

Information for Participants and Auditors



**Hoof Trimming
for Horse Owners 101**
a one-day clinic

Saturday October 3, 2015 9am-4pm
Victory Alliance Ranch Huntsville, AL

Questions? Contact:

Instructor:

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Public page at

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Victory-Alliance-Ranch-Inc/283136695041894>

Driving directions:

From Huntsville: Travel E on Highway 72 to Ryland Pike, turn left. Turn left at the traffic light onto Jordan Rd. Ranch is on the left at 2028 Jordan Rd.

What's this all about?

Join us for a one-day clinic that delivers the fundamental concepts and skills needed to trim a healthy, well-maintained hoof using a rasp and a hoof stand, and to check hoof balance using the sole as a guide. Auditors participate fully in classroom activities and hoof trimming demo, and observe during the hands-on trimming session.

What to wear and bring:

Wear work pants or jeans and sturdy shoes. The hands-on hoof trimming session will involve sharp tools and dirty, smelly, stomping hoofs, so your clothes and shoes may get dirty or torn. No shorts or sandals, please – closed-toe shoes required for safety.

Bring a folding chair, notebook, pen, camera. Other classroom materials will be provided. Take all the photos and video you like!

For participation in the hands-on trimming session:

Close-fitting work gloves and a hoof rasp with handle are required. Bring a hoof stand if you have one. Work gloves, professional quality hoof rasps, and rasp handles will be available for purchase at the clinic. Flip to the last page of this document for a list of other recommended tools, gear, and suppliers.

Lunch and drinks:

Lunch and hot and cold beverages will be provided and are included in price of admission for both participants and auditors. If you'd like to bring food to share, snacks that don't need refrigeration and that might double as dessert (muffins, cookies, brownies, bagels) are always appreciated!

What's the general plan for the day?

- classroom time with a mix of learning activities and interactive demos
- lunch break
- hoof trimming demonstration with Q&A
- hands-on practice – trim at least one hoof from start to finish

What we will cover during the classroom and demo sessions:

Basic procedure and techniques for trimming the hoof wall using a hoof rasp and hoof stand, including:

Hoof anatomy inside and out	Backing up the toe
How often to trim	Scooping the quarters
Splits, cracks, and flares	Beveling or rolling the hoof wall
Safety	Checking your work
Tool tips and techniques	Balancing the hoof

What we won't cover during the classroom and demo sessions (but we may have time to talk about one-on-one during the hands-on session):

Trimming diseased or problem hoofs – contraction, navicular syndrome, founder, long toe with under-run heels, underdeveloped digital cushion, thin sole

Trimming bars, sole, and frog

Trimming with hoof nippers, hoof knives, and angle grinders

How to get the most out of the clinic:

Take notes and ask questions! The more you put into the learning experience, the more you'll take away from it. Plus, you never know when someone who speaks up with a question or observation might get a fun little prize for bravery!

Take time before and after the clinic to study the videos, articles, photos, and drawings about hoof trimming and hoof health, available for free on the following websites:

Marjorie Smith's articles on www.barefoothorse.com

Paige Poss' articles on www.ironfreehoof.com

Pete Ramey's articles on www.hoofrehab.com

Gene Ovnicek's articles on www.hopeforsoundness.com

Hoofjack videos on www.hoofjack.com

Gene Ovnicek's videos on YouTube: <http://tinyurl.com/cbcp6w8>

Watch these recommended hoof trimming how-to videos:

Pete Ramey's 'Under the Horse' DVD set, available from www.hoofrehab.com

Gene Ovnicek's 'Natural Balance Hoof Trimming' DVD, available from www.hopeforsoundness.com

Phil Morarre's 'Abrasive Trim Clinic' DVD, available from www.softouchnaturalhorsecare.com

Many of these videos are available to rent at a reasonable cost through www.giddyupflix.com.

Study the hoof care books listed in this article: <http://wp.me/pQCvn-2l>

If you plan to participate in the hands-on trimming, but won't be bringing a horse:

Please let us know in advance that you are planning to participate in the hands-on hoof trimming session, but will not be bringing a horse – so that we can arrange to have a practice horse available.

If you plan to bring your horse (or mule or donkey):

Please let us know in advance that you are planning to bring your horse, so we can prepare to comfortably accommodate him (or her).

Current negative Coggins for each visiting horse must be submitted with clinic registration forms or presented for inspection before unloading horse from trailer – **no exceptions.**

Plan to arrive 15 minutes early to check in and get your horse settled. Let us help direct you to trailer parking and turnaround.

Please bring your own water bucket and hay from home.

No stallions, ungelded colts, mares with foals at side, or fractious or unhandled horses.

This and that:

No visiting dogs, please.

No smoking inside structures; smoking is permitted in front of barn away from hay – please use butt cans that will be provided

Clinic participants and auditors must observe posted barn rules.

A restroom is located in the barn near the rear entrance.

Inclement weather:

All activities will be under cover - the clinic will take place rain or shine. If there is any doubt about cancellation due to unsafe weather conditions - please check hoofsmart.com or call contact numbers for latest info.

Can I really learn to do this?

Hoof trimming isn't rocket science. Performing a basic trim on healthy, well-maintained hoofs is within the capabilities of virtually everyone with a desire to learn, the proper tools, some horse-handling skills, and a cooperative equine partner.

Some physical stamina and strength is helpful, but many a determined trimmer has used innovative tools and techniques to overcome physical barriers such as arthritis, back problems, and limited mobility.

A motivated owner can often provide higher quality hoof care than a professional who only sees the horse every 4-6 weeks. An owner can tweak and fine-tune a horse's hoofs through day-to-day observation, attention to detail, and knowledge of every quirk under saddle and over varying terrain.

There's quite a difference between having the satisfying ability to tidy up the hoofs of one or two personal horses any time you please, and the demands of having to safely deal with many horses with a range of temperaments, performance and rehabilitation goals, and current and future problems to consider. You can learn the basics in a day, and then spend the rest of your life broadening your experience, deepening your understanding of anatomy and biomechanics, mastering new tools and techniques, and keeping up-to-date with advances in research and diagnostic tools. Welcome to the journey!



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Recommended Hoof Trimming Tools

Please note: the list below is for your convenience. The only tools required for participation in the workshop are a hoof rasp and rasp handle. You may bring those items with you, and they will also be available for purchase at the workshop.

Item	Manufacturer	Description	Price	Supplier
Hoof Stand	Equine Innovations	Standard Hoofjack hoof stand	\$185.00	www.nctoolco.com
Hoof Rasp	Heller	Legend 14"	\$22.50	www.nctoolco.com
Hoof Rasp	Wood-Miller	Super Sharp 14"	\$15.95	www.jeffersequine.com
Rasp Handle	Nordic Forge	Twist-on Rasp Handle	\$3.95	www.jeffersequine.com
Farriers Apron	C&M	Cordura Apron with suede patches and safety breakaway snaps	\$112.00	www.nctoolco.com
Hoof Knives	Friedr. Dick Company	Gripmaster style, left and right handed	\$31.95	www.star-ridge.com
Sharpening Steel	Istor	4" sharpening steel	\$14.95	www.star-ridge.com
Crook Sharpener	Friedr. Dick Company	Pocket crook sharpener	\$11.95	www.star-ridge.com
Hoof Nippers	GE	15" Hoof Nippers	\$201.00	www.nctoolco.com
Mini Half Round Nippers	Oriental Touch	Bonsai Knob Cutters (set of two)	\$29.99	www.amazon.com
Crease Nail Puller	Lopez	Crease Nail Puller	\$86.00	www.nctoolco.com
Magnet	--	3" round magnet (extra magnet for Hoofjack)	\$7.50	www.nctoolco.com
Nipper Spring	W-Brand	Nipper Spring	\$9.99	www.nctoolco.com
Rasp Grip	Thera-Flex	Hand Saver Rasp Covers	\$5.65	www.nctoolco.com