

HORSECENTERED CURRICULUM:

PINK LEVEL

Pink Level is the first Level in the unmounted HorseCentered curriculum, designed to introduce horse training principles and hands-on ground training skills.

This Level covers basic groundwork concepts and exercises while giving students an understanding of the training process, increased awareness of equine body language and empathy for their nonverbal partners.

WHO IS PINK LEVEL FOR?

- 🐾 **Students who have demonstrated an understanding of basic horse safety** and ground handling skills. We recommend using the **Red HorseSense Level** as a prerequisite.
- 🐾 **Riding lesson students** who are mature enough for introductory learning theory and able to handle a horse independently, generally ages 10 and up.
- 🐾 **Students and parents** who plan to pursue horse ownership or to work with a horse independently in the future.
- 🐾 **Non-riding horse enthusiasts** who want to learn how to form a working relationship with a horse on the ground.
- 🐾 **Backyard horse owners** interested in setting goals and increasing their understanding of groundwork and training principles.

WHAT DOES PINK LEVEL TEACH?

- 🐾 **Equine body language**, including signs of stress or discomfort.
- 🐾 **Basic learning theory** and the benefits and drawbacks of different forms of reinforcement and punishment.
- 🐾 **Groundwork fundamentals** such as leading, yielding, sending and circling.
- 🐾 **Introductory targeting**, including methods of using rewards that improve rather than erode the horse's manners.
- 🐾 **Safe, effective ways to increase a horse's confidence** and overcome fear.
- 🐾 **How to handle a horse with partnership** and create activities for the horse's enjoyment.
- 🐾 **How to construct a training plan** and break training goals into achievable steps.

Partnership begins and ends on the ground.

Groundwork is an essential horsemanship skill, especially when paired with knowledge of how horses think, communicate and learn. Yet many riding schools skip the ground training in an effort to maximize time in the saddle.

The HorseCentered curriculum is designed to bridge that gap and can be taught as a supplement to riding lessons as well as a standalone class. It provides students with a balanced overview of different training methods, but many of the hands-on exercises can be practiced using the philosophy of your choice. Natural horsemanship, R+ and classical in-hand training are all welcome here!

