

# The Hidden Cost of Barn Management

Traci Dlin

We all know it takes a village to be competitive in the world of showing horses. I feel that sometimes people don't really understand what that entails. Generally the monthly invoice from a trainer doesn't have a spot detailing "Management Costs"; especially as riders reach higher levels, this sport really is a team effort. From trainers, to riders and owners, grooms, farriers, vets, dentists, chiropractors, nutritionists, the list goes on!

When you are riding with a trainer who has a barn full of horses, somebody is managing them. Somebody is in charge of general communication and organization. This person will know what every horse is doing, every day, and what it needs. The following is a breakdown of some general responsibilities for that person.

## Farrier

The manager will be in charge of knowing when your horse is due to be shod, organizing the scheduling and timing of appointments, and acting as a liaison between the trainer, the vet and the farrier. Also, the manager must adapt for show schedules, the horse is away competing but needs its feet done, the manager must coordinate any special requirements for the horse after shoeing ( eg. if the horse gets sensitive feet afterwards, and requires treatment, etc).

## Vet

It is so important that somebody has a handle on a competition horse's overall health and performance. Someone must put together all the pieces of the puzzle with the goal of having the horse at the top of its game.

## Horse shows

This starts with entries – sounds easy enough! However, there is a lot of chasing down people to get the necessary answers. The manager is chasing the trainer, who is chasing the owners. What horses are going? What classes or division is each horse showing in? How many weeks at Thermal is this horse doing this year? Who is

riding it? Does it have a current negative Coggins test? Are all memberships up to date? Where is the horse's passport? Does the manager have a current credit card number on file for entries? Wait, you want to send cheques?!

Clearly the list of managerial duties goes on and on. In some situations the trainer is also able to manage, or the head groom has taken on the responsibility, but in any case there is a lot to deal with!

Many extra hours are spent on the phone or computer, staying late for the vet, holding your horse for the farrier and running countless errands. Even riders that take care of their own horse will still seek advice from their trainer or their manager regarding different issues. This all adds up to time spent.

So even though there is no management cost, per se, on a rider's monthly invoice, somebody is doing a lot of extra work to keep things running smoothly and to keep the horses happy and healthy!



WE DELIVER! CALL TODAY FOR DETAILS!

*"Families Serving Families"*

## INTRODUCING

**\$5 FRIDAY'S!!!**

**Every Friday Shavings Only \$5 per Bag**

**(Limit 10 shavings per customer, pick up only)**

**&**

**\$5 Discounts on Rotating Select Items**

**NOW STOCKING TRIBUTE FEEDS!**

**FOLLOW US ON  TO SEE ALL NEW STOCK ITEMS AS THEY ARRIVE**

[www.lonestartack.com](http://www.lonestartack.com)

[donna@lonestartack.com](mailto:donna@lonestartack.com)

Call/Text 403-730-9498

Located on Highway 22x just 3 Km East of Stoney Trail