



Hestóvin Hoofbeats

We believe in the power of the horse to teach, inspire, and heal.



From the Hjarta (heart)

Heatwaves and Blazes and Ash. Oh my! We live in Michigan. We all know Michigan weather can be unpredictable. But I don't think we have ever had to refer to our Heat Policy as often as we did during the last two weeks of July! "Heat Index" became the phrase of the week. The CTRLs stretched their creativity and designed engaging unmounted lessons in the shaded barn. They turned equine anatomy into interactive trivia games, practiced advanced grooming and braiding techniques, and hosted hands-on horse care workshops. Our student even rode our eqicizer. Our students didn't miss a beat of learning, proving that you don't have to be in the saddle to build a strong bond with your horse!

CARNIVAL

Our third summer carnival headlined our July, and it turned out to be our biggest and best celebration yet with over 175 guests in attendance! The grounds were packed with excitement, featuring a dunk tank, bouncy house, cotton candy, lawn games, terrainable rides, and classic carnival games with prizes. Guests enjoyed grilled hot dogs, a local taco truck, ice cream, and live music from the band Two Tickets to Paradise, along with a special visit from the Kentwood police and fire departments. To make this year extra memorable, we introduced adorable puppies, miniature golf, a balloon twister, a staff "pie in the face" event, and beloved pony rides. We even added a convenient trolley service to transport everyone comfortably from the parking lot straight to the fun.

IMPROVING ACCESSIBILITY!

We're excited to share another improvement to our facility! A new concrete walkway has been poured from the barn hallway, across the indoor arena, to our mounting ramp. This addition creates a smoother, more stable path for wheelchairs and other mobility devices, making it safer and easier for participants, to access the mounting area. Every improvement like this helps us create a more welcoming and accessible environment where everyone can experience the healing connection between horses and humans.

Laura



SIZZLING SUMMER IN AND OUT OF THE SADDLE!

As temperatures and humidity rise, horses can become more susceptible to heat stress. Unlike people, horses rely primarily on sweating to cool themselves, and high humidity makes it much harder for that sweat to evaporate and regulate their body temperature. When the heat index climbs, even a horse that appears comfortable can quickly become overheated.

To protect the health and well-being of our horses, we closely monitor weather conditions and adjust our programming as needed. This may include shortening lessons, increasing rest and water breaks, modifying activities, or canceling sessions when conditions become unsafe.

The comfort and safety of our horses, riders, volunteers, and staff will always come first. Thank you for your understanding and for helping us care for the incredible horses that make our mission possible.

=SUMMER=



HOT!



Upcoming Events

Horses in the Moment

August 17; 5:30pm - 7:15pm

Summer Camp DSWM

(Down Syndrome of West Michigan)

Aug 21 9:30am - 11:30

Tölt and Sold Auction!

September 24, 5:30pm - 8:00pm

Summer Carnival

July 31, 2027; 11:00am - 3:00pm

