

Session 1 Newsletter -2020



The weather was mostly kind to us in the first session of 2020. The horses enjoyed many days in the green field, riders had new arena props to interact with, such as the beautifully painted "Barrel Island" (above left), the numbered boxes and ring trees created by a local Boy Scout, and the new tall colorful cones (above right). There were some barn lessons, though, which including fun activities such as riding Boss, or exploring different areas of the barn, such as the John Deere Gator.

New Year's Kick Off Party



A wonderful time was had by all at our annual New Year's Kick Off Party. For the first time, the event was held out by the arena. We had a great group of clients, volunteers, and staff, along with friends and family attend. Yummy goodies were brought to share, such as the fun horse-themed platter seen above. There were also horses to visit with and an obstacle course set up in the arena for folks to enjoy on foot. Boss the mechanical horse even made an appearance, with many people taking turns to experience a little of what it feels like to ride. All in all, it was a great afternoon of visiting with old friends, and meeting new friends who may ride on different days and times.



Did you know the Center has a very strict **5 miles per hour** speed limit while on Center grounds? Particularly once you are past the white automatic gates there are people, pets, riders on horses, and equine hospital patients, any of whom could have a negative reaction to vehicles **they** perceive as moving quickly. Repeat offenders jeopardize everyone's safety and have, in the past, been banned from driving on Center grounds. Please help keep everyone safe by respecting the speed limit, and letting any visiting friends or family know, as well.

Update Forms

Many thanks to those who have already submitted their Emergency Contact and Medical Update Forms.

These forms were emailed out late last year. So far, we've received about half of them back. Annual Update Forms are an important part of providing the safest lesson environment we can.

The Medical Update Forms also have space for parents and caregivers to provide us with feedback on growth seen over the past year, and goals for the future. As instructors, this type of information is invaluable in planning our weekly lessons, as well as developing overall goals for the year. If you're not sure if you've turning in your forms or not, email Gretchen at GretchenD@animalcenter.org. She'll be happy to check for you!



Hollywood Cupid says "Thanks for sending in your update forms!"



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Without your generosity, the program wouldn't exist.
If we could hug you, we would!***