



# SERRANO CREEK RANCH EQUESTRIAN CENTER



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If there were ever a time portal to the past, at least for me, that would be reading old emails. Re-reading them takes me right back to that very day they were written. Looking back 12 months, the future of the stable looked gloomy. Seeing those emails analyzing the most arcane points of environmental law, it appeared that each possible resolution not only didn't solve the original, but also generated even more disputes.

Amazingly, since those dark days, we have obtained the proper permits for us to stay open and seemingly putting the legal dragon asleep. More importantly, in the last six months, we proved to ourselves that the seemingly impossible task of building 150+ trenches for all the stalls is now doable. The work is still sizable, but gloom has turned to positivity, knowing that we successfully made it past the first hurdle.

Completing this first group of stalls means that we are 25% on the way to being finished. Special kudos to our guys, who are the ones who dug and dug in all weather conditions. It is solely through their efforts that they allowed us to cross our first milestone. Without them, there would be no hope. If you should find the time, a few words of encouragement will go far

Depending on this year's winter, we hope to get a jump on the next year's quota by beginning before the official time clock starts in April. Those in the green stalls (Year 2) you're next up!

Phased Infiltration Trench Installation



## DECEMBER 2021

## NEWSLETTER

### IN THIS EDITION:

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- How to Dispose of Waterers Water
- Barn Etiquette Series: Do Not Feed Another Boarder's Horse
- SCR Important Holiday Dates
- Cosmo's Memorial
- Leslie Thomson Training
- Toys for Tots

# SERRANO CREEK REMINDERS



## Slow Down!

Please remember that our speed limit is 5MPH on the stable ground and even slower when horses and riders are around. We ask that all trainers communicate this rule to their clients, as we have seen student's parents drive fast as they are dropping off and picking up their kids. The office staff is doing their best to let the compost customers and delivery services know that they must drive 5MPH.



## Turnout Time Limit

When turning out your horse(s) in any arena please be considerate of the time and of other boarders wanting to turn out their horse(s). We ask that you **please do not leave your horse(s) unattended under any circumstances!** The turnout time is 15 minutes for one horse and if more than one horse is turnout, the maximum turnout time is 20 minutes. We encourage that you communicate with the individual who is turning out their horse about using the arena, please be courteous and respectful when asking.

## Happy Thanksgiving



## How to Dispose of Waterers water

Any water collected while cleaning your waterer must stay in your stall and be poured into the infiltration trench if you have one already. If your stall does not have an infiltration trench installed, check with the SCR office to determine where to dispose of the water. Please remember, **that eventually no water (rain or waterer cleaning) will be allowed to leave the boundaries of any stall.** Please see the pictures below for directions on where to dump the water. It is extremely important that all SCR Boarders abide to the rule as it is part of the permit established with the state and the city of Lake Forest. We have been noticing more and more boarders dumping their water into the aisle, please do not do this as we can get into serious problems. Thank you.

If your stall has the infiltration trench constructed in the front of the stall, please dump the water in the corner, next to the black PVC pipe.



If your stall has the infiltration trench constructed in the back end of the stall, please dump water long the back end of the stall.

## Barn Etiquette Series: Do Not Feed Another Boarder's Horse

We ask that you do not feed another boarder's horse anything without the owner's permission. Please keep in mind that some horses may be on special or restricted diets due to health issues. Also keep in mind that some horses may bite.

Our video cameras have provided many unexpected benefits since the time they were installed. Recently a boarder came to the office very frustrated because her horse kept coming up lame from kicking the pipe rails. To protect her horse from kicking, she had already spent hundreds of dollars putting up fencing, all to no avail. Her next step was to spend even more money lining the stall with mats.

Historically this would have been to appropriate action. But since her horse could be seen in one of the cameras, we were able to watch his kicking and non-kicking periods. Was the horse kicking because of alpha issues with his neighbors? - No. Did he kick because his neighbor got better feed? - No. Were they fighting over who controlled the waterer? -No.

He began kicking because he had trained specific people that they would scurry about to find feed to give to him when he kicked. Others (let's call them the "untrainable") would walk by, and he just stood there. If there was no one in the aisle, he calmly stood in his stall. But when one of the specials came by, he began kicking madly, ensuring that he would be rewarded with another handful of hay.

Luckily, rather than her spending hundreds more on mats and vet bills, we were able to solve it. The months of the kicking issue could have been prevented if others didn't feed her horse. For the know-it-alls in the office, we have also learned a new lesson for preventing kicking issues.



## SCR Important Holiday Dates

<b>November 25</b>	<b>Thanksgiving</b>	<b>Feeding Only Office Closed</b>
<b>December 24</b>	<b>Christmas Eve</b>	<b>Cleaning &amp; Feeding Office Closed @ 12PM</b>
<b>December 25</b>	<b>Christmas Day</b>	<b>Feeding Only Office Closed</b>
<b>January 01</b>	<b>New Year's Day</b>	<b>Feeding Only Office Closed</b>

## Professional Services Directory



### Leslie Thomson

Western Lessons

& Training

(949) 295-4807

### Silver Stirrup Riding Academy

Beginning English, Western, and Camps

(949) 354-3603

### MKO Performance Horses

Western & Barrel

Training/ Lessons

(949) 351-4706

### Silver Iris Farms

All-Around English & 3-Day Eventing

(949) 395-0932

### Tom Betts-Aranda

Dressage Lessons

(949) 291-8262

### Brave Grace

Equine Inspired Growth and Healing

(949) 371-6240

### New Flight Counseling

Equine Assisted EMDR

(949) 793-9264

### Simple Horses Sense

Equine Assisted Counseling

(714) 468-2512





These last couple of years, with the ups and downs of laminitis, broke both of our spirits. Being confined to a stall and not leaping into a trailer on the weekends was unthinkable for us. Despite the limitations, he still made me laugh everyday with his antics. He learned how to close the mailbox, pick up my hat, and he loved to nuzzle in my hair. I'm relieved that he is no longer in pain and can gallop in the clouds like he was meant to.

## Cosmo

8/9/2001—11/14/2021

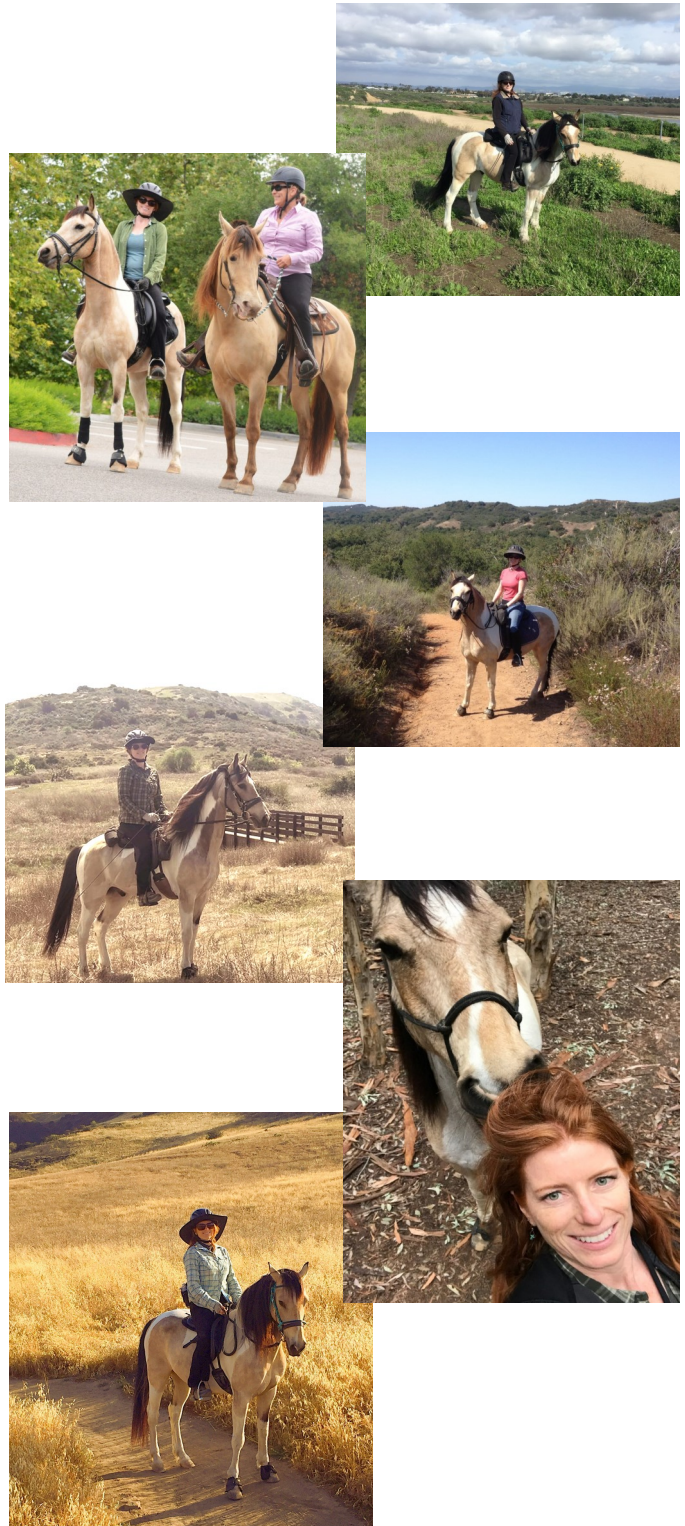


Written By: Leslie Gentry

I want to thank all my SCR friends for your support over the years with my boy, Cosmo. I've had him in my life for 17 years, too short of a time with such an amazing companion. He let me lean on him, physically and emotionally, through all my difficult times. He was my soulmate, my therapist, my exercise buddy, my comedian. His years' long battle with Insulin Resistance and Laminitis is finally over. That stoic little pony gave all his heart and energy to try to pull through. My little 'mountain goat' couldn't climb that mountain anymore. Bless his heart!

Cosmo came into my life when I was looking for a pasture mate for my other horse, Jackson. I was living in Northern Ca and was blessed to have them on an acre at my house. He soon turned into my project pony, as he was not broke to ride and was a little crazy! Once we came to an understanding with each other, we flourished as trail partners. He would go anywhere and do anything, climbing up hills, running along the shore, and galloping along logging roads.

We continued our trail blazing when I moved back to SCR in 2008. We explored all around SoCal with my close trail friends, Haley (with Petey), Rhonda (with Cowboy) and most recently, Kathy (with Buffy). His/my favorite places to go was Newport Ridge and Newport Back Bay.





# LESLIE THOMSON TRAINING



A big shout out to the following young ladies that participated in the 2021 Orange County Interscholastic Equestrian League. Emma on Lana, Erin on Dakota, and Layla on Hunter. Keep up the great work! Emma and Erin competed in Gymkhana, and Layla in Western.





# TOYS FOR TOTS

WE ARE EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE THE 6<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL TOYS FOR TOTS! PLEASE HELP BY DONATING NEW, UNWRAPPED TOYS AND SPORTING GOODS FOR CHILDREN IN NEED THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!

TOYS FOR TOTS IS A PROGRAM THAT DISTRIBUTES TOYS TO LOCAL CHILDREN IN NEED DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON. WE WILL BE COLLECTING TOYS ON SATURDAY DECEMBER 11 FROM 7AM-11AM AT LESLIE THOMSON'S TRAILER! (IF YOU CANNOT MAKE THIS DATE YOU MAY LEAVE YOUR TOYS IN THE SERRANO CREEK RANCH OFFICE, WITH LESLIE THOMSON, OR WITH LAUREN JENNRICH)

PLEASE HELP US GIVE THESE KIDS AN AMAZING CHRISTMAS!

Located at Serrano Creek Ranch

25200 Trabuco Rd, Lake Forest, CA 92630

For more information please contact Blaine Reilly 949-274-0973

