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Dressage Groom

Last Revised 11/5/2021

Description:

The Dressage Groom facilitates Hilltop's training and breeding programs through daily grooming responsibilities in primary support of the training horses that includes breeding stallions, developing young horses, and select horses for competition and/or sales. The position works under the Director of Training and the Assistant Dressage Trainer to provide the best comprehensive horse care possible in a team-like approach with the other Grooms.

Objectives:

1. Support the Training Department's daily grooming, tacking/untacking, and general horse care needs as directed by the Trainers.
2. Present the highest level of professionalism in both appearance and presentation of the facility, horses, equipment, and interactions with staff, vendors, and clients.
3. Create a team-based environment serving as a liaison between the Training Department and Stable Floor ensuring effective and timely communication.

Responsibilities:

Horse Care (Approx. 70% of Time):

- Groom horses thoroughly before and after trainer's ride and 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
- Coordinate with the Main Barn Manager for daily scheduling, being a liaison between training needs and Stable Floor
- Ensure all horses under your care are always in presentable condition- manes pulled, clipping maintained, etc.
- Perform therapies as needed to include but not limited to: lasering, cold hosing, magnetic blanket, etc.
- Assist in the blanketing for training horses under your care in coordination with the Main Barn Manager
- Assist in exercising horses via free-jumping, treadmill, walker, turnout, and hand-walking as needed
- Serve as ground person for young horse starting as needed
- 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 horse shows as needed, monitoring inventory and condition of show supplies and equipment
- Travel during show season, varying from local day travel to multiple days out-of-state

Responsibilities, Cont.:

Horse Care (Approx. 70% of Time):

- Provide comprehensive horse care at shows 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.
- Occasional after-hour duties, including night check and medical emergencies

General (Approx. 30% 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, sweeping/mopping the floor at least once per week or more frequently if needed
- 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
- 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.) and empty drains 1x/week
- Track grooming supplies and notify in a timely manner to ensure no outages
- 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
- Perform additional reasonable duties as assigned by Trainers

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:

Six-day work week of approximately 54-hours; acknowledgement of occasional additional hours for shows, events, etc.

Direct Reports To:

Primary Trainer

Classification:

Salary, exempt