose of advertising and publicity without restriction. I waive my right to any compensation.

I acknowledge that I am:

[ ☐ ] over the age of 18

[ ☐ ] the legal guardian of the following rider(s):

\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## CONTACT INFO

RIDER NAME		
PARENT NAME		
ADDRESS		
CITY		ZIP
CELL PHONE		PHONE #2
EMAIL		

## EMERGENCY CONTACT

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

RELATION: \_\_\_\_\_

## IMPORTANT MEDICAL INFORMATION (EpiPen, inhaler, etc)

\_\_\_\_\_

## HOW DID YOU HEAR OF US?

\_\_\_\_\_

## GOALS

WESTERN OR ENGLISH? UNSURE?

\_\_\_\_\_

WOULD YOU LIKE TO COMPETE?

\_\_\_\_\_

OTHER?

\_\_\_\_\_

DO YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS FOR US?

\_\_\_\_\_