

UNH TRP HOOFBEATS

University of New Hampshire Therapeutic Riding Program
Spring 2022

Welcome Spring!

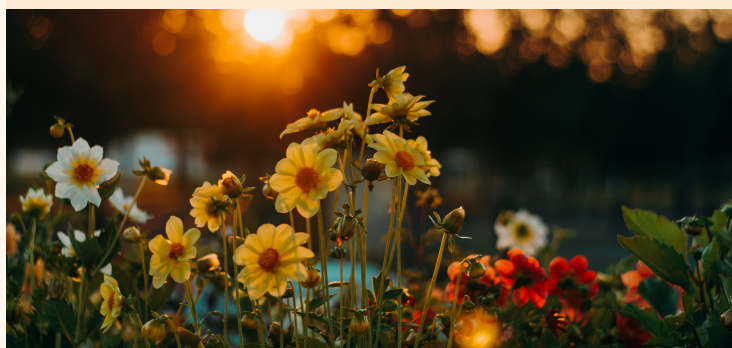
As the weather gets warmer we've also been warming up for lots of great things this spring and summer!

Our Spring session is coming to a close but we have had a wonderful time! Keep reading to see some of our client's biggest milestones.



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Reminders!

Our summer session is currently full lessons will begin May 25th, ending June 30th. There will be a volunteer training May 18th 4-6 pm.

Sign ups for our Fall 2022 session begin on July 25th. We have new time slots this year, lessons will be Mondays 4-6:15 pm and Wednesdays 6-8 pm.

2022 Annual Run for the Roses Auction

We will be holding our first auction since taking time off for Covid! The theme is Kentucky Derby and we will be watching the Derby during the auction! It will be held Saturday, May 7th from 5:30-8:30 in the Piscataqua Room of Holloway Commons, Durham NH, 03824. Tickets are currently still available but will **not** be sold at the door so buy them now!! There will be a buffet dinner, derby themed food, raffles, free door prizes, and even a contest for best fancy hat! Several items will be auctioned off, including gift cards for over 20 different restaurants, passes for various ski lifts, museums, sports games, and more, as well as some cool clothes, gorgeous jewelry, and lots of horse items to pamper your pony!! We hope you will join us and remember to wear your best Kentucky Derby attire!!



Special Olympics Update

As you may know two riders from our own program, Osiris and Erin, will be representing NH equestrians at the Special Olympics this Summer! There will also be another virtual show in June featuring both trail and equitation classes. Registration for the virtual show is due June 9th, and video submissions are due by June 23rd. The show is open to any riders participating in our summer session!

Special Guests... Budweiser Clydesdales!



This summer the UNH barn will be visited by some very special guests, the Budweiser Clydesdales! The Clydesdales will be participating in the Barrington Parade on July 23rd, and will be staying at UNH for a whole week! How exciting! Stay tuned for more info on when you can meet them at UNH

Rider Spotlight!

This Spring, one of our riders bravely conquered a milestone he had been working towards for a long time. Hear about it firsthand from his instructor, Grayson: "I first met "Andy" (we will call him this a reference to his trusty steed "Woody," like the duo in Toy Story) about 3 years ago during my sophomore year studying occupational therapy at UNH... I was assigned to left sidewalk for Andy the day he started at UNH TRP. He was a kind, imaginative, and passionate 5-year-old at the time. We picked a horse, Fawn, who Andy quickly bonded with and was so eager to ride. The one problem was that getting on (mounting) felt SCARY... we soon settled on a different approach; horsemanship lessons and practice riding on "Woody," our wooden barrel horse. We spent a couple of semesters with half each lesson learning how to brush, blanket, and lead a horse named Clem and half each lesson learning how to mount, dismount, steer, "walk on," and "woah" with Woody. Andy's imagination and humor made working through his fears an exciting play-based experience. He became more confident around horses and rocked imaginary riding missions on Woody. Then COVID-19 came and UNH TRP had to take a break."



During our spring session this year, Andy accomplished something great! Grayson continues "A pandemic and sometime later, Andy is now a new tall 8-year-old and I am an occupational therapy graduate student. Our first lesson back this semester was spent learning the skills Andy had gained years ago and meeting his horse Finn. His goal for this whole semester was to take a couple steps on the horse. In the second lesson, he mounted his trusty steed Finn at the ramp after some practice on Woody and by carefully teaching me how to first and then doing it himself! Not only did he get on, but he asked to Finn "walk on" and proceeded to ride the rest of the lesson on like he had spent years doing so. Andy was so proud and so were we! Smiles shined all around the arena as he steered Finn with a little help from volunteer spotters and a horse leader. Now Andy has moved on to conquering a fast walk/jog and trot on his large horse. In the words of the ever-witty Andy: with a supportive team, an eager rider, and a trusty horse, the possibilities feel "inFINNate!"

