

THERAPEUTIC HORSEBACK RIDING PROGRAM

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How much does it cost?

Lovelane Special Needs Horseback Riding Program is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit and relies on fundraising and volunteers to carry out our programs. The actual unsubsidized cost of a lesson is **\$135**. Some people choose to pay this amount and if it is possible, it is greatly appreciated. Through the generosity of our donors, Lovelane is able to provide a standard subsidized rate of **\$103** to make our program more accessible. Many riders receive additional **tuition assistance** to further subsidize the rate by completing a Request for Tuition Assistance form. These forms are reviewed by our Tuition Assistance Committee and the funds available are divided up and awarded based on need. For all new riders, there is a one-time \$50 administration fee that helps cover administrative costs.

Will my insurance cover the cost?

Lovelane does not bill insurance companies, however you can submit a reimbursement form to your insurance company if they offer that option. Lovelane can provide a receipt for therapeutic riding lessons, but cannot provide a procedure code.

How long is a lesson?

Each lesson is a **30 minute** private session.

How long will my child be on the Wait List?

The wait is entirely dependent on a rider's availability and our staff's availability. If your child is only available afterschool and/or on weekends, then the wait is longer (we say generally 1-3 years). Lovelane typically has more available openings during our "off-peak" riding times: Monday-Friday between 10:00am and 2:00 pm. So, if your child can ride during our "off-peak" times the wait can be shorter. Lovelane offers various opportunities for Wait List students to become involved with Lovelane while they wait for a spot in our core program. We offer a 1-Day Therapeutic Riding (TR) trial session in the fall and a limited number of slots for a 4 or 6 week TR trial session during Lovelane's summer semester. Also in the summer, Lovelane offers spots in our Summer Horsemanship Workshops to Wait List students. Many Wait List students choose to participate in Lovelane's Barn Buddies Program. This is a great opportunity for your child to get involved and familiar with Lovelane before they begin riding with us

Who will my child's instructor be?

Lovelane's instructors all hold their MA Riding Instructor License, are skilled and experienced and highly dedicated to their craft. Because of the special needs of our student population, many of our instructors are certified by the Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship (PATH) International and/or are therapists. Our instructors know the diagnosis and case history of each of their students, and it is our goal to work with the student's other therapeutic providers. When coming off the Wait List, your child will be assigned an instructor based on availability.

Tell me more about Lovelane's horses.

Lovelane's 12 therapy horses are the cornerstone of our program. The outstanding and irreplaceable service they provide reaches approximately 100 students each week. We have many different types of horses, all shapes and sizes, to meet the needs of our diverse student population. It takes a very special animal to do the job of a therapy horse, and we take great care in selecting and training the horses used in our program. Before entering a new horse into Lovelane's program, they first must go through a trial session. During their trial, potential new therapy horses are evaluated and many factors are considered. The temperament of the horse is one of the most important characteristics we look at, as we are committed to providing our riders with a safe and quiet ride. The horse's quality of movement and soundness are also critical to their performance in the program.

What are my registration options?

Weekly Rider (19 lessons - 3 make-ups allowed during each fall and spring semester)

- Individual 30 minute therapeutic lessons, every week at the same day/time with the same instructor.
- Full-time riding slot in the program.
- 10% of these weekly lessons will be available for the Graduate (Grad) Program (students 20 years and older). The remaining weekly lessons are for children under the age of 20.

Hold Rider (5 lessons during each fall and spring semester)

- Individual 30 minute therapeutic lessons at varying days/times with different instructors.
- Part-time riding slot in the program.
- Parents are responsible for scheduling these lessons by connecting with the Program Coordinator throughout the semester.

School Year Hold Rider (10 lessons September 1 – June 30)

- Individual 30 minute therapeutic lessons at varying days/times with different instructors.
- Part-time riding slot in the program.
- Parents are responsible for scheduling these lessons by connecting with the Program Coordinator throughout the school year.

Grad Hold Rider (10 lessons September 1 – August 31)

- For riders 20 years and older.
- Individual 30 minute therapeutic lessons at varying days/times with different instructors.
- Part-time riding slot in the program.
- Parents are responsible for scheduling these lessons by connecting with the Program Coordinator throughout the year.

Summer Semester (July 1– August 31 – no make-ups allowed)

- Open to students who already ride in our therapeutic program during the school year, AND students on our Wait List.
- Individual 30 minute therapeutic lessons at varying days/times with different instructors.
- Minimum of 2 lessons, maximum of 16 lessons allowed depending on availability.

Who are your volunteers?

Volunteers are integral to the program design at Lovelane. Several volunteers are usually needed for each riding session to help with preparation of the horse and to ensure the safety of the riders. Currently we have a need for over 100 volunteers each week to assist with therapy sessions, as well as the maintenance and operation of the riding facilities. Lovelane's volunteers come from a wide variety of backgrounds including: skilled equestrians, professionals, teachers, students, retirees and stay at home parents. Several of our volunteers have experience working with special needs children and/or are physical, occupational, or speech-language pathologists. Many other volunteers have never worked with our population or horses, but are enthusiastic and committed to help. Volunteers receive on-the-job training to help them to perform their duties safely and effectively. Generally, the minimum age to volunteer in lessons is 16. We occasionally schedule younger teenagers with solid horse experience for barn work. Volunteers under the age of 18 must have the written consent of a parent or guardian before volunteering at Lovelane.

Does Lovelane have a weight limit?

Yes, a weight limit ensures the safety of Lovelane's lessons. Generally, students with a PASSIVE WEIGHT less than 130 lbs or ACTIVE WEIGHT less than 170 lbs are permitted to ride. Throughout the year, Lovelane staff continually assesses each rider to determine safety and appropriateness for the program. Any rider requiring a full transfer assist and/or requires major trunk support to sit on the horse must weigh less than 100 lbs and/or be approved for safety by the Lovelane staff.

Who does Lovelane serve?

Each week, in the core program, Lovelane holds around 100 therapeutic lessons and serves approximately 120-130 students ages 2 and up, from 36 Greater Boston communities. We also serve between 20 and 30 additional children weekly in our adjunct and collaborative programs. Lovelane currently has partnerships serving children from Perkins School for the Blind and the Cotting School.

Our students have cognitive and physical special needs and a wide range of conditions including (but not limited to):

- Anxiety
- Attention Deficit Disorders
- Autism
- Blind
- Cancer
- Cerebral Palsy
- Charge Syndrome
- Chiari 1 Malformation
- Dandy Walker Variant
- Deaf
- Developmental Delay
- Down Syndrome
- Dravet Syndrome
- Dyslexia
- Epilepsy
- Fragile X Syndrome
- Genetic Disorders
- Head Injury
- Hearing And Vision Impairments
- Hypotonia
- Klinefelter Syndrome
- Learning Disabilities
- Low Muscle Tone
- Multiple Sclerosis
- Muscular Dystrophy
- Nemaline Myopathy
- Pervasive Developmental Delay
- Prader-Willi Syndrome
- Sanfilippo Syndrome
- Schizencephaly
- Seizure Disorders
- Sensory Integration Disorder
- Speech Apraxia
- Spinal Cord Injuries
- Stroke
- Tuberous Sclerosis
- XXYY Syndrome