

Why should you choose an AARS member stable?

No organization or association can guarantee that its members will provide the best possible service. Nevertheless, AARS member stable owners have provided documents showing that they are certified or degreed by a nationally recognized post-secondary equestrian studies program or riding instructor certification association. Just like teachers in our public and private schools, being degreed or certified does not guarantee a perfect teacher. But it does show that the stable owner cares enough about a career in riding instruction to have invested the time and money to attend the programs and successfully complete the examination process.

Over their signature, AARS member stable owners attest that they have physical control over their facilities - whether owned or leased. This makes it possible for them to be responsible for safety and customer service issues related to buildings, grounds, and horse care. They also attest that they have a strong personal interest in serving non-horse-owning beginners in a non-breed-biased environment; and that they are willing to teach both eastern and western riding, plus horse care and stable management. This commitment sets them apart from those stables that are breeding, training, and selling just one breed of horse and specializing in just one style of riding. Too often, novices happen upon a local stable without realizing the narrow scope of the services provided. Breeding and training stables are suitable for intermediate and advanced riders who have already chosen their favorite breed of horse and preferred style of riding - and who are ready to buy. Riding at an AARS member stable first will give you the time and experience to form a personal opinion before you open your checkbook to a commitment that may be hard to reverse. Although many AARS member stables also serve advanced riders, they have specifically stated they have an interest in caring for riders who may never want to own a horse.

AARS member stable owners are required to maintain a membership in the North American Horsemen's Association - a national safety organization - and to adhere to its 'Bold M' safety policies related to facility management, horse handling, and people care. NAHA is the only horse industry organization devoted solely to safety in the industry.

Finally, AARS member stable owners are required to purchase and use the AARS junior and senior lesson booklets, with their accompanying ribbons and certificates. This helps ensure that you receive a well-rounded introduction to the sport and hobby of horses. The AARS ribbon and certificate program is the only such program in the nation developed specifically for non-horse-owners. Your riding instructor can veer from the outlines often when introducing topics specific to particular niches' within our hobby. But, the AARS outlines guarantee that you can see the 'skeleton' of the hobby. From that skeleton, you will be able to 'flesh out' your own preferences related to breeds, riding styles, and competitive and non-competitive riding opportunities.

