



HORSE LEASE CONTRACT

HORSE'S NAME HERE

This agreement is entered into this day, XXXX, XXXX and shall be effective beginning on a month by month basis starting on XXXX, XXXX between LESSEE'S NAME, "Lessee", and owner Kathy, Jessica or Megan Gilker, "Lessor", for an agreed upon \$XXXX per month in exchange for the "half" use of the ___ year old (born _____) registered _____ (IAHA Registration #XXXX, USEF #XXXX, USDF #XXXX) XXXX HH XXXX XXXX XXXX, registered as XXXXX also known as "XXXX." Monthly lease fee will be due on the 1st of each month. The following terms and conditions shall apply for the length of the lease:

The monthly lease fee is considered a "Half Lease." The fee will cover and include the following:

- Regular Vet Care (Coggins, Shots and Dental Care).
- Full care and board.
- Up to 3 rides a week (one *MUST* be a lesson, the other one or two can be lessons or practice rides). Horse shows are not included in the ride count. If horse is not being worked by owner or being leased by another individual, a 4th day of work may be done and is recommended – this will be a short groundwork or lunging session, whichever is most beneficial or appropriate.
- Use of JAG Arabian Sport Horses' facilities and property.
- Provision of halter, lead rope, bridle, girth and blankets for at home and at shows unless lessee would prefer to provide own. Shipping wraps/boots and schooling boots/polo wraps MAY provided depending on availability.
- Wound care products including SWAT Fly Ointment and Vetericyn Animal Wound & Infection Treatment Spray as well as Eqyss Micro-Tek Anti-Microbial Spray. In addition to these, we have a variety of first aid products available for use (additional anti-fungal treatments, thrush treatment, etc.)
- All Farrier Work
- Chiropractic session with Vet every 12 weeks
- Magnawave (PEMF) Treatments every month. Can certainly be replaced with massage session based on trainer or vet recommendation.
- Standard Joint and Health Maintenance for a Working Horse/Athlete.

Lessee is responsible for the following in this "Half Lease:"

- Required weekly lesson and additional clinics - to be paid to trainer(s). See page 11 and 12 for suggested trainer list.
- Lessee to provide own saddle, saddle pad, saddle pad, helmet, and personal riding and safety attire.
- Cleaning products for horse and tack. Bridle and girth should be cleaned ONCE a week or more as needed, especially if horse gets sweaty. Bit should be cleaned after use.
- Liniment, poultice, fly spray, sunscreen, coat conditioner, Show Sheen, hoof treatment (recommend Keratex – depending on weather), etc. as needed. Fly spray, coat conditioner and some other products should be used before or after every ride, depending on the weather. Please ask for owners or trainer for recommendations on usage, amount and suggested brands. Some liniments can cause reactions in horses so please careful when selecting liniments.
- If lessee utilizes horse boots they are to be cleaned properly after use to prevent early breakdown, bacteria/fungus growth and to prevent build up that may cause sores on horse.

JAG Arabian Sport Horses

- Trunk to hold any items stored at barn – recommended Stanley or Husky trunk – and trunk cover. One saddle rack provided for saddle. We aim to keep the farm as organized and professional looking as possible.
- Show fees, clinic fees, membership fees, show supplies, clipping, mane pulling, braiding, trainer coaching, transportation and any related show expenses including but not limited to: Ulcerguard, Ritetrac and/or electrolytes as needed for horse shows or heavy work or travel schedule, Health Certificate if traveling out of state, etc. To be paid to appropriate individual.
- We do recommend small alfalfa cubes, carrot or apples and other healthy options as a treat. No sugar cubes or mints please. There are also electrolyte & joint supplement treats that may be a good option for horses on a work schedule.
- Electrolytes for use after riding (please check for appropriate amount for horse).
- Any additional vet fees associated with use of horse by lessee.
- All any emergency care when off-site with horse. Equine insurance if going off site may be a good option. All medical decisions to be made at discretion of horse owner and vet.
- If acupuncture session is deemed required (over the massage, chiropractic or magnawaves sessions) for horse based on work schedule and condition and recommendation of owner, trainer, and vet, lessee is responsible for \$125 acupuncture cost plus farm visit fee.

Either party may terminate this lease prior to the 1st of the next month's lease with a minimum fourteen (14) day notice of termination in consideration and respect of either party.

The Lessor shall not be held responsible for loss, damage, injury, claim, demand, liability, cost and expense (including legal expense) arising out of or connected with the use, stabling or actions of the leased animal whether under control and supervision of the Lessee or not, including any and all costs, attorney's fees, expenses and liabilities incurred in the defense of any such claim or any action brought thereon. Lessee understands that engaging in equine activities is an inherently-dangerous activity, and that, by so doing, Lessee is exposed to dangers both known and unknown. Horses are large, unpredictable animals which may be dangerous no matter how much training they have, no matter what level of experience Lessee has, and no matter what the situation. Lessee agrees and understands that Lessor cannot control the Horse and that Lessee shall release and hold harmless Lessor from any injury arising out of or related to equine activities. Lessee assumes all risk of damage to property or injury to persons as a result of Lessee's use of the Horse and Lessee waives all claims in respect thereof against Lessor. The Lessor will not be responsible for any accident or injury to any person or animal who comes in contact with the above named animal, during the term of this lease. Lessor agrees that horse is not to be used in a lesson program, but only private lesson sessions for Lessee as required to further the teamwork, communication and training of rider and horse. All cavaletti or jumping work may **ONLY** be done under supervision of trainer. Please see page 11 and 12 for recommended trainer list.

Individuals Permitted to Ride and Handle Horse besides regular health practitioners or emergency personnel:

- 1) LESSEE NAME
- 2) Kathy Gilker
- 3) Megan Gilker
- 4) Jessica Gilker
- 5) Charlotte Osborne of Osborne International Dressage [Approved Trainer]
- 6) Kim Sosebee of Still Waters Dressage [Approved Trainer]
- 7) _____ [Approved Trainer]
- 8) _____ [Approved Trainer]

JAG Arabian Sport Horses

- 9) _____ [Approved Trainer]
10) _____ [Approved Trainer]
11) _____ [Approved Trainer]

Please initial next to these to acknowledge these statements:

- Unless otherwise agreed, for the safety of horse and rider, the first week of rides will need to be done under supervision of horse owner OR a professional trainer. This is to ensure that horse is properly tacked up and groomed and to be certain the rider is communicating well with horse. This helps establish good habits for both horse and rider together to grow as a team. Also, this ensures that someone is present and available to answer any questions that lessee may have and show lessee around the farm a second or third time. After first week, lessee may ride their free rides at their convenience and leisure, but we do always recommend that lessee do not ride when no one else is at the barn if at all possible – bring a friend or family member (make sure they sign JAG waiver) or make a few barn buddies!
- Missing Rides During Lease:** Lessee will NOT be refunded or discounted if ride(s) are missed. Lessee is permitted UP TO three rides per week – one always must be a lesson. This means if you ride only once that week, that ride should be a lesson. Special circumstances (sick, travel for work, pre-planned vacation, etc.) may allow a “roll over” of max **ONE** ride to a following week within that same month if horse is not being ridden, prepared, lessoning or shown by Lessor(s). Please discuss with Lessor as soon as this may come up. Roll over days may not be permitted within the month horse is showing due to needed schooling or training rides to prepare for show, previously scheduled lessons, or to allow appropriate days off. We do to try to be as flexible as possible for everyone’s benefit (horse, lessee, and lessor). Keep in mind we prefer for the Horse to have at least two days off per week for recovery time.
- Lessons:** Weekly lessons are required to be certain horse and rider are working and growing together as a team and to improve communication. A 30 – 45 – 60 minute lesson is suitable, **dependent** on fitness level of horse. For example, if horse only got worked once in the last week decrease lesson time to 30 minutes with plenty of walk breaks and don’t jump at all. Please keep your horse’s welfare in mind as the willing athletes that they are and discuss proper conditioning & training schedule with trainer. A weekly lesson required from recommended list (other trainers not on list will certainly be considered, please let us know). If your regular trainer is unavailable for any reason, **please** plan ahead and schedule a session with another trainer on the recommended trainer list. If a trainer is unavailable for lesson please schedule a supervised session with Kathy, Jessica or Megan Gilker (dependent on availability and NOT guaranteed).
- Setting Goals and Planning Ahead:** If you plan to show or attend a longer clinic, please speak with Trainer and/or lessor to develop a conditioning or training schedule to properly prepare both horse and rider for longer riding sessions, off property work and travel. If you plan to be out of town for vacation or work for a week or more, please arrange for an approved trainer to work your horse (lunge or schooling ride) if you have an intensive lesson, clinic or show coming up. If not, please re-schedule your clinic or show and be extremely mindful of your horse when you return and use proper schooling and conditioning techniques to slowly build your horse back up. We highly recommend keeping a schedule, calendar, or log of when you worked your horse, how long they were worked for and what the focus of the day was (dressage,

JAG Arabian Sport Horses

gridwork/gymnastics, hacking the hills, etc.) that way you have an overall view of what your horse's exercise schedule has been and can share it with your trainer to see if any adjustments need to be made or if you're on track!

- I understand that riding is a learning process and it should be fun for horse and rider and there is no such thing as perfection (all the time)! However, I do agree to work on appropriate Dressage and ground pole exercises for my skill level that will encourage proper muscle development and muscle memory in the horse and good habits in myself as a rider. **For example**, this could mean schooling appropriate Training and First Level dressage exercises in schooling rides (Working trot; working canter; medium walk; free walk; 20m circles in trot and canter; changing of bend on a shallow loop; stretch circle in trot; 10m half or full circle at trot; 15m circle in canter; lengthening of stride in trot and canter; leg yield; change of lead through trot; trot-halt-trot; trot-walk-trot; trot-canter-trot; trot serpentine single loop or larger; serpentine(s) of loops no smaller than 15 meters) if at that level and working more advanced 2nd, 3rd or 4th level movements in lessons with a professional.
- I understand that more advanced work should **ONLY** be done under the guidance of a professional trainer so that both rider and horse are schooling movements correctly. Once these movements are learned together as a team and once trainer is confident these movements can be done properly outside a lesson, I can/will practice what is learned on non-lesson days.
- I understand that XXXX has been trained up to XXXX level and successfully shown up to XXXX level Dressage and is currently schooling XXXX level. I agree that I will be working in a manner that establishes good communication and seek to understand his training and how to create a better relationship with him as a team. I understand lease horse is not to be jumped over XXXX and that all jumping, exception of ground pole or raised ground pole work, will be done in a lesson with a trainer. I understand XXXX has not been extensively schooled or shown over fences since XXXX. Cross training is of great benefit for all horses and riders so a balance and mix of advanced flat work, ground pole work, cavaletti work and hacking the hills is encouraged.
- I understand that XXXX *may* have 1 training ride per month with Charlotte Osborne (www.charlotteosbornedressage.com) in order to help maintain and advance their education. I understand that I am more than welcome to watch and learn from these training sessions. These sessions will be scheduled in as advance as is possible and in a way that is courteous of lessee's riding and lesson schedule.
- I understand that I will not be doing cavaletti or jumping exercises on lease horse, XXXX, until horse is properly conditioned with appropriate Dressage and ground pole exercises, walking hills and trotting up hills (when ready) - this could take minimum 1 or 2 months when properly done (when on a consistent 3-4 day a week work schedule).
- I understand that only one to two days of extremely difficult dressage work is recommended per week. If jumping, coursework or tough gridwork/gymnastics should only be done once a week. Jumping is **ONLY** permitted under guidance of an approved professional. See recommended trainer list.

JAG Arabian Sport Horses

- I agree to use proper cooling down techniques, coolers/wicking sheets, cool or cold water, poultice, liniment, ice or beneficial stretching exercises (for example, the tail pull exercise) as needed after workout sessions to properly care for the horse as an athlete and to maintain their longevity as such an athlete. I agree to ask my trainer or owners for advice or any questions I have regarding this.
- I understand that if my lease horse is hurt during a lesson or schooling/training/free ride with lessee, lessee is responsible for paying for any associated vet care required and will not be refunded for missed rides. **This is why this is important to know your horse, use cross training techniques and exercises, and work and communicate with a trainer to determine appropriate exercises dependent on when and for how long you ride. Your trainer is your mentor! Please do not hesitate the Gilkers for tips or suggestions has they have owned XXXX for their entire life.**
- I understand that Karen Boysen of Centurion Farm is the onsite hunter/jumper trainer and another hunter/jumper trainer should **NOT** be brought in to teach lessons. Exceptions can be clinics with hunter/jumper clinicians such as Anne Kenan, Devan Cottrell and other clinicians as approved by Karen Boysen.
- I understand that all boarders and lessees have full use of the facilities and will be respectful of when others are riding or having a lesson. Remember to yield left to left and yield to the person having a lesson. If another ring is available to ride in that is not having a lesson, please ride in the open arena. You may also do a walk warm up and cool down through the pastures (as weather permits) if the rings are busy at the you start of your ride. Safety is first priority. Typically the least busy lesson days at the barn are Mondays and Sundays and, during show season (March through November), Thursday through Monday.
- I agree to be safe when riding and I will let others know if I will be hacking through the pasture or elsewhere on the property for safety reasons. Riding alone is not recommended, but is understood due to everyone's personal schedules. Please let a friend or family member know when you have gone out for a ride and when you return. Please keep your cell phone nearby just in case of an emergency. If you are under 18 (a minor), you will not be able to be on the farm without adult/trainer supervision.
- I agree to clean up after myself and my horse (all poop piles) and to be certain water and lights are off if they are not being used by others and gates are closed to help maintain a clean and safe facility. Please be certain the barn cat is not closed in the tack room and that the arena has been cleaned up after your horse.
- I agree to keep in consideration of weather conditions when working my horse and plan my riding accordingly. As needed, I will use electrolytes, cool or cold water, ice wraps, coolers/half sheet/wicking sheet and proper stretching and suppling exercises when there is a weather change or extreme temperatures. I agree to also check my horse's water to make sure it is **at least** $\frac{3}{4}$ full if he is to be put back in their stall after being handled or worked.

JAG Arabian Sport Horses

- I understand that proper grooming techniques should be used before and after riding. This includes currying, brushing and checking horse's legs and feet. Tail should **never** be brushed, but please use a good combination of conditioner and show sheen to keep it soft, strong and tangle free. If you would like to wash and condition the horse's tail once a week, this will help it grow longer and thicker. Coat conditioner and (if needed) fly spray should be used after every ride. I understand that, as weather permits, I will wash my lease horse once a month. During warm weather, the entire horse will be bathed or at least their face, tail and/or legs will be washed to prevent sweat, mud or dirt build up from riding. On hot summer days, my horse will be rinsed off appropriately.
- I agree to take the time to get to know my lease horse so that I can notice anything out of the ordinary. Although rare, it's good to keep an eye out for, for example, a missing or twisted shoe, unusual swelling, a cut, or, even, unusual behavior. Please let owner know immediately if anything regarding your lease horse seems out of the ordinary.
- I understand as the lessee that I am welcome to spend time with, groom, bath, and hand walk horse on non-ride days as horse's schedule allows.
- I understand that using polo wraps or standing wraps should be done very carefully and only done by or under direction of an individual very skilled with wrapping OR wrapping should not be done at all if an experienced person is not available to do the wrapping. Wrapping incorrectly can cause lasting damage to ligaments and tendons and can cause burns which will be painful and can lead to permanent scarring. Stable wrapping is very useful in protection of a cut or other injuries and reducing swelling and polos are helpful in protecting from bumps and scraps in schooling sessions. If you are inexperienced wrapping, lightweight and breathable tendon, splint, or brushing boots are recommended for schooling sessions. Please remember to take boots and wraps off as soon as possible after schooling so your horse's legs can began cooling off. Please make sure to clean and check your boots and wraps on a daily basis for debris or build up that may cause irritation for the horse.
- I understand that lunging my horse should be done in safe manner, although I understand that a horse may have fun and show exuberance on the lunge line. A fourth day of work by lunging or ground work is permitted in a half lease. Lunging should be done on as big of a circle as possible while still maintaining control of the horse (at least a 20 meter circle but preferably much bigger – about half of the small, covered dressage ring). Constant small circles is tough on a horse's joints and body. Please remember to give the horse a walk warm up and cool down both directions (recommended 4-5 minutes). Use of transitions while lunging is extremely beneficial for your horse (walk to trot, trot to canter, walk to canter, canter-trot-walk, etc.). Please feel free to hand walk them or have them walk on the lunge line for a warm up or cool down both directions. Grounds poles at halfway or quarter points of a lunging circle OR side reins with a light connection can be very helpful in making a lunge session more beneficial for a horse and really encourage them to work their topline and hindquarters correctly. Please ask for a lunging demonstration with your lease horse PRIOR to lunging, especially to know proper cues and use of side reins. Please do not hesitate to ask if you have any questions.

JAG Arabian Sport Horses

- I understand that my horse's turnout schedule may change dependent on the season and other management factors. For the benefit of the horse's physical and mental health, horses at JAG Arabian Sport Horses typically get minimum of 4-5 hours of turnout time each day, weather permitting. I understand that if I ride my lease horse prior to being turned out, the horse may have a little extra energy. If needed, I will take the time to lunge my lease horse lightly (about 5 minutes), before I ride.
- I understand that I will be responsible for preparing my horse for lessons, clinics and horse shows. I will allow myself proper time in my schedule to present myself and my horse in a tidy and healthy manner showing proper horsemanship. This may mean arranging transportation, bathing, clipping, mane pulling, packing supplies, cleaning and packing tack, organizing and packing feed and supplements (with assistance as needed), etc. Keep in mind preparation for a horse show should begin at least 3 months prior to your show – that means a proper grooming, bathing, and riding schedule should be done consistently the 3 months prior and leading up to the competition. Please do not hesitate to ask for the location of items, quantities, sizing, etc. and proper technique of clipping, bathing or mane pulling as needed. I understand that if time does not allow me to personally prepare my horse, I may hire outside approved service providers to assist with mane pulling, clipping, bathing, etc. Example: Hayley Forsburg of HayClips can assist.
- I acknowledge that I have reviewed Exhibit A for training and horse tips.

Lessee and Lessor understand proper veterinary care must be utilized and the Lessor must be notified **immediately** of any emergency circumstance regarding the horse's health. The Lessor agrees not to hold the Lessee responsible for death or Veterinary care outside of ordinary care for any pre-existing medical conditions the animal has at the start of the lease. If horse is taken off property by Lessee for show, clinic, off site lesson, schooling off site, or any other event or function, **all vet care offsite or directly as a result of the horse's offsite use is the responsibility of lessee. Equine Insurance if going off site may be a good option and should be discussed between both parties if horse is to travel off site. All medical decisions to be made at discretion of horse owner and vet.** The animal included in this lease shall remain the sole property of Lessor and the Lessee shall have no right, title, or loan to any other part of said animal except as stated here.

The Lessee and Lessor shall use proper care and good judgment in maintaining, training and competing said animal in order to maintain quality condition and mental and physical soundness for future years of animal's life. Lessee and Lessor both agree to maintain open communication with the animal's best interest in mind. The Lessee and Lessor agrees to follow practices of good husbandry which protect the animal from suffering, illness or injury. This includes but is not limited to keeping all required immunizations, regular veterinary care, farrier care, and adequate food, water, attention and correct training and strength conditioning methods. This includes maintaining a suitable riding and conditioning schedule as to not cause unnecessary stress and impact on horse's body.

Lessons: Weekly lessons are required to be certain horse and rider are working and growing together as a team and improve communication. A 30 – 45 - 60 minute lesson is suitable, depending on physical condition of horse. Please keep your horse's welfare in mind as the willing athletes that the horse is. A weekly lesson is required from the recommended list (other trainers not on list will certainly be considered, please let us know). If your regular



trainer is unavailable, **please** plan ahead and schedule a session with another trainer. This is your responsibility on a weekly basis so please communicate properly with your trainer(s).

Lessee agrees to have good horsemanship and proper care of horse when in attendance, for example: proper grooming routine, warm up and cool down, stretches, etc. Again, Lessee agrees to be attentive of horse and notify Lessor immediately if horse presents unusual behavior or physical ailments when in attendance. Please see attached **Exhibit A** for training and care recommendations.

Under Georgia law, an equine activity sponsor or equine professional is not liable for an injury to or the death of a participant in equine activities resulting from the inherent risks of equine activities, pursuant to Chapter 12 of Title 4 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

LESSEE NAME

ADDRESS

PHONE NUMBER

EMAIL

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Kathy or Megan Gilker – JAG Arabians

2705 Mountain Road

Alpharetta, GA 30004

jagarabiansporthorses@gmail.com



Exhibit A

- **Grooming, Tacking & Untacking:** Groom your horse for 15 minutes and check feet! Grooming time allows you to get to know the horse, check for any swelling or scrapes, and their personality. Please do **NOT** brush tails UNLESS they have been newly washed, Showsheened, picked out by hand and the tail is dry. Make sure there is no swelling/injury that need to be treated or cuts that need to be taken care of. Do NOT ride your horse if they are missing a shoe or seem “off,” lame or present swelling. Put fly spray on if flies are out. Start with the girth on slightly loose or lightly tightened. Do not tighten extremely tight right away or you will create a girthy, unhappy horse. Tighten girth securely once you get to the arena to mount up. Put bit in mouth carefully as to not hit him in the teeth and take bridle off slowly as well to not hit him in the teeth with the bit. When you dismount, do not dismount in the exact same place every time you ride (the center of ring or near the gate) - switch it up! Also, don't forget to reward him by loosening his girth as soon as you dismount. After riding, please groom off horse appropriately – utilize coat conditioner, ShowSheen, sunscreen, hoof oil (depending on weather), etc. Do appropriate stretching exercises as needed for your horse – especially the tail pull exercise. A rinse off or sponge off is recommended after a hot day. You may also want to use liniment or poultice after a tough riding session.
- **Warm up & Cool Down:** Don't forget to *warm up* – 5-10 minutes minimum at walk. We encourage practicing long and low (free walk) to really allow the horse to stretch forward and downward. Don't forget to change directions. Please feel free to hack the pastures or property as a warm up if there are other individuals at the farm and know that you will be riding elsewhere (besides the arenas) as a safety precaution. This is a great opportunity to stretch their legs, work other muscles and breaks up their routine for better mental health. For an arena warm up, practice bending and straightening exercises listed below and incorporate walk & halt transitions and free/stretchy walk to lengthen and loosen topline muscles. Walking over grounds poles in different directions is a great exercise as well. May need longer warm up in winter to truly warm up if it's very cold or riding an older horse. Please do not sit the trot until your horse has been properly warmed up at the walk and trot, sometimes even the canter. Be certain he is *cooled down* for at minimum 5-10 minutes while walking – not breathing hard any longer. If the horse is sweaty during the winter after a ride, you may need to use a cooler so they do not cool off too quickly. You may need to hand walk the horse with a cooler on and the saddle off if he or she is extremely sweaty before you put on a winter blanket. A trace clip may be recommended for cold winter months.
- **Use verbal cues:** Cluck to walk and trot; kiss to canter; say “easy” (firmly and slowly) if you want to slow down; WHOA is for halt *only*. If you want to go from a canter, to a walk – sit deep in the seat of your saddle, close your thighs and say WALK firmly. If you want to trot from a canter – sit up, stop posting, sit deeper into your seat, close your thighs and say TROT.
- **Use your seat:** Sit deeper on your seat bones, sit up and close your THIGHS to do a downward transition (For example: canter to walk, trot to halt). Keep your heels off his or her side if you wish to do a downward transition. Sit up tall and be prepared for the downward transition.
- **Use your leg:** To help turn, look where you are wanting to go, use your outside leg with push and release pressure (you can close your outside rein and open your inside hand a little too). To move closer to the rail, use your inside leg at girth area with a push and release motion (you may also add weight to your outside stirrup). The horse should go **AWAY** from your leg pressure. Remember to push and release leg pressure to encourage. The horse knows how to leg yield, do a turn on the haunches, haunches and shoulder-in as well as the basics of half pass. Practicing leg yields at the trot is a good exercise for a more

JAG Arabian Sport Horses

advanced rider, a good exercise at a walk for a less advanced one. Remember to do these exercises under direction of a trainer if you are new to doing them.

- **Use Half-Halts/Reins:** Very important! Be certain leg is on and use a firm (but not harsh), quick give and take on each rein one at a time. Alternate reins or do a couple half halts on one side then the other. After four or five seconds, soften everything. Go back to the light, maintenance pressure of legs and hands (connection/contact) you had in the beginning before you gave the half halt. The horse is used to a light or soft connection that incorporates half halts (not a gripping, tight, holding/restricting hand), which allows the horse to round their neck and topline and encourages the horse to support themselves from the hindend (must use leg to create proper engagement and connection). The *half halt* can help you put your horse on the bit but you also need it for every change of gait, balance, movement, or exercise. The *half halt* is used to bring the horse into an improved state of balance – this means that a HALF HALT can also help a horse balance on their hindquarters to slow down. If he gives in/becomes supple/turns after use of a half halt you **must have a soft hand as a reward. Do not hold a horse always give the horse somewhere to go if you are asking for forward movement. A following hand is a forgiving and encouraging hand and still provides proper connection between horse and rider.** If the horse does what you ask, you must provide positive reinforcement. *SEE PAGE 13 FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE USE OF THE HALF HALT with the other aids.*
- **To canter:** Be certain the horse is straight and NOT falling in. You may want to ask for a slight shoulder fore first to be certain the hip is not too far to the inside. Then half halt on inside rein (to slightly bend the nose inside and to balance him on his hindquarters) so the horse is prepared and knows which lead to pick up, squeeze with your outside leg a little behind the girth and KISS. The horse should never miss a lead this way. Keep in mind too much inside rein or too much outside rein may cause the horse to be out of balance (too crooked).
- **Practice transitions:** halt-walk-halt; halt-trot-halt; halt-canter-halt; walk-canter-walk; trot-canter-trot. Don't forget to give him multiple walk breaks if it's hot out!
- **Practice bending:** Serpentine, figure eights, circles, tear drop turns, cloverleaf over poles, trot poles on a circle, canter poles on a circle. Start with large figures while warming up as to not strain legs. Don't forget to do this at all gaits and incorporate transitions! Please work the horse equally both directions so one side doesn't become stronger than the other. ***Please also keep in mind if you are practicing circles at the canter and you are NOT clear you are continuing on the same canter lead, the horse may very kind and perform a flying lead change. Please do NOT reprimand if the horse if they do a lead change.. If he or she is unsure if they are continuing the same direction and thinks they are doing a figure eight or tear drop turn – the horse may do a lead change as she or he has been taught.*** This is simply clearing up communication between horse and rider and is NOT a huge issue. Please ask trainer/instructor for assistance.
- **Practice straightness:** Go down quarter line and stay straight; go down centerline and stay straight; practice small and big squares; practice going straight over ground or trot poles; go straight through the diagonal of the ring. Keep him "square & straight" in your hands and between your legs. Be certain you are sitting straight and tall as well.
- **Lead changes: LEAD CHANGES ARE ONLY TO BE PRACTICED UNDER SUPERVISION OF TRAINER IN A LESSON OR A PRE-SCHEDULED SESSION WITH LESSOR OR ONLY DONE BY A PROFESSIONAL RIDER IF A HORSE IS LEARNING CHANGES.**
- **More advanced riders (some basic dressage/flat exercises):** Practice a slower, collected sitting trot and then a medium, posting trot, and an extended trot or lengthening. Practice a collected canter (half halt a couple times, sit a little deeper and more upright, and add leg to help horse to sit, collect and balance on their hindquarters) and then practice a more forward medium, working canter and when ready, practice

JAG Arabian Sport Horses

an extended canter. Practice a free walk a few times throughout your ride – encourage/let him stretch down (long and low) to the buckle with nose out and towards the ground, then slowly collect up your reins to the normal length. Practice a “stretchy trot” on a 20 meter circle or around the ring – let him stretch down (long and low) to the buckle with nose towards the ground, then slowly collect your reins to normal length. Proper “forward and downward stretchy” work at the walk, trot and canter will help produce a BEAUTIFUL and healthy topline. We want to avoid building incorrect muscle structure as this can harm the horse long term. You may ask your Trainer to help you learn turn on the haunches, turn on the forehand, leg yields, shoulder in, renvers, travers, half pass, etc. if you and horse are ready and in proper condition to perform more advanced movements. Most of these exercises can be performed at a walk.

- **Cross Training:** We encourage cross training, time outside the arena walking the hills (highly recommend at least a few times a month, or weekly, as weather permits), along with both dressage, ground pole and raised ground pole exercises in the arena. Cross training improves strength, flexibility, and balance for horse and rider and makes things a little fun! If you feel like the horse’s top line or neck is not developing the correct muscling, we would also recommend a lunge session (on a large circle) with side reins slightly on the bit/in a connection with inside rein slightly tighter and outside slightly looser. If you plan to lunge your horse, please contact Lessor to schedule a training session and be certain lunging session will not interfere with another’s ride in the arena. A lunging session of about 10-15 minutes max is plenty (equal time on both sides). We recommend 3-5 minutes each way or direction on the lunge line – with side reins on a light contact. Don’t forget to allow for a walk warm up each direction before starting trot work on the lunge line. Lunging will NOT count against ride time/days. Also, practice going long and low throughout your ride can help build a better, more correct, “rounder” topline and rounder neck.
- **Lessons:** Weekly lessons are required to be certain horse and rider are working and growing together as a team and to improve communication. A 30 – 45 – 60 minute lesson is suitable, **dependent** on fitness level of horse. For example, if horse only got worked once in the last week decrease lesson time to 30 minutes with plenty of walk breaks and don’t jump at all. Please keep your horse’s welfare in mind as the willing athletes that they are. A weekly lesson required from recommended list (other trainers not on list will certainly be considered, please let us know). If your regular trainer is unavailable for any reason, **please** plan ahead and schedule a session with another trainer on the recommended trainer list. If a trainer unavailable for lesson please schedule a supervised session with Kathy, Jessica or Megan Gilker (dependent on availability).
- **Setting Goals and Planning Ahead:** If you plan to show or attend a longer clinic, please speak with Trainer and/or lessor to develop a conditioning or training schedule to properly prepare both horse and rider for longer riding sessions, off property work and travel. If you plan to be out of town for vacation or work for a week or more, please arrange for an approved trainer to work your horse (lunge or schooling ride) if you have an intensive lesson, clinic or show coming up. If not, please be extremely mindful of your horse when you return and use proper schooling and conditioning techniques to slowly build your horse back up. We highly recommend keeping a schedule, calendar, or log of when you worked your horse, how long they were worked for and what the focus of the day was (dressage, gridwork/gymnastics, hacking the hills, etc.) that way you have an overall view of what your horse’s exercise schedule has been and can share it with your trainer to see if any adjustments need to be made or if you’re on track!
- **Missing Rides During Lease:** Lessee will NOT be refunded or discounted if ride(s) are missed. Lessee is permitted UP TO three rides per week – one always must be a lesson. This means if you ride only once that week, that ride should be a lesson. Special circumstances (sick, travel for work, pre-planned vacation,



etc.) may allow a “roll over” of max **ONE** ride to a following week within that same month if horse is not being ridden, prepared, lessoning or shown by Lessor(s). Please discuss with Lessor as soon as this may come up. Roll over days may not be permitted within the month horse is showing due to needed schooling or training rides to prepare for show, previously scheduled lessons, or to allow appropriate days off. We do to try to be as flexible as possible for everyone’s benefit (horse, lessee, and lessor). Keep in mind we prefer for the Horse to have at least two days off per week for recovery time.

- A dressage whip may be helpful through some portions of your ride; however, please note the horse is very aware of the whip and will endeavor to move away from it as trained. Plastic or Metal Roller Spurs may be utilized for shows and *occasional* use in lessons if needed if rider’s legs are solid and steady.

Additional Tips:

- If the horse has a show weekend, give her or she two days off from riding after the show. Please feel free to come hand walk the horse to stretch their legs or follow up with a liniment bath the day after the show or poultice his or her legs. Also, give the horse at least a day or two break during the week before the show. Hand walking, bathing, grooming, mane pulling, clipping, in hand work, & tack cleaning are great activities for non-ride and break days.
- Treats are OK as long as the horse is polite. No sugar cubes or mints allowed as treats. Treats are a great to incorporate into horse stretching exercises!
- If the horse is stalled for a day or two without turnout and is worked hard (for example at a show & over fences), his or her back legs may swell. We would recommend proper amount of shavings and stall mats at the show or clinic facility, liniment (or something similar, like poultice), cold hosing, ice wraps, hand walking, standing wraps, quick wraps, and/or Equiflexsleeves (super simple and safe compression to reduce swelling after strenuous work, also more breathable than standing wraps). This is for the horse’s comfort and so he or she is not swollen the next day. Please **ONLY** wrap legs if you are highly proficient. Some horses may have skin sensitive to certain liniments or poultice and can react negatively to these products, so please ask trainer or Lessor what products are recommended.
- If for any reason the horse goes off property and is stalled for one or two days (or longer), a lunge session (walk/trot/canter each direction) will be recommended each day. This will be ideal for unused energy from being stalled, mental relaxation and free time since the horse will not have turnout at shows. We also recommend hand walking to stretch their legs at shows since the horse will not have turn out.
- If the horse gets a small cut or rub, gently rinse the area off with water, clean if needed and use Vetericycn Animal Wound & Infection Treatment Spray. This treatment spray works incredibly well for healing and preventing infection. In addition to Vetericycn, SWAT Fly Ointment is really good for use on cuts during the fly season to reduce fly irritation.

Approved Dressage Trainers

Lessons required weekly on lease horses, whether through individual trainer or clinics. If you have questions about a certain trainer not on the list, please let us know - we are open to other suggestions! If your regular trainer is unavailable and you cannot get in your required weekly lesson, please see suggested list. Please keep in mind this list is not all inclusive, so please speak with Lessor to get approval to use another trainer:

****HIGHLY RECOMMENDED – SUGGEST AT LEAST ONE LESSON MONTHLY** Charlotte Osborne –
Charlotte Osborne Dressage**

470.309.4540

\$75 per lesson (will travel to our farm)



<http://www.charlotteosbornedressage.com/> https://www.instagram.com/c_osborne_dressage/

Kim Schisler Sosebee - Still Waters Dressage

678.575.5872 / kim@StillWatersDressage.com

\$75 per lesson (will travel to our farm)

<http://www.stillwatersdressage.com/> <http://centerlinescores.com/Rider/Details/106586>

Heather Beachem - Beachem Dressage

\$100 per lesson (will travel to our farm) \$75 if 3 lessons or more on same day.

404.372.1967 / hbeachem330@gmail.com

<http://www.beachemdressage.com/> - <http://www.centerlinescores.com/Rider/Details/133066>

Kayce Redmond

678.614.2468 (will travel to our farm)

<http://tophatdressagellc.com>

<http://www.dressage-news.com/2010/08/14/kayce-redmond-latino-lead-in-brentina-cup/>

<http://centerlinescores.com/Rider/Details/21298>

Stephanie Hartigan

845-489-3366 / info@eurimports.com

<http://www.eurimports.com/stephi.html>

<http://www.centerlinescores.com/Rider/Details/172828>

Atlanta Dressage

info@atlantadressage.com / <http://www.atlantadressage.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/AtlantaDressageLlc/>

Zeb Fry

404-202-4935 / littlekentuckyfarm@gmail.com

<https://littlekentuckyfarm.com/>

Leslie O'Neal Olsen (she lives an hour away so more clinic type weekend)

770.459.1417 / olsenleslie@yahoo.com

<http://www.leslieolsen.com/> - <http://www.centerlinescores.com/Rider/Details/21590>

More trainer options: <http://www.gdcta.org/members-links>

List of clinics that could be attended (would count toward weekly required lesson):

<http://www.gdcta.org/other-events>

<https://www.shannondale.com/upcoming-events>

www.ghja.org

www.georgia-arabian.com



The Half Halt: 10 top tips from Horse & Hound

1. The half halt is the most important yet most misunderstood concept in riding. The half halt can help you put your horse on the bit but you also need it for every change of gait, balance, movement, or exercise.
2. The half halt is used to bring the horse into an improved state of balance.
3. There is no “stopping” in a half halt. Think of it as a “half-go” instead. Every half halt contains the power, the surge, or the thrust from behind that you’d have if you asked for a medium gait.
4. There is one generic, “over-the-counter” half halt. It consists of the momentary closure of seat, legs, and hands.
5. The confusion about half halts stems from the fact that there are many possible variations of that generic half halt because you can use your seat, legs, and hands in different ways. To add to the many options available, you can also vary the duration and the intensity of the half halt.
6. Different variations of the generic half halt create different results such as connection, collection, or preparation for something new.
7. To put your horse on the bit, use the version of the half halt that “connects” your horse’s back end to his front end. I call this the “connecting half halt”.
8. The “connecting half halt” consists of three sets of aids.
 - A. Driving aids (seat and two legs)
 - B. Bending aids (inside rein and both legs)
 - C. The rein of opposition (outside rein)
9. These aids are applied for about three seconds and to the naked eye it appears the aids are given at the same time, although in reality they are not.
10. How to ride the connecting half halt:
 - A. First, close both calves as if you’re squeezing toothpaste out of a tube to create that surge of power from behind. (You’ll only be using your legs as your driving aids at this point. I’m purposely leaving the seat out for now to keep things simple.)
 - B. Next, close your outside hand (rein of opposition) in a fist to capture, contain, and recycle the energy back to the hind legs.
 - C. Finally, give three little squeezes and releases on the inside rein to keep the neck straight. (If you don’t use your inside hand, your horse will bend his neck to the outside because your outside hand is closed in a fist for so long.)
 - D. After three seconds, soften everything. Go back to the light, maintenance pressure of legs and hands you had in the beginning before you gave the half halt.

Read more at <http://www.horseandhound.co.uk/dressage/the-half-halt-10-top-tips-154238#qpoO3C2DKFZ28Cks.99>