

Dressage Working Student

Last Revised 12/15/20

Description:

The Dressage Working Student position provides aspiring riders and future training professionals the opportunity to gain a comprehensive understanding of dressage horse development and care through hands-on experience and close mentorship by the Director of Training and Assistant Dressage Trainer. The focus of this position is supporting the Director of Training, Assistant Dressage Trainer, and Dressage Groom in their daily routine at home and at recognized shows. Daily routine includes grooming, tacking, untacking, and assisting with the overall care and therapies of horses in training, as well as receiving regular instruction developing a personal project horse.

Objectives:

1. Provide a hands-on learning environment to develop the next generation of dressage trainers and dedicated riders.
2. Support the Training Department's grooming, tacking/untacking, and general horse care needs as guided by the Trainers and Dressage Groom.
3. Present the highest level of professionalism in both appearance and presentation of the facility, horses, equipment, and interactions with staff, vendors, and clients.

Responsibilities:

Horse Care (Approx. 80% of Time):

- Groom horses thoroughly before and after trainer's ride and on a daily basis when not in work
- Tack/untack horses as directed by the trainers
- Monitor horse health, inspecting any injuries and notifying trainer promptly with any health or behavior concerns
- Coordinating with the Main Barn Manager/Stable Floor for daily scheduling needs
- Ensure all horses under your care are in show-ready condition at all times- manes pulled, clipping maintained, etc.
- Perform therapies as directed including but not limited to: lasering, cold hosing, magnetic blanket, etc.
- Assist in the blanketing for training horses in coordination with the Main Barn Manager
- Assist in exercising horses via free-jumping, treadmill, walker, turnout, and hand-walking as needed
- Occasional after-hour duties, including night check and medical emergencies
- Assist with farm-wide events including but not limited to inspections and stallion testing
- Help facilitate sales visits, client updates, and promotional video/photos as needed
- Pack/unpack for shows, monitoring inventory and condition of show supplies and equipment
- Travel to shows to support trainers through general horse care including stall mucking, cleaning waters, feeding, hand-walking, etc.
- Provide final show prep touches as needed, including bathing, braiding, applying hoof polish, baby powder/oil, etc.

Responsibilities Cont.:

General (Approx. 20% of Time):

- Perform laundry of saddle pads, towels, polos, etc. as needed daily
- Clean and maintain laundry/storage room in a tidy and professional manner
- Clean all bridles, girths, and saddles thoroughly after each use; condition weekly and before shows
- Notify trainer regarding any training equipment (boots, saddles, bridles, etc.) repairs needed
- Pick piles in the arenas and round pen regularly throughout the day
- Be willing to jump in with stalls, turnout, holding for vet/farrier, etc. as needed
- Clean tack cleaning room & tack room daily – floors should be swept, de-humidifier emptied, and everything tidy for the night
- Sweep the wash stall aisle way and arena entrance at the end of the day and throughout day as needed
- Clean wash stalls at the end of the day (spray or sweep pavers, tidy cubbies, etc.)
- Track grooming supplies and notify Main Barn Manager in a timely manner to ensure no outages
- Perform additional reasonable duties as assigned

Physical Demands:

- Ability to continuously stand or walk
- Ability to bend, squat, and lift heavy objects (50 lbs) frequently
- Ability to climb up onto and down from farm equipment
- Ability to work in traditional barn environment to include dust, walking on uneven surfaces, etc.
- Ability to work outside year-round during inclement weather such as excessive heat, cold, rain, etc.
- Ability to work long hours, evenings, and weekends as required for horse care needs

Work Schedule:

Twelve month commitment based on a five day work week; approximately forty-five hour work week with acknowledgement of occasional additional hours for shows, events, etc.

Direct Reports To:

Primary Trainer

Classification:

Unpaid Internship with monthly stipend to cover basic living expense