

Equestrian / Course Specific Glossary



Greenacres Stables
Riding Centre

Gaits: Walk, trot, canter and gallop are gaits of a horse. The simplest way to explain the differences is in musical terms. The below is based on our fairly slow 16.2hh Clydesdale x Cob, Bonnie.

Gait	Time Signature	Tempo
Walk	4/4	60
Trot	2/2	90
Walk	3/4	120
Gallop	4/4	220

Hands (hh): A unit of measurement to determine height. There are 4 inches to one hand.

Livery: A livery yard is a horse-riding establishment where you can pay to keep your horse. There are a variety of types of livery, with DIY (do it yourself) being the cheapest and most common.

Spook: Sudden and temporary fear and/or panic. A horse may spook at a bird in a hedge, although this will likely not result in a bolt. Being flight animals, spooking is fairly common but not dangerous. It is comparable to a jump scare for humans; we may be startled by a sudden loud noise, but we are not likely to start sprinting or flailing because of it. This said, all animals are individual.

Etiquette: Essentially, the dos and don'ts when handling horses and on a livery yard. Just like any situation where you may find a collection of strangers sharing one roof, there are certain guidelines which you may want to follow to avoid mishaps and disaccord. Throughout this course you will learn the etiquette concerning arena use, road use, livery yards, meeting other horses while riding, and more.

Hack: Riding anywhere that is not in the arena. Going for a hack refers to leaving from and arriving back at the same yard later on horseback.

Open Spaces: Relating to horse riding, this usually refers specifically to large, open fields.

Equestrian / Course Specific Glossary



- Yard:** British colloquial term for an establishment where horses are stables. In the USA this is often referred to as “the barn” or ranch.
- School:** British colloquial term for an arena. Usually a bordered rectangular area set aside for the purpose of training horses. The majority of schools have a fence around them, although most dressage arenas do not. Sand and fibre or woodchip and rubber are the most common types of surface.
- Grooming:** This includes brushing, hoof picking, combing and in some cases plaiting the mane and tail.
- A Groom:** This is a person whose job is to groom and generally care for another person’s horse(s), including show preparation. Similar to a personal assistant, only specifically to horses.
- Tack:** Short for tackle, it is an umbrella term which refers to all equipment and/or accessories used on domesticated animals, in this instance, horses. For example, saddles, bridles, training aids, martingales, breastplates etc. There is an enormous amount of types of tack, we will cover as much as possible in this course.
- Lorinery:** This term refers to bits and biting. The bit is attached to the bridle and sits in the horse’s mouth, usually made from one or more types of metal. Biting refers to choosing and fitting a particular bit to a horse. There are hundreds of types of bits, we will cover the most important ones and their uses in this course.
- Lameness:** A horse must be sound to be ridden and/or exercised. When a horse is lame, he/she is no longer sound usually due to injury or pain and is therefore unable to be ridden. This is comparable to a limp or localised pain in human terms.
- Groundwork:** This term includes any sort of training or exercising a horse when not in the saddle. We cover everything from walking safely and correctly next to a horse and how to turn to teaching manners and long reining. The first steps towards backing a horse to be ridden are included in groundwork.
- Training Aid:** Equipment used in exercising and training.
- Driving:** Travelling using a horse to pull a cart or carriage.

Equestrian / Course Specific Glossary



Greenacres Stables
Riding Centre

Trick riding: This generally refers to stunts on and around horses. We do not go that much in depth, although you will have the option to try some very basic stunts. This will include riding bareback, turning your body around while riding, kneeling and standing on a horse, and mounting a horse from the ground without a saddle.

Long reining: Exercising a horse from several feet behind using long reins and voice commands. Similar to driving but without the cart.

Clip: Similar to shaving but not all the way down to the skin. Hogging is the correct term for shaving a horse's mane.

Farrier: A Farrier is someone whose job is to take care of the hooves by trimming, shaping and fitting shoes. They are experts in this field, which is arguably one of the most important aspects of horse care. All kinds of lameness and illnesses can come from improper shoeing, and behavioural issues are frequently solved by good farriers.

Dentistry: Also an extremely important aspect of horse care. Badly shaped teeth can cause all sorts from stomach ulcers to hormone imbalances and lameness.