Teaching Horse Environmental Enrichment Program
Participant’s Training Agreement

Please read the following and sign indicating you understand and will adhere to safe handling practices while participating in the Teaching Horse Environmental Enrichment Program, as demonstrated during orientation by Phase 2 student leaders.

The goals of the Teaching Horse Environmental Enrichment Program orientation are as follows:

1. To introduce first year DVM students to the location of the teaching horse wards and the new horse division of barn #37.

2. To outline the parameters for working safely with the OVCHSC teaching horses in the ward and authorized areas of the Large Animal Clinic. Students must be in groups of 3 OR MORE when working with teaching horses (if someone is hurt: 1 stays and the other goes to find help OR if a horse is loose 2 try to corral it while one goes to find help).

3. To enable students to practice approaching, leading/walking and grooming horses in box stalls.

4. To enable students to recognize aspects of relaxed, nervous, fearful or potentially aggressive horse behaviour and how to respond appropriately and safely.

Orientation information given by Phase 2 student leaders will include:

- Tour of Ward 2 and the new horse division of barn #37: the two areas where the teaching horses are housed.
- Infectious disease control, dress code and personal protective measures that must be taken before, during and after access to the OVCHSC e.g. foot baths, clean coveralls, steel toed boots, gloves and hand-washing.
- The acceptable way at OVC to approach a horse in a box stall and the application of a lead rope (approach on left, let horse know you are there, chain over nose, not looped in O ring).
- How to bring horses out of stalls and walk them to designated areas.
- The use of a curry comb, dandy brush, body brush, hoof pick, mane/tail comb, including where these tools are located and where to put dirty brushes.
- Signs of aggressive, nervous, fearful and relaxed horse behaviour. Instructions will be given about what to do and where to stand during an aggressive episode or an attempt to kick or bite, and the appropriate corrections to give.
- Explanation of the communication board and appropriate steps to take if there are any issues/concerns with an animal’s health status. In case of emergency, contact ext. 54412 (tech phone).
- How and where to document each horse's environmental enrichment care.

Additional information:

- Hours for the environmental enrichment program are Monday - Friday, 8:30am - 4:30pm.
- Horses may not be used for clinical medicine practice. Closer to examination time designated horses will be available for practice.
- Only clean coveralls may be worn into the barn. Ones which have been worn in the teaching hospital, farm visits or anywhere outside of the OVC must not be used in order to prevent disease transmission.
- Treats are NOT to be given to the horses, as this interferes with their diets and can lead to gastrointestinal upset.
Please help us identify the horse-experienced students in your class. These students will assist the less experienced students to handle the horses.

Would you consider yourself horse-experienced according to the following criteria?

- I am comfortable approaching a horse and knowing different signs of behaviour
- I know where to and where not to stand around a horse in order to reduce the risk of injury
- I know which common actions would scare a horse, e.g. loud noises or sudden movements
- I am comfortable haltering and leading a horse
- I know how to use a curry comb, a dandy brush and a body brush
- I am comfortable picking up a horse’s foot and picking out hooves
- I am able to recognize the signs of common health concerns e.g. colic or thrush
- I am confident in my ability to behave safety and comfortably around horses and assist my peers in order to improve their skills.

Student’s Name (Please Print) _________________________________

Practice Group #_______

I do consider myself horse experienced according to all of the points above  

I do not consider myself horse experienced, as I do not meet all of the criteria above