Dear Adoption Academy Student,

Thank you for joining us on this journey to being the best you can be for the current or future horses in your life. At West Virginia Horse Network, INC. we believe education is key to improving the quality of life for horses in our community. We look forward to going on this journey with you. If you have any questions never hesitate to reach out to a member of our team by emailing wvhorsenetwork@gmail.com. A tremendous thanks to The Right Horse Initiative for the grant that made this program possible and to the many community leaders who are partnering with us to provide the best education possible.

Photo Credit: Jennifer Rollins
YOUR NAME:

_____________________________________________________________________

YOUR GOALS:

_____________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________
Section One

Costs and Expectations of Equine Ownership
Average Cost of Horse Ownership

Feed Costs: _______________________
Farrier Costs: _______________________
Annual Vetting (vaccines, coggins, deworming, etc.)

______________________________

Cost of Boarding or Facility Upkeep:
______________________________

What are the pros and cons of boarding? ____________________

What are the pros and cons of keeping the horse at home?
______________________________
Planning Ahead

Why is it important to have an emergency fund?

How much should you plan to save?

How much does equine euthanasia and burial cost?

What is the average equine lifespan?
Selecting the Right Horse

List some common horse breeds and their characteristics:

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

Which breed do you think would be best for you and your needs?

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
MEASURING A HORSE'S HEIGHT AND WEIGHT

What is a “hand”: ________________

How many “hands” is a pony? _____

How many “hands” is a mini? _____

Where on the horse’s body should you measure “hands” ____________

How can you best estimate a horse’s weight? ___________________________
Section Two

Equine Handling and Safety

Photo Credit: Nicky Walters
Haltering and Leading

What are the different types of halters and their uses?

What is the correct way to approach a horse for haltering?

Where should the handler be when leading a horse?
What safety precautions should you follow when tying a horse?

Draw a safe type of knot:
Basic Groundwork Skills

List some techniques for “backing” a horse: __________________________
______________________________
______________________________

What does it mean to “lunge” a horse? __________________________

What is the purpose of “lunging” a horse? __________________________
______________________________
Name some things that horses are typically frightened by:

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

How can you help a horse overcome his or her fears?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

What are some signs that a horse is frightened?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

What are some signs that a horse is relaxed?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________
DANGER ZONES

Sketch a diagram of a horse's blind spots:

What parts of a horse's body are the most dangerous and what steps can you take to stay safe?

Where are some common equine “pressure points”? 
Training Help

List some common training tools and their uses:

________________________________________
________________________________________
________________________________________

If you need to hire a trainer what qualities should you look for in the trainer? ____________________________
________________________________________
How much should you expect to pay monthly for training?

What should you expect to do once the horse returns from the trainer?

What are some signs that you may need to enlist the help of a trainer?

What are some options to learn, study and improve your own horsemanship skills?
Section Three

Hoof Care and Grooming Basics

Photo Credit: Nicky Walters
What does a farrier do? _______________

How often should your horse's hooves be trimmed? _______________

What are some common hoof problems? _____________________________
_______________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________

What are some qualities to look for in a good farrier? ______________

What are some signs of a healthy hoof? _____________________________
_______________________________________________________________
What are the pros and cons of having the farrier put shoes on your horse?
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

What are the pros and cons of leaving your horse barefoot?
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

Describe how to properly pick a horse's hoof?
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

How often should you pick the horse's hoof? __________________________

What products can you use to improve the quality of a horse's hoof? __________________________
List some common grooming tools and their uses: ____________________________
____________________________________________________

Describe the steps of giving a horse a bath: ____________________________
____________________________________________________

What areas should you avoid when applying fly spray? ______________________
____________________________________________________

What are some common grooming products? ____________________________
____________________________________________________
Section Four

Facility and Tack Basics
List some types of saddles and their uses:

Which type of saddle do you prefer?

How can you determine if your saddle is a good fit for you?

How can you tell if a saddle properly fits your horse?

Discuss saddle cost:

Describe the purpose of the following items:
Skid Boots
Bell Boots
Saddle Pad
Breast Collar
Martingale
List some types of bridles: ____________

________________________________________________________________

List some types of bits and their uses: ____________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________

Photo Credit: Jennifer Rollins
List some popular fencing options and their pros and cons (include safety and cost):

__________________________________________

__________________________________________

__________________________________________

Discuss some key dangers there may be in a stall: ________________________________

__________________________________________

What types of bedding are appropriate for a stall? What should you avoid?

__________________________________________

__________________________________________

Where can you get bedding?

__________________________________________

Discuss pros and cons of stall mats:

__________________________________________

How often should you clean a horse's stall? ________________________________

Why is it important to keep the horse's stall clean? ________________________________
Discuss stall cleaning tools:

What are some appropriate ways to dispose of manure?

Discuss types of water buckets/troughs and how to safely use them:

Discuss types of feeders:
Discuss stall fan maintenance and safety:

List some “must have” tools to keep around your barn:

Discuss proper footing for an arena:

Discuss how to construct a round pen and the cost:
Section Five

Equine Nutrition

Photo Credit: Jennifer Rollins
All About Hay

List the common types of hay and some information about each: 

__________________________________________

__________________________________________

__________________________________________

Discuss the difference between square bales and round bales:

__________________________________________

How are the parts of a square bale measured: __________________________
How should you determine how much hay to feed? ____________________________

Why is hay important to a horse's diet? ________________________________

What are your options for places to buy hay? __________________________

How much should you expect hay to cost? ______________________________

When should you buy hay? _________

How much hay should you store? ___

Where and how should hay be stored?

How can you recognize good quality hay?

What does a “cutting” mean?

What are some things that may be in or on hay that could be harmful to your horse?
All About Grain

What are some of the key things of note on a feed label? 

Why is the “percentage protein” important?

When may you need a feed with higher fat?

When may you need a feed with more fiber?
What factors about your horse and his daily routine should you consider when selecting the appropriate feed?

What is the difference between textured and pelleted feeds? _____

How can you determine the appropriate amount of feed you should give your horse?

How should you measure the feed?

What price range should you expect to pay for feed? ________________
When and where should you feed your horse? ______________________
__________________________
__________________________

How should grain be stored? _______
______________________________

What are some signs that grain is not safe to feed? ______________________

What are the dangers of rodents around feed? ______________________

Photo Credit: Jennifer Rollins
MORE FEEDING TIPS

List some supplements and when you may need them: __________________
______________________________

What are some dangers of feeding supplements? ________________________

Discuss minerals (including difference between loose minerals and a block/brick):
______________________________
______________________________
Discuss types of grass that should be in your pasture: ____________________________
____________________________________________________________________________

Can horses thrive on pasture alone?
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________

What types of treats are appropriate for a horse? ________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________

How many treats can a horse have?
____________________________________________________________________________

List some poisonous plants that are a danger to horses:__________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
Section Six

Equine Health
Part One

Photo Credit: Katie Lockard
Common Illnesses

List warning signs of colic:

____________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________

List causes of colic:

____________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________

List signs of an abscess:

____________________________________________________________________

How do you treat an abscess?

____________________________________________________________________
What are some signs of choke?

What are the causes of choke?

What should you do if you suspect choke?

What are some signs that your horse is having an allergic reaction?

What may cause an allergic reaction?

What should you do if your horse is having an allergic reaction?
Vaccinations

Photo Credit: Jennifer Rollins

List the types of vaccinations your horse may need: ____________________________

____________________________________________

Do all horses need to be vaccinated?

____________________________________________

How does geography impact the type of vaccines your horse needs? ____________

____________________________________________

____________________________________________
Dental Health

What is a “float”?_____________________

Why is it important for a horse to get a “float”?_____________________

How much does a “float” typically cost?
_____________________

How often will your horse need a float?
_____________________
Deworming

What are some common equine parasites?
________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________

What are some common active ingredients in dewormers and what do they treat?
________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________

How can you determine how much dewormer to give your horse? _________

How often should you deworm your horse?  
________________________________________________________

What are some deworming options (pellets v/s paste)?
________________________________________________________

What are some dangers to look out for?
________________________________________________________
Equine Conditioning

What is a “topline” and how can you help your horse improve theirs? 

How can you determine your horse’s body score? 

What body score should you aim for? ___

What are some physical signs of good health and poor health? ____________

Photo Credit: Jennifer Rollins
Other Vetting Information

How much should you expect to pay for a farm call? _______________________

How is the cost of your vet visit determined? _____________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________

How do you know if a situation is a true emergency? _______________________
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________

What can you do if a vet can't come to you? _____________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________

Discuss etiquette do's and don'ts when dealing with your vet:______________
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
Section Seven

Equine Health

Part Two

Photo Credit: Beth Reed
Checking Vitals

How do you take a horse's pulse?

What should the horse's pulse be?

How do you take a horse's temperature?

What should the horse's temperature be?

What do healthy gums look like?
Dealing with an Emergency

What should your include in an equine first aid kit? 

What would be some good places to keep a first aid kit? 

List some ways to stop bleeding: 

List any additional “first aid” tips: 
Common Medications

List some common medications you should keep on hand at the barn at all times, when you should use them and how to determine the dose:

__________________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________

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__________________________________________________________________________________________
Laminitis

What is Laminitis? ________________________
________________________________________

What causes Laminitis? __________
________________________________________
________________________________________

What are the symptoms of Laminitis?
________________________________________
________________________________________

What can you do if a horse has symptoms of laminitis (short term and long term)?
________________________________________
________________________________________
Section Eight

Trailers, Body Language and More
Trailer Basics

List the different types of trailers:_____

_____________________________________________________________________

What type of vehicle do you need to haul a trailer? __________________________

What do you need before you haul?
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________

What should you expect to pay for a trailer? __________________________

What should you consider when buying a used trailer? _______________________
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
List some trailering dangers? ________________
______________________________
______________________________
______________________________

How should the horse be tied in the trailer? ______________________

What are some things to keep in mind when getting your horse to load? ______
______________________________

What type of halter should a horse wear when hauling? ______________________

If hauling just one horse where should the horse be loaded? _________________

What documents should you bring along when hauling horses? _______________
______________________________
Equine Behavior and Body Language

List some signs that a horse is being aggressive: ________________________
______________________________

List some signs that a horse is relaxed: __
______________________________

List some signs that a horse is in pain: ___
______________________________
List some signs that a horse is frustrated or confused: _____________________________

All horses do not get along equally. Discuss how to determine if it is safe for horses to be turned out together.

_____________________________

_____________________________

_____________________________

Herds usually have a pecking order. How can you determine who is the top and the bottom of the pecking order? ______________

_____________________________

_____________________________
Alternative Therapies

Explain and Discuss the following:

PEMF Therapy: ______________________
_______________________________

Massage: ______________________

Chiropractic: ___________________

Essential Oils: _________________

What should you expect to pay for these services: ______________________
_____________________________
CONGRATULATIONS

You now have a great foundation of knowledge that you can build upon to become the horseman you've always wanted to be.
## Riding Lesson Log

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## Volunteer Hour Log

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Important Numbers

Mentor: _______________
Riding Instructor: _______________
Hay Vendor: _______________
Rescue Contact: _______________
Farrier Contact: _______________
Veterinarian Contact: _______________

Feed Store Contact: ____________
Trainer Contact: _______________

Additional Contacts:
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
Thank You for participating in the Adoption Academy

Made possible by a generous grant from The Right Horse Initiative