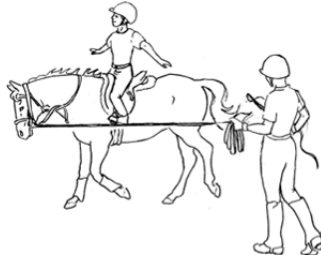


SERVICES & FEES



LESSON PACKAGES

Pay-as-you-go lesson prices:	1 hr	\$45
	30min	\$35
Monthly payment up front:	1 hr	\$40
	30min	\$30

Fees include travel to your farm within a 50-mile radius; an additional charge may be necessary to cover fuel outside of this range. Monthly payment due the first week of each month. See Fine Print page for cancellation and inclement weather policies.

SCHOOLING & CONDITIONING FOR YOUR HORSE

Training session/conditioning workout:	1 hr	\$35
	4-session package	\$125
Longeing/groundwork session:	30min	\$25
	4-session package	\$90

Training sessions include all grooming and preparation, work on the ground, fitness work and/or specific training exercises under saddle, as agreed upon by the horse's owner. Students may also substitute a mounted lesson with a training session instead of cancelling; see Fine Print page for more information.

HORSESENSE VIDEO COACHING

One video review, with written commentary

up to 1hr

\$25

Video coaching allows students to receive feedback remotely, with a written evaluation and an outline for suggested exercises provided for each filmed ride or training session uploaded for review. Students can alternate these online lessons with farm visits. This can cover Horsekeeping evaluation as well!

COACHING

Coaching at outside horse shows

\$50 a day, per rider

Cross-country schooling

\$50 per rider

Minimum of two riders needed for both coaching and schooling trips. Payment due the day of event. Student assumes all responsibility for transportation, ensuring that both horse and equipment are in good shape and fit for activity, and for arranging schooling and/or paying all facility or entry fees.

DAY CAMP INSTRUCTION

Nikki will have limited availability to teach mounted or unmounted lessons at day camps, covering basic equitation, eventing, mounted games, mounted drillwork or horsekeeping skills. Pricing will vary depending on hours and size of groups - contact to discuss options!

HORSESENSE HORSEKEEPING CLINICS

HorseSense Riding Academy will continue to offer traveling horsekeeping clinics, with Nikki & Dana covering unmounted topics such as first aid, ground training, tack and equipment, conformation and more. Clinics are just \$25 for 3 hours of instruction, but must be scheduled at least a month in advance.

FINE PRINT



PAYMENT OPTIONS

Starting in Jan 2018, payment for lessons should be made to **Nicole Surrusco** (not HorseSense!). Payments may be made via:

- 🐾 Personal check, with a \$30 charge for bounced checks
- 🐾 PayPal to **nsurrusco@gmail.com** - please note that PayPal charges for this service, so a \$5 processing fee will need to be added to each payment
- 🐾 Cash (always a favorite)

Pay-as-you-go lessons are due the day of the appointment; monthly payments are due the first week of each month. Please consult a calendar when making monthly payments, as some months will have five lesson days! After three missed payments, the discount for monthly payments is waived and students must pay full price; if five payments are missed within a calendar year, students may lose their lesson slot.

CANCELLATION POLICY

Barring emergency such as sudden illness, **students must cancel at least 24 hours in advance** to be offered a makeup slot or credit. Makeup lessons will be offered *if* available; students may also substitute a schooling session or workout for their horse, allowing the horse to maintain fitness and progress in his schooling.

Credit toward the next monthly payment will be given **only** for emergency cancellations due to illness or injury. This is standard practice for lesson packages; lessons skipped due to vacation, other extra-curricular activities and social obligations can leave your instructor unable to pay monthly bills. Students who opt out of a schooling substitution and are unable to maintain a consistent schedule may forfeit their monthly discount or weekly lesson slot at my discretion. Of course, if I have to cancel for any reason, you will receive a credit towards your next payment!

INCLEMENT WEATHER

Lessons will go on rain or shine, with unmounted sessions covering ground training or horsekeeping skills substituted for mounted lessons in case of sudden severe weather. Credits will be offered only if **a) roads are not safe to travel, or b) there are severe weather warnings prior to your lesson time.** If roads are clear and there are no severe weather alerts in effect, **it is the student's responsibility to cancel due to inclement weather.** If I don't hear from you, I will arrive prepared to adjust the lesson plan for the conditions and carry on!

For better and for worse, horsepeople are used to working in heat, cold, mud and rain; after all, horses need care no matter how unpleasant it is outside, and horse shows generally go on rain or shine. If you are more of a fair-weather rider, you may wish to substitute schooling sessions for lessons, or look into alternative arrangements during months of extreme weather. Please be honest about your level of commitment, and understand that if braving the elements is not your thing and you don't want to pay for missed lessons, you may need to pass your lesson spot on to someone I can rely on to keep appointments regardless of weather.

OFFICE HOURS

The best way to contact me remains **email** (nsurusco@gmail.com) or **text** (706) 889-6453. (If you have a preference, please let me know!) Last-minute changes or questions about scheduling are best sent via text message. I get an insane number of missed calls so I don't reply to one unless there is a detailed voicemail message to go along with it.

Please keep in mind that **I will not answer my phone when teaching, working with a horse, or driving.** This is partially a safety concern but also because I believe that all of the above require and deserve full attention. Since these three activities make up most of my workday, you may not hear back from me right away! While I check for messages between appointments and respond to anything urgent as soon as I'm able, plan on hearing from me within the next 24 hours for non-emergencies.

Also, while I love you all and am happy to answer questions, this is still my job, and it is healthy and necessary to have SOME time in each day that does not involve the job. Otherwise I might go crazy and move to Canada. For this reason, **I will NOT answer late-night messages unless it is an actual emergency.** Consider my office hours to be 8am to 8pm, and please save those non-urgent texts for the next day!

FAQ



WHAT DOES MY LESSON INCLUDE?

Your lesson time can be entirely mounted, unmounted, or a combination of the two. To get the most out of your lessons, establish both short-term and long-term objectives for both you and your horse and discuss your goals with me frequently! Time slots do not include assistance with preparation (including grooming and tacking up) or initial warm-up unless we have made prior arrangements; ideally, **students should be mounted and have walked their horse for a minimum of 10min prior to the start of their lesson time.**

HALF-HOUR OR HOUR-LONG LESSONS?

Which lesson length is better for you? For serious, motivated students, especially those working on advanced skills or with competitive goals, an hour-long session will allow you to make the most progress within your weekly lesson date. However, thirty-minute sessions can be a better choice if:

- 🐾 You are on a tighter budget
- 🐾 Your horse is green or unfit
- 🐾 *You* are unfit
- 🐾 The lesson is for a student under the age of 8, with a shorter attention span
- 🐾 You can consistently prepare and warm up your horse prior to your lesson time, so you are able to go straight to work

Shorter lessons may also be a better choice in winter months with limited daylight hours, as they allow more after-school students to get lessons in before dark. Some locations will have more flexible scheduling than others, so talk to me about options!

CAN I TAKE LESSONS WITH MY FRIENDS?

While there is no longer a discount offered for group lessons, due to the time commitment and the cost of traveling instruction, you are welcome to share your lesson slot with another rider or create a small group! Students ideally should be riding at or near the same level of ability. Please discuss options with me; groups of four or more riders will require a full hour lesson.

CAN I CHANGE MY LESSON TIME OR DAY?

With the high demand and the amount of time needed to travel from location to location, once the 2018 lesson schedule is set, there will be limited flexibility for making changes. But still talk to me about your situation - you may be able to swap lesson slots with another student, or lesson on another horse at a different farm.

A few hosting farms will also be offering mounted instruction, so if you can't get into my schedule, you may want to consider joining one of their lesson programs. Aly Rattazzi offers lessons by appointment in Talking Rock; Willow Tree Farm will be offering beginner instruction to a small group of students.

CAN I CONTINUE WITH THE LEVELS PROGRAM?

Absolutely! Students wishing to work towards Levels ribbons simply need to let me know so that I can keep a working copy of the progress booklets. Horsekeeping ribbons can still be earned through independent study; lesson time can be set aside for discussion requirements or demonstrating hands on skills when students feel they are ready to get a section checked off.

WILL I SEE YOU AT HORSE SHOWS?

I will be available and happy to coach at outside shows in 2018, with the understanding that weekends are limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis. I'll need at least two students to attend to make it worth the drive; it is my hope that members of the HorseSense show team will continue to work together to coordinate trips. There are a lot of good local options - in addition to Chattahoochee Hills and the In Unison hunter paces, check out North Atlanta Equestrian, which is only an hour away and avoids Atlanta traffic!

and, the big question...

HOW CAN I CONTINUE LESSONS WITHOUT A HORSE OF MY OWN?

I know a lot of HorseSense students will find themselves horseless without the physical Riding Academy, and are not in a position to make the investment or huge commitment to owning a horse. (Please, do not rush into that!) However, I also know that where there's a will, there's a way, and determined horse lovers who keep their options open can often find a mount in need of a rider. (For example, I worked my way up through Pony Club ratings by catch riding other people's horses and half-leasing a jumper in need of retraining.)

Since I have no way of providing you with a mount, it is ultimately **your responsibility to find a safe, appropriate horse to ride**. However, I have a few suggestions to get you started:

- 🐾 My personal horses will be available two days a week for lessons in Ballground. These horses are best suited to beginners; riders Blue Level and below who are able to lesson in this location may find this is the easiest place to get into the schedule.
- 🐾 Aly Rattazzi has generously offered the use of a few horses a couple of days a week. Students interested in lessoning with me in Talking Rock should talk to Aly as well as me about availability to ensure horses are shared fairly. Aly is also interested in building a lesson string if there are potential lessees or financial backers to make the horses a worthwhile investment, so let her know if you would like to help make this happen.
- 🐾 The best compromise for students eager to invest in a consistent mount but not able to take on full ownership is a lease arrangement. This can range from a quarter/partial lease of a day or two a week to a half-lease (three days a week) or full care lease where you assume all responsibilities for the horse. An excellent win-win situation can be sharing a lease with one to two other people, assuming you prefer communication to drama and clearly define who is responsible for what! A few HorseSense students with their own horse may be interested in offering leases; ask me for recommendations.
- 🐾 Keep an open mind, put it out there that you are looking, and see what happens. Horse owners may offer a horse in need of exercise to a tactful, conscientious rider; lease options may become available after a bit of patience and searching. The right horse usually comes along at the right time, especially if you are persistent in creating opportunities for yourself!

SIGN UP SHEET



STUDENT NAME: _____

LAST HORSEMANSHIP LEVEL COMPLETED: _____

LAST HORSEKEEPING LEVEL COMPLETED: _____

I AM INTERESTED IN: (check all that apply)

- Full hour lessons
- Half-hour lessons
- Schooling and/or conditioning for my horse
- Video coaching
- Showing
- Horsekeeping instruction

THE BEST LOCATION FOR ME TO LESSON IS:

- Ballground
- Talking Rock
- My own farm
- I'm flexible

THE BEST DAYS & TIMES FOR ME TO LESSON ARE: (check all that apply)

- Monday
- Tuesday
- Wednesday
- Thursday
- Friday
- Day time (between 10am-3pm)
- After school (3pm-6pm)

Since I will be dividing my time, I can only offer a couple of days a week in each location. If scheduling does not allow us to work together, you may want to consider joining Aly Rattazzi's lesson program; ask me for details!

MY GOALS FOR 2018: _____

I WOULD LIKE TO PURSUE: (check all that apply)

- Horsemanship Levels
- Horsekeeping Levels
- Ground training
- Mounted games
- Competitive experience in lower level dressage, jumping or eventing
- Recreational riding only

PRIMARY CONTACT: _____

PHONE #: _____ EMAIL: _____

This is the number I should contact first about your lesson!

SECONDARY CONTACT #1: _____

PHONE #: _____ EMAIL: _____

SECONDARY CONTACT #2: _____

PHONE #: _____ EMAIL: _____

MY MAILING ADDRESS: _____

