

Notes from....



## International Serrano Creek Ranch Equestrian Center

SEPTEMBER 2009

25201 Trabuco Road, Lake Forest, CA 92630  
Office Phone 949-768-5921

Email: <SerranoCreekRanch@msn.com>

The bulk of the stable rules we actually learned back in kindergarten- way before we even thought of owning a horse. They were pretty simple: play fair, don't hurt others, put things back where you found them, clean up after yourself, and don't take things that aren't yours, and so on.

Even simpler was the golden rule, "Treat others only in ways that you're willing to be treated in the same exact situation." If you act in a given way toward another, and yet are unwilling to be treated that way in the same circumstances, then you violate the rule.

For others there is *Karma*. Briefly, we live in a world of cause and effect. Thus your thoughts and actions in the past are causing your current experience. The Hindu would say that if you're encountering trouble, its because your earlier actions have resulted in your current experience. Just as equally, a peaceful life is the result of positive thoughts and actions in the past.

Now comes the part of the newsletter where we contort this timeless wisdom into a self serving need. . .

In the last few months, it seems that it has become acceptable to turn a horse out in an arena, and then take off and do chores (chores being defined as mucking a stall, grocery shopping, etc.). What then happens is that riders or lungers approach an arena, and then must either wait for the horse owners to shuffle back, or give-up and scout out another arena. Sometimes there is a "magic spot" where riders must stand in order to be noticed.

Please remember that *arena* doesn't translate to *Montessori*. You must stay with your horse when turning out. Again, it is not the

responsibility of riders to hunt down an owner of a horse turned out. Nor are riders required to stand by the gate until they are finally spotted. Turned out horses must be immediately removed when a rider approaches the gate. And the only way one can know if someone wants to ride is to be by the gate. While many claim that they don't need to be by the gate because they possess ESP, the eye's of an eagle , or physic prediction abilities; whatever the belief, it doesn't work. Please don't swear that you were watching the arena for riders, because we have received many, many complaints from riders who stood by a gate, and were never seen by a "watcher".

Here's a quick refresher on arena usage. There is a hierarchy of use: first is riding, second is lunging, and last is turn outs. For you math types: an arena can provide for 12 riders, or 3 lungers, or 1 turn-out. 12 is more than 3 which is more than 1

\*"Sorry Krishna, there's a horse still turned out!"

Another rule has been imposed on us by the Animal Control. By County of Orange regulations, pipes and barns are determined as equally combustible.

At this point just stop shaking your head. Hence the plethora of "No Smoking" signs was put up so that the stable could obtain its annual license. While I personally think that smoking is one of the worst self-destructive habits, historically we've only focused on keeping smoking away from the hay stack, shavings, and barns.

Now it seems that we must become the smoking police. Therefore we must insist that there be no smoking within 25' for any combustible source- combustible being the obvious, plus any style of horse structure.

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Lastly, (and I spared you another NO symbol) is that the hay stack / cube trailer are hands off. Over the last month we have observed people taking half bales of hay to go on an evening ride, others making daily trips for a flake. Just like everyone else, the stable is trying to do the same with less resources.

When we calculate the feed charges, we count the total usage and divide it by the amount we pay. Those who believe that the feed bar is always open, are doing at the expense of all. If you see someone help themselves, we take anonymous tips!

Lake Forest and the surrounding cities have one of the lowest crime rates in the nation. Low crime is the result of good police work, and with citizens acting reasonably to reduce crime by eliminating opportunities.

There exists a feeling that Serrano is a world unto itself. We know the folks that come here on a daily basis, so there is a sense that we are exempt from the activities of the outside world. There is a danger of being lulled into a feeling that

Serrano is immune from the outside world.

At night the stable can be pretty quiet, especially as the evening gets later. In the category of an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure, there is nothing wrong with a buddy system when you are here at night. By its very nature, a stable has many dark areas. These areas are potential hiding places. While not wanting to be paranoid, it would be terrible for an incident to happen, when it could have been prevented if you were with someone else. If you're coming here at night, it is advisable to bring a friend, or a parent.

If you observe someone that doesn't fit in or is acting suspicious, report it to the office so that we can find out who this person is. You can also ask either Juan or Fernando to talk to this person. Lastly if you feel this person is threatening, call the sheriff. Most important if you are unsure of your safety, don't confront anyone you don't know.

It is a fact that there are unsavory types in this world. If they know that they can roam about the stable freely, they are likely to return. Crime works when perpetrators can operate under the cloak of anonymity. Once they are "found" they'll go someplace else. Stand up for your right to a safe stable by being both proactive as well as cautious!