

A pair of black rubber boots with orange soles is shown on a wet, dark surface. One boot is standing upright, while the other is lying on its side. The ground is covered with small puddles of water and scattered orange and yellow leaves, suggesting a rainy day. The text 'Rainy Day' is written in a white, cursive font at the top, and 'Riding Lessons' is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font below it.

*Rainy Day*  
**Riding Lessons**

**By Patricia Reszetylo**

## Rainy Day Riding Lessons

What do you do when the weather won't let you ride – or give those all-important lessons? Here are a pile of ideas, some you'll want to implement before weather strikes, so that you don't have to cancel lessons due to weather issues.

First and foremost, have an inclement weather policy stated up front, so that riders (and their parents) are psychologically prepared.

This might be something along the lines of

"In case of inclement weather, we will still meet, but will do inside activities, such as (list a few you think are interesting). These are educational in nature, and make our students better horsemen."

**Or**

"...lessons will NEVER be cancelled due to weather. If conditions are dangerous (i.e high winds, hail) the students will instead have a barn lesson."

<http://www.chronofhorse.com/forum/showthread.php?328225-Rainy-days-and-ideas-for-ground-lessons>

1. Grooming to win so to speak.. also braiding, bandaging, trimming - like feet, muzzle & bridle path (depending on the ages).
2. She has done tack cleaning, taking apart & putting together a bridle, wrapping, braiding etc. With her students it works well because they are all very willing to learn those types of things. I remember when I was around 9, a pony camp I went to did "horsemanship" in the mornings. We cleaned stalls for two hours, and were happy to do so - parents weren't thrilled when they found out.
3. pretend to be the horse and "canter" courses in the aisle (hay bales and what not). It's how the idea of pace and impulsion finally dawned on me, as well as how to ride broken lines and combinations.
4. "clinic" idea for older kids would be to get some of the footage from recent horse shows and have a "judging" clinic to help students understand what is being evaluated and what different styles and qualities of rides look like.
5. go over parts of horse, tack, clean school tack, etc. We would even have races putting together bridles. Also growing up doing 4-H we routinely had in hand lessons doing showmanship and learning how to best present our horses.
6. general horse conformation lesson
7. a lunging lesson, IIRC, thrown in there and the latest lesson on vaccines/shots, coggins, etc.
8. Braiding, wrapping, clipping, supplements/diets/feeding, basic breeding and or/training questions, etc.

9. horsemanship or general horse care information would be great. Practicing standing or polo wraps would be good, other minor medical care -like how to do a poultice. or even injections for your advanced students.
10. teaching some horsie stretches that students can do before/after riding

<http://www.horseforum.com/horse-talk/rainy-day-lessons-110201/>

1. -Post-it notes with horse parts written on them, stick them on the horse.
2. -Showmanship
3. -Grooming/Clipping, a run through of getting one ready for a show.
4. -Braiding
5. -In-hand trail/obstacle course
6. Cleaning stalls
7. "weigh" a horse using a measuring tape and math, deworm horse, talk about different dewormers and why you might want to change it up
8. Show how to clean and oil the leather tack used in lessons and together cleaned and oiled that tack.
9. Thoroughly brush horse, blanketed and feed it.
10. -Learning to braid
11. - learning to bandage tails ( in prep for bandaging legs)
12. - washing tails
13. - assembling tack
14. - fitting saddles
15. - learning to worm
16. -if there are injuries a demonstration of treating wounds
17. -could have them write their own dressage tests to learn at a later date
18. -set formal goals for the next month 6 months
19. a tack cleaning lesson

<http://myhorseforum.com/threads/horse-camp-rainy-day-activity-ideas.373448/>

1. making courses for them and making them figure out strides and leads on foot
2. Clean tack, talk about different types of tack, talk about breeds, or do any number of informational activities. They could muck stalls
3. Always fun to watch Grand Prix (or other high level) events. Watching high-level riders compete is a good way to learn.
4. going over tack; cleaning tack, water buckets, etc; doing anatomy; depending on how well they understand anatomy you could do correct conformation; with some of the younger/beginner kids we went over breeds; different types of feed; help feed the horses; design a new barn with stall assignments
5. Save feed sacks and let kids decorate them. And do word search puzzles for horse terms, make them yourself with graph paper, and then run off on copier.
6. Or horse trailer is packed.
7. Have a horse show with kid's using broomsticks as horses. Have them jump, barrel race, WTC, etc.

8. Play a "name that breed" game.
9. Dissassemble bridles and teach them to put back together.
10. Ask local tack store if can borrow some bits, and other horse related things, and have a learning period about them. Take care of things so are all returned in good shape.
11. Ask a boarder who does something slightly different with horses, if they will talk briefly.
12. Discuss horse related careers, as so many don't know there are tons of things to do with horses, besides training or riding.
13. Have them write a short story or poem about horses.
14. Have them write down what they would like to know about horses, or would like to learn more about.
15. Have a question and answer session.
16. Get several books on horses, or magazines, and assign each one of them to read something in them, and then talk about what they learned.
17. Set up a scenario, and ask them what would they do? For example, they are trail riding and a dog comes out of nowhere and attacks them. Or their horse has injured themselves, and they are far from help, and horse is bleeding on leg, what do they do?
18. Discuss what one should have in a medical kit?
  1. Show how to use stethoscope, or thermometer AND tell them why string should be attached.
  2. Show them pulse points, and how to towel a colicking horse, or board one to stop colic.
  3. Show them how to string a young horse to tell how tall it will be when grown.
19. Discuss the pros and cons of owning your own horse, or if they all have horses, the things that make a good horse owner. Discuss how much it costs. Discuss the current economy and the effect that has had on horses. Discuss slaughter. Discuss therapy horses.
20. Talk about famous horses of the past. Dan Patch, Greyhound, The 3 Horses that all TB's trace back to, Misty, Seabiscuit, Man 'O War, Doc Bar, or discuss famous horsemen, Tom Bass, George Morris, Bill Horn, or newer ones.
21. Discuss Mustangs, and the tale of Wild Horse Annie, who fought for years to end the killing of them.
22. Discuss what should be in a stable?
23. Show them how to braid gaited horses, if have any with the ribbons, or hunter/jumper braids, or QH WP banding, or how to wrap legs, or tails.
24. play videos of various equestrian comps and specially jumping or something else where there are lots of rails down or points taken off. And discuss informatively why they knocked the rails down or why the points got taken off. And how it should have been done right or better?

Other ideas:

1. Discuss stable safety. Include horse-related issues, human-related issues, and fire safety issues.

**Resources:**

Please visit <http://PatriciaReszetylo.com/rainy-day> for more ideas, and for downloadable, printable worksheets for some activities that are NOT listed here.

**Sources:**

<https://www.horsenation.com/2012/10/30/10-activities-for-barn-brats-on-a-rainysnowy-day/>

<http://www.horsescanhelp.com/2010/06/19/rainy-day-therapeutic-riding-instructors/>