

# HUNTER'S REST



*For Bed and Breakfast  
and Barn*

1259 North Poes Road  
Flint Hill, Virginia 22627  
(540) 364-2929  
(540) 347-4222  
[betsyp@crosslink.net](mailto:betsyp@crosslink.net)  
[www.huntersrest.net](http://www.huntersrest.net)

## **Minimum requirements for horse ownership:**

Horses are NOT a sport to be entered without careful consideration. They require major time input, care and stewardship. Here are a few thoughts ...

### **One-time costs:**

\* **At LEAST** two horses (horses are herd animals and **MUST** live in company of at least one other horse. Though, 2 is a bad number as pairs tend to get incredibly attached, making it hard to work just one at a time, which is how it will most often happen.) *Cost:* \$0-10,000 or more, per horse.

- **At LEAST** 3 acres good grazing ground per horse, safely fenced with 3 or 4 board plank fence or no-climb horse wire reinforced with board at top. At least 4 feet in height. Rounded corners recommended. **“Dry Lot”** or sacrifice paddock required to avoid spring laminitis and colic problems for cold-blooded horses, approximately 100 feet square. *Cost:* \$5.50 per 8 foot-section of fencing. X # of feet.
- **At LEAST** 12 x 12 foot two sided covered shelter, preferably with southern exposure, **PER HORSE**. This is for summer shelter more than winter. **ABSOLUTE** requirement. *Cost:* \$ to be determined.
- **Saddle** for EACH horse. **Bridle** for each, pads, other equipment. Must be professionally fitted. Saddle fit is a no-argument essential. Brushes, other horse care items. *Cost:* \$500 and up for quality saddles, \$75 and up for bridles. Other care items: \$100-\$10,000.
- **Water trough** – horses drink 5-15 gallons of water per day. Water **MUST** be kept fresh and offered unlimited supplies **AT ALL TIMES** otherwise risking colic and other fatal ailments. *Cost:* \$100 or more for a 100 gallon tank.
- Water **buckets**, feed tubs. *Cost:* \$5-8 each.

- **Minimum** 150 x 75 leveled, drained riding area, preferably with sand or other footing for riding. OR at least ½ ton truck and horse trailer. This is because beginning riders MUST have a level place in which to practice their riding OR be mobile to drive to lessons and suitable places to ride. Otherwise, a person will ride very little, and decreasingly, because it is not a pleasure. This is a common result. *Cost:* \$ To be determined. Range: \$20,000-\$100,000.

### **Recurring costs:**

- **Daily:** Time input. Horses must be fed at least once a day, preferably twice or more. They require attendance and stewardship. They are not cats and cannot just be left to fend for themselves without oversight. They are far too fragile. *Cost:* Priceless.
- **Feed:** Calorie intake must be monitored. Grass pasture around here is deficient in several minerals, chiefly selenium, and therefore must be supplemented, at least, with an all-around mineral pellet. HOWEVER, horses have an incredibly fragile intestine and must not be fed too many calories at once, hence, the split, multiple feedings. *Cost:* Feed costs about \$8-10 per 50 pound bag, and a coldblooded horse would need about 3-5 pounds per day, maintenance level, more if another breed, and much more if in heavy work.
- **Hay:** Winter horse care REQUIRES supplementing dead, dry pasture with hay feeding. Digestion is how horses heat their bodies. Round bales work well, if you can find a supply of BARN-STORED dry, horse quality hay. Square bales are also good, but a storage shelter is required. *Cost:* \$30-100 per 800-1000-pound round bale, which will last a pair of horses 1 or 2 weeks during winter. Need to feed, usually, December through April. *Cost:* 20 x \$50 (average) = \$1500. Plus cost of square bales.
- **Mineral** and salt intake. Horses must have free choice to salt and mineral blocks so they may select their own intake. *Cost:* Salt blocks are about \$10-15 and last for about a month per horse.
- **Deworming:** All horses must be treated with worming medication every 6-8 weeks, throughout the year. *Cost:* Wormers range from \$10-25, each dose.

- **Veterinarian:** At least, horses need annual inoculations in the spring, and, possibly, boosters of some shots in the fall. Eastern, western encephalitis, tetanus, rabies, influenza, rhinopneumonitis, West Nile Virus and Potomac Horse Fever are the required shots in this area. *Cost:* Each is about \$10 per shot, except West Nile which is \$20. Vet calls cost \$25-45 per visit.
- **Farrier:** At least, horses will need their feet trimmed every 6-8 weeks or shoes at same interval. *Cost:* Ranges from \$40 per trimming to \$60 or more per each pair of shoes.
- **Dentist:** At least, horses will need their teeth floated (filed) every year, more often for some. *Cost:* Ranges from \$70 and up, depending on work.
- **Lessons:** At least, new owners will need lessons at least weekly until they are able to ride confidently. Remember, every time you get on a horse, you are either TRAINING him, or UNTRAINING him. *Cost:* Lessons range from \$25 per hour group to \$50 and up for privates.
- **Care requirements:** Geldings must have their sheaths cleaned at least once a year. All horses should have their feet picked at least once a day to check for stones and nails. All horses must have their tails, manes and undersides checked for ticks and other parasites at least once a day spring, summer and fall. They must be removed. All horses must be wormed every 6-8 weeks, by owner or by veterinarian.

Horses require much care and knowledge. This list is of MINIMUMS. Nothing can replace study, practice and pursuit of knowledge with professional horsemen and women. It is a huge time and money commitment, but one well worth it to have a healthy, willing partner for life.