

Sharkey Farm

Showing FAQ

Sharkey Farm attends many horse shows throughout the year. We regularly compete in the Lake Washington Saddle Club, Cascade Horse Shows, and other schooling shows in and around the state. Occasionally we will attend United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) rated shows for advanced students who are interested in furthering their show careers.

Competitions vary in length and ratings. Local horse shows tend to be between one and two days, while four and five day shows are either "A" or "AA" rated horse shows.

We encourage riders to participate at the level they feel comfortable and/or prepared for. Sharkey Farm school horses can easily handle the small divisions at many of the local and schooling horse shows, however once a rider is ready to compete beyond the beginner ring horse ownership/leasing is recommended and often necessary. We are happy to provide services to help riders acquire an appropriate mount that suits the riders ability, goals, and budget.

A yearly show schedule will be provided in January or February and will outline a list of potential horse shows that we will be attending. In order to travel to a show, we need to have a minimum of two riders planning to attend - this helps share costs between multiple riders and ensure that we have a good support group at each show.

What to Expect the Day of the Show

Locations and maps can be found to horse show facilities on the association's web page. Kate Sharkey will tell you when to arrive for schooling and give you her best approximations for show times the day before your rider's classes. Horse shows cannot give time projections before 5pm the night before and even then it is a guesstimate. It is encouraged that Sharkey Farm riders support their fellow teammates and cheer them on from the sidelines. The support is appreciated by all.

When first arriving at the horse show, check in with your trainer and let them know you are here. Find out what ring you are riding in. For riders 10 and under it is appropriate for parents to help riders acquire a schedule from the horse show office and know where in the schedule they ride. Approximate times can be found via the person who works at the arena gate. Riders 10 and over should be able to do this on their own. Riders are also responsible for learning their courses which will be posted at the in-gate at the rider's ring.

When it is time for the rider to prepare himself and his horse it is important for the rider to be left virtually alone. It will be asked that parents find a comfortable place away from the students to sit and watch on the sidelines. Parental coaching will not be tolerated on any level. Riders 10 and over should be able to dress themselves and utilize the help of older students in tacking of the horse. This time before competition is important for the rider to start to calm their nerves and focus and concentrate on the task at hand. As little distraction as possible in the barn and in and around the ring is a must.

Riders will be allowed ample warm up time depending upon their individual needs which will be assessed and modified by the trainer. Trainers have a working knowledge of horse show management and will do their best to get your rider to the ring on time. Many times in competition trainers may have conflicts between riders and rings. In these situations trainers confer with horse show management and horse show management usually decides which rider should be done first. Please do not be alarmed if it seems that they are waiting solely on your trainer. This happens quite frequently and your rider will not be penalized for this.

Ultimately horse showing is an excellent way to gauge the progression of your riding skills and knowledge. We are here to help your rider set goals and learn how to achieve them. Whether it is trying to attain year end championship or simply mastering a course of fences, we at Sharkey Farm enjoy nothing more than seeing your rider be successful. But most of all, we want everyone to enjoy this fantastic sport and foster a love and respect for these magnificent animals which have drawn us all together!

Horse Show Attire

Horse showing is based on foxhunting, and is extremely traditional. Dressing correctly for a horse show is extremely important and is trickier than dressing appropriately for lessons and hacks. I have a large bin of hand me down equipment and we encourage riders to share and hand-down whenever appropriate! All riders must have the following:

- ASTM approved helmet, preferably all black. Helmet fit is paramount, however there are several brands and styles that are more popular and appropriate for showing.
- Hair nets for riders over the age of 12, braids and bows 12 and under.
- Black gloves.
- Show coat: navy, black, or a conservative dark color.
- Show shirt, white or light pastel, long sleeve preferred.
- Breeches in tan or khaki for riders 12 and up, jodhpurs and garters for riders 12 and under.
- Well fitted leather field boots for riders 12 and up. Paddock boots that match the garters for riders 12 and under.
- Boots and half chaps over khaki breeches are acceptable for all ages at schooling shows.
- Matching belt.
- Black Jumping bat.

Outside of when you are showing, Sharkey Farm dress code applies. This includes safe, closed toed shoes, shorts/pants that are conservative and appropriate, and no visible bra straps. Midriffs or see-through clothing are not acceptable.

Horse Show Organization Memberships

Different horse shows require a membership to different organizations. Points are accumulated through these organizations for end-of-year awards.

- Local schooling shows require membership to Lake Washington Saddle Club (LWSC). This membership is approximately \$35 for an individual and \$50 for a family.
- Rated shows require membership to three organizations.
 - United States Equestrian Federation (USEF)
 - United States Hunter Jumper Association (USHJA)
 - You can purchase a show pass for USEF and USHJA which will allow you to compete at a single show instead of being a yearly member if you prefer. This is a better deal for those who only plan to show 1-2 times.
 - Horses need to be registered with USHJA as well in order to compete.
 - Washington State Hunter Jumper Association (WSHJA).

Once registered, registration numbers must be given to Kate Sharkey for entries to be filled out appropriately.

Fees and Expenses Associated With Showing

- Yearly Association memberships
- Entry fees (These are directly paid to horse show management hosting the event)
 - LWSC Classic schooling shows approx. \$200-350
 - Week-long rated shows \$900-\$1200
- Trailering Fees
 - \$3 per mile if only one client horse
 - \$1.50 per mile if 2+ client horses
 - Minimum: \$50
 - Hauling fees split between riders sharing one horse
- Trainer Day Fees
 - \$55/day with your own or leased horse, \$80/day with a school horse
 - IEA: \$45 per day plus travel split based on number of riders
- Split fees between all client horses at the show:
 - Trainer Hotel Fees
 - Grooming and Tack stalls will be split by the number of horses (including Kate's personal horses) at the show.
 - These fees may show up on your entries after being split in the show office
 - Extended stay Fees: May or may not include laundry, additional hay and feed, ice, and golf cart split, etc...
- Individual Fees (may be optional or not apply in all situations)
 - Medication Fees: itemized and billed individually (all medicines are given and administered at legal doses and within the constraints of the United States Equestrian Federation.)
 - Set up/Tear down: \$25 each (waived if rider or family member helps)
 - Grooming: \$40-60 per day
 - Stall Cleaning: \$30 per day
 - Braiding: \$75-150 mane and tail or contracted out at a higher rate

What Your Day Fees Include

Day fees are paid to the trainer in addition to your standard monthly training bill. These fees are to cover the additional cost and effort of being at a horse show. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Ringside coaching and preparation for classes
- Use of Sharkey Farm supplies (fly spray, show sheen, hoof polish, saddle soap, etc)
- The purchase and maintenance of show-specific supplies (tents, curtains, chairs, tables, saddle racks, bridle racks, buckets, hooks, etc.)
- Coordination of grooms, stall cleaners, and working students
- Coordination with office on show bills, entries, numbers, and day sheets

Set Up and Tear Down

The day before a horse show is called schooling and set up day. During that day, horses will be hauled to the show grounds, stalls, tack rooms, and tents set up, and horses schooled in the arenas. Parents and riders are encouraged to help with set up as it builds community and helps everyone get home quicker. If you forgo helping with setup, you will be charged \$25. This fee is waived as long as a member of the rider's family helps during the setup process.

The same thing happens in reverse on Sunday - tack rooms, tents, and supplies all need to be packed up and stored in the horse trailer for the next show. This process will incur a \$25 fee if you do not wish to participate in tear down.