From the owner...

I hope everyone had a wonderful, relaxing, and happy holiday season. We are looking forward to a great 2018 at Avon Valley Show Stables.

As the weather continues to get colder and illness can cause a problem, please remember to contact your trainer or the office if you need to cancel any lessons. Please be mindful that we do have a 24-hour cancellation policy.

Just a gentle reminder that payments for lessons are due at the time of the lesson. Whether you purchase a lesson package or pay each time, it is important that all lessons are paid for upfront. A rider will be unable to participate without updated payment information. Please do not hesitate to contact Sarah with any questions or concerns you may have.

Finally on an incredibly somber note, the devastating tragedy at Folly Farm has shocked everyone in the horse community. We continue to keep the families, clients, staff, and horses in our thoughts and prayers during this incredibly difficult time.

As a natural reaction to any tragedy, I have been contacted by many people with concern regarding a fire within our own barn. Please note we continue to take multiple precautions to ensure the safety of our horses from any dangers, including fires. I have met with the Avon Fire Marshall who did a walkthrough of the entire property a couple months ago, and then again on December 28, 2017. He is very complimentary of our protocols and procedures to keep everyone safe. In addition, on December 29, 2017, I met with a contractor who will be installing a state-of-the-art heat sensory and camera system to allow my team to monitor the property. We have updated fire extinguishers in multiple locations along both lower barn aisles, the office, and the upper barn.

In addition, I have a night closing team who double checks each horse to ensure he/she is properly blanketed, has water, and receives an additional flake of hay. My staff also walks the property nightly and makes sure circuits are shut off as appropriate, all heaters are shut off and all plugs are unplugged. They have a procedural protocol they follow to make sure nothing gets missed. It is because of these night checks that we will be adhering more strictly to the barn hours to ensure my team is able to complete all they need to ensure the barn is appropriately shut down for the evening.

Please do not hesitate to contact Sarah or me with any questions or concerns you may have.

Emer Coyne
Owner/Trainer

Barn Office:
(860) 677-5260

Barn Hours:
Monday-Friday 9am-8pm
Saturday-Sunday 9am-5pm

Barn Manager/Show Secretary:
Sarah Brzozowy

Avon Valley Show Stables is a premium care, full service equestrian facility. We are located on 30 acres of beautiful grassy fields overlooking the Farmington River. We offer a wide range of services and are dedicated to providing a quality facility for the equine athlete and rider. Avon Valley Show Stables is home to many rated and schooling hunter/jumper shows.
To Ride or Not to Ride?

That’s the Big Question

There are many schools of thought regarding whether or not it is too cold to ride. Avon Valley Show Stables’ professionals operate under the mindset that it is not too cold to ride if you take appropriate precautions. A horse that is not suffering from a respiratory issue (a cold or allergies) can still be safely ridden in temperatures even below freezing. On even the most frigid morning, the indoor ring still maintains a temperature around 20 degrees.

Equus Magazine and Equine Veterinarians recommend taking three things into consideration prior to riding your horse in extremely cold temperatures. Consider three factors when deciding whether to ride in frigid weather or take the day off.

Footing:
Footing can be especially treacherous in cold weather. Frozen footing can feel like concrete under a horse’s hooves, and mud that is churned up and then freezes solid can twist joints and bruise feet. Watch to see if your horse leaves hoof prints in the turf you’re traveling over. If he doesn’t, the ground has no “give” and you’ll want to stick to a walk. At AVSS, the ring is dragged every morning to ensure it is even and safe for all riders. On the coldest of mornings, salt is used to ensure water does not cause any frozen patches across the ring. After that, the ring is walked by members of the staff to further ensure its safety for horses and riders.

Respiratory:
Cold air can worsen respiratory issues. Some studies have shown that extremely frigid air—-in the single digits—-can lead to minor inflammation in the lungs. If your horse is already dealing with a flare-up of recurrent airway obstruction (also called heaves) cold air could exacerbate the situation ---you’ll want to skip the below-freezing rides until he’s breathing easier. But resist the urge to shut him up in the barn to “protect” his lungs: The dust and ammonia fumes inside will be far more damaging than any cold, fresh air. If you have any questions regarding whether you should take extra precautions for your horse, please see Emer.

Warm-Up:
Proper warm ups take longer in cold weather. Cold weather necessitates taking a few minutes more at the start of your ride to prepare tendons, ligaments and cartilage for the work ahead. Warming up heats crucial structures by increasing blood flow, a process that will take longer if you are starting at lower temperatures. Stick to the walk and slow trots, with gentle bending and stretching exercises, for about twice as long as you might in the summer. Keep in mind that a horse with arthritis is going to feel stiffer in the cold air, so if your horse has arthritis or any muscular issue, please see Emer.
Happy 44th Birthday Cheesecake (January 1, 2018)

Cheesecake came to Avon Valley Show Stables more than 15 years ago. He was completing his first career as a party pony and he arrived on the back of a truck. His name at the time was “Chico Bob” and he was quite the jokester. He enjoyed running out the backdoor, galloping through the fields, and refusing to come back inside. Since that time, he has taught almost 4,700 children a love of horses and riding. He has a special place in so many hearts and has earned the right and privilege to live a very spoiled life. You may find him roaming the grounds, walking around the barn, or just relaxing by the heater in the office. Please wish him a very happy birthday— he loves bananas, crushed apples and hugs!

AVSS SCHOOLING SHOW

January 20, 2018

Show starts at 9:00am! See sign-up sheet in the office or speak with your instructor to decide which division is best for you!

- Lead Line
- Walk Trot Pleasure/Equitation
- WTC Equitation
- 18” Hunter
- 2’ Hunter
- 2’3 Hunter
We are so excited to welcome new families to Avon Valley Show Stables. In addition to our many new clients, riders and instructors have revised their schedules so they may come upon new faces. To help everyone feel welcome and familiar with the AVSS team, please find their photos below!

Emer Coyne
Owner/Trainer/Coach

Malin Eubanks
Trainer/IHSA Coach

Chelsea Crisman
Trainer/IEA/CHSA Coach

Makenzi Paluso
Coach

Dana Bridges
Trainer/Coach

Becka Shane
Trainer

Ilana Stolyarova
Instructor

Sarah Stevenson
Instructor

Sarah Brzozowy
AVSS Manager

Congratulations to Catie Mussa on the purchase of her horse, Koby
Avon Valley Show Stables

Cheesecake (affectionately nicknamed “Chairman of the Barn”) is 44 years old and has taught over 4,700 students how to ride. He is considered the wisest pony in the barn, and this makes him ideal to give advice.

Sandman has done it all. With his calm demeanor and his “been there done that” show record, he is the best horse for a rider to try a new skill or overcome a fear. He is an upstanding citizen of the barn and takes very good care of even the most green rider. When he’s not too busy jumping in the show ring, he enjoys apples and peppies.
Please see Sarah for more information!

Final Winter Orders will be placed on January 28.
Leasing provides a wonderful opportunity for riders to practice their skills on one consistent horse or pony. Generally, riders will have up to 2 hours with “their” pony. 30 minutes is spent grooming and tacking up, followed by riding for up to an hour (riding time includes warming up and cooling down at the walk), followed by 30 minutes of untacking and putting the horse away. Lessees are expected to take one lesson per week. The lesson fee is not included in the price of the lease. Please note that due to our busy lesson program, the available times of some school horses may be limited. Any missed riding days may be rescheduled; if scheduling permits, otherwise, the days are forfeit. Missed days cannot be carried over to after the end of the lease.

GQ
For Lease only

Licorice
For Sale or Lease

Mr. Pickles
For Sale or Lease

Sandman
For Lease only

Rosey
For Sale or Lease

Tatiana
For Sale or Lease

Vinni
For Lease Only

Digby
For Sale or Lease

Willow
For Sale or Lease

Yogi
For Sale or Lease

Stetson
For Sale or Lease
10 New Year’s Resolutions for Horses

[credit to: Jess Hallas-Kilcoyne]

1. I WILL gladly help my human lose those extra holiday pounds by transforming myself into the 2-in-1 Ultimate Equine Gym Apparatus (UEGA). A combination of treadmill (forced jogging routine back and forth across horse pasture for a minimum distance of five miles on most difficult “You’ll never catch me” setting) and total body weight machine (set to “Leaning heavily on bit” for arms, and “You can pick out my hooves but you’ll have to support my entire body weight” for back and legs).

2. I WILL NOT allow my human’s refusal to acknowledge my genius in architectural design, which I have now demonstrated in multiple barn improvement projects, dissuade me from using my teeth to express my inner artistic creativity on the stable walls, stall door, and fences.

3. I WILL let my human believe that when she arrives at the barn to find me eagerly awaiting her at the paddock gate or stall door, my enthusiasm is purely an expression of my joy at seeing her and has nothing to do with the carrot I know she’ll be carrying in her pocket.

4. I WILL NOT dignify my human’s frequent and fervent pleas that I refrain from covering every square inch of my stall in manure with a response. Not until I receive some recognition for the effort that goes into my daily routine of depositing manure in key locations around the stall that ensures my trampling hooves pulverize it and evenly redistribute the resulting poo particles with maximum efficiency.

5. I WILL persevere in my goal to improve my human’s ground and riding manners. I do not particularly enjoy disciplining my human when she misbehaves, but I have come to understand that humans, like foals, feel more secure when firm boundaries are established.

6. I WILL NOT be fooled by my human’s delusional insistence that the horse-eating dragon lurking in the back of the trailer, the sharks prowling the murky depths of the water jump at competitions, and the invisible monster hiding wherever happens to be most convenient for me at the time are figments of my imagination.

7. I WILL exercise my mind with brain teasers and mental puzzles, such as figuring out how to open the stall door latch, and determining the best way to get over, under, around, or through the fence to the greener grass on the other side.

8. I WILL NOT waver from my sacred duty to take full advantage of mud puddles to coat myself entirely with a generous layer of filth just before my human arrives for our daily ride, thus gifting her with the privilege of grooming me.

9. I WILL make more time for my human in my busy schedule so the poor thing can spend more time having fun at the barn covered in my patented mixture of manure and muck, instead of enduring tedious hours of conversation with fellow humans of the male variety in the poor visibility provided by candlelight.

10. I WILL NOT let the dictatorial shriekings of the tyrannical woman (my human calls her “the trainer”) who repeatedly urges my human every week to experiment on me with various cruel and unusual methods of torture (e.g. leg-yielding, gymnastic jumping) to break my spirit. Will seek comfort in the knowledge of my moral superiority...while attempting to “accidentally” run her over in between those bounce jumps.

JUST FOR LAUGHS WITH SAMWELL TARLY

Why couldn’t the pony sing? Because he was a little hoarse.

What did the momma say to the foal? Its pasture your bedtime

Where do horses get their hair done? Maine.

What do you call a well balanced horse? Stable.