
I just want to learn western!

Posted by Wilsonnw8 - 2007/12/18 21:03

Hi Everyone

Ive been trying to learn western for years and was over the moon when i found a trainer in devon (I live in exeter half the year and oxford the other half) I was so excited but after one lesson my trainer had to quit for personal reasons. Now I have the bug but no one to train me in either oxford or Devon, I dont have my own horse as I wanted to buy one after mastering western. If anyone could help me in any way please let me know!

Thank you

Tilly

Re:I just want to learn western!

Posted by westensaddler - 2007/12/19 00:10

The Mendip Stud are not too far from you are they? <http://www.themendipstud.com/>

Good Luck :)

Re:I just want to learn western!

Posted by zenithhorses - 2007/12/19 00:10

Good luck in your search for a credible western trainer with a lesson horse. They are like gold dust. It's alright having centres of excellence if those same centres have lesson horses; otherwise it will only ever be open to those fortunate people who have a decent horse that can also be taught western. I say that as someone who does have access to a western horse, but I think unless more trainers invest in lesson horses, it will be very difficult to attract new people to western riding.

I really hope that someone on here can help you out as it is a great way to ride.

Re:I just want to learn western!

Posted by VixBQH - 2007/12/19 11:08

We are based in South Warwickshire 25 miles north of Oxford if that is of any help. www.borlandquarterhorses.com.

Re:I just want to learn western!

Posted by Wilsonnw8 - 2007/12/19 12:33

That sounds great! Ive tried mendip stud but they said I would have to book way in advance and they werent sure even then if they could fit me in, Thanks for the website borland quarter horses that sounds great! if anyone can think of anywhere else in dartmoor/devon/exeter Id really appreciate it

Thanks

Re:I just want to learn western!

Posted by Shiny Mole - 2007/12/19 13:29

I have exactly the same problem - live in exeter and my trainer has now moved away (were you using Harmony too?!)
I have heard there is a stud Okehampton way which does lessons...
Do you have a horse you want to have western lessons on? Myabe we could book the mendip in advance and share travel costs?!

Us Western minority have gotta stick together!!

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Re:I just want to learn western!

Posted by John - 2007/12/19 14:34

Thanks for the referrals for lessons and training at The Mendip Stud. We are able to offer lessons on fully western trained quarter horses. We have spent the last few years building up a sting of quality lesson horses. We are a fully licensed, insured and well-supported riding school

Our Instructor is Lisa John - she is WES qualified and has over 7 years teaching experience and is very popular. We would be happy to help where we can.

Shane Borland is a regular clinician here as are other trainers and great clinicians. We will be hosting over 50 days of clinics this year – 5 shows and one western week. So there is plenty to keep the enthusiast occupied.

Earlier this year when it did decided to stop raining we were contacted by many wishing to book lessons – we had a backlog of customers due to the appalling weather. Despite having five lesson horses we became full very quickly and could not fit people in as quickly as they or we would have liked - we gave a waiting time of about 3 to 5 weeks at the peak time. Perhaps this is to what Tilly is referring. We tried to accommodate everyone as soon as was possible. We try our best to offer a first class service to those in the West Country and the wider Western community at large. If Tilly would be kind enough to contact us we will be more than happy to help where we can. 01934 751258

Thanks.

John

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Re:I just want to learn western!

Posted by Wilsonnw8 - 2007/12/19 15:10

Haha yes I was with Harmony! on Cammie! that would be wonderful if we could, it would be nice to meet someone with a similar passion for riding! What a coincidence!
email me if you like on njw211@ex.ac.uk

Thanks

Tilly

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Re:I just want to learn western!

Posted by Wilsonnw8 - 2007/12/19 15:11

Haha yes I was with Harmony! on Cammie! that would be wonderful if we could, it would be nice to meet someone with a similar passion for riding! What a coincidence!
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Thanks

Tilly

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Re:I just want to learn western!

Posted by alexsmum - 2008/01/03 09:24

hi i have a simlair problem re lessons. i cant justify 4 hr round trips to box my horse to the nearest trainer. so i have booked some annual leave and am attending the wes three day clinic at moreton morrel in Aapril insteD!IM SOOOO LOOKING FORWARD TO IT!1

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Re:I just want to learn western!

Posted by hunterrookie - 2008/01/03 21:51

Good for you - it's great fun and a brilliant way to gain confidence/knowledge. I have hijacked madam for the weekend from my OH - I ride western a lot at home but have developed some seriously bad habits which need knocking out before I dare take her in the ring in front of our no 1 critic! Bring it on!!!

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Re:I just want to learn western!

Posted by campbh - 2008/01/03 22:06

Wheehee! I sent off my application today - really looking forward to it now I know I can take the leave - so long as I'm not parked up on a waiting list! I'm hoping to bring my TB (here's hoping we don't pogo off every wall, get stuck only on 'very large and very fast' circles for the 3 days and disgrace ourselves totally...?)

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Re:I just want to learn western!

Posted by Crystal Tips - 2008/02/20 12:08

Have you tried asking Janet Weston at The Western Department, Shabbington, near Thame for ideas? She has a great Western Tack shop there and is a good contact for people in the Bucks/Oxon area.

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Re:I just want to learn western!

Posted by Cooperman - 2008/02/21 07:32

Hi

Jeannine March comes over from Germany about once every 4-6wks and gives me and a few friends a lesson in Aylesbury, not too far from Oxford depending which side you are. I'm sure she would come over to you when she's here or you could box over to us. Also there is a yard in High Wycombe offering western lessons on fully trained QH's, they are Warwick western performance horses or something. I can give you contact detals for both, just drop me an e-mail.:)

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Re:I just want to learn western!

Posted by scotty - 2008/02/21 16:49

Following this thread I note that Warwick western, near Beaconsfield, has been mentioned. Funnily enough I came across them just today via an ad in Horse and hound. Does anybody on here know anything about them? Until I saw the ad I hadn't heard of them and I've been researching Wes for some time. I want Wes lessons and they seem to be the nearest to me but I'd rather travel further if I don't get a recommendation (ie, I'm not going there 'cold' as I've heard good things about places further away so I'd rather go where I know it's ok than pick something nearby just for the sake of miles on the clock!)

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Re:I just want to learn western!

Posted by Cooperman - 2008/02/21 22:04

Hi - I mentioned the Warwick western place near Beaconsfield but again I have only seen it advertised. I'm afraid I haven't been there so can't comment on the horses or teaching. It's run by Leanne Warwick Drake and I believe she does the teaching, that's all I know though. Sorry, might be worth meeting them or having a look round if it's not too far though.

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Re:I just want to learn western!

Posted by Horsley - 2008/02/24 15:22

I share the frustration of not being able to find a trainer for those of us who are horseless. I am South Leicestershire based and I desperately want to find a good western riding instructor that comes complete with horse! I noticed someone from Borland Quarter Horses said they did lessons, but on their website it says for people with their own horses only? Does anyone have any suggestions? I only want to drive ideally within an hours radius. There seems to be such a big demand for western now, why are there so few trainers prepared to use a horse to teach with? Thanks.

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Re:I just want to learn western!

Posted by scotty - 2008/02/25 17:52

I think the problem is not just finding a Wes trainer, but finding a good one who really knows their stuff. Anybody can set themselves up as a 'trainer' but it doesn't mean they are any good or have any real empathy with horses. I think this needs addressing by this (wes) community because as wes riding grows in popularity more English riders and even non-riders will be keen to have a go.

Not wanting to throw a spanner in the works here, but as someone new to wes and having been researching the scene I've been warned to be very careful where I go for lessons as there are some bad trainers with no real expertise in Wes. Experienced English riders who know horses would soon suss them out, but that wouldn't help real novices or beginners who wouldn't know any better.

Those new to English riding without their own horse often only have access - unless more fortunate - to trainers at the lower levels whereas there is an argument for having the most experienced and best trainers teach beginners. The good thing about wes is that, from what I can see, you can actually go to top people such as Shane Borland and Lee Rutter et al, when you are at the bottom and just starting out. This is great but there don't seem to be enough of them to go round and, as has been flagged up, there don't seem enough who can offer lesson horses.

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Re:I just want to learn western!

Posted by Moose - 2008/02/25 19:39

I agree-being horseless I have no idea which trainer to go with and when I think I've found one, they don't provide a lessons horse! Can anyone recommend a good midlands based instructor who provides a lessons horse? I noticed scotty's comment about some WES instructors not being that good which concerns me-I want to make sure I'm not wasting my money or my time! Ideally within an hour of North Warks if possible. Please PM me if you have any suggestions, unless it's ok to post here! Thanks.

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Re:I just want to learn western!

Posted by Angie - 2008/03/05 11:22

I also needed to buy a Western horse so that I could start having lessons and ended up with a youngster, so both of us are novices...not clever really..had to send her away for training very painful and expensive; so hoping now to search and find a freelance instructor to come to me. If anyone has a horse or would like to borrow mine at my place I have the facilities not the instructor let me know maybe if we can all get together if local enough things can start to improve for new comers! Anyone in Surrey/Hamps?

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Re:I just want to learn western!

Posted by Belle - 2008/03/05 13:30

Just to answer an earlier question about 'why don't trainers provide a horse they can teach on'... We have a training yard (in Leicestershire) and we do actually have one horse that would be great to teach lessons on however, we already pay a 'freelance instructors' insurance and one that covers us to look after and train other people's horses - they cost approx £450 per year. We have looked into being able to teach off our one suitable horse but have found that the first band on the insurance is 1 - 6 horses and will cost approx £1500 / £2000 per year so it's just not viable without having more than one lesson horse. And that's not taking into account that we would have to pay to be a licensed riding school (which is a yearly fee) and be council inspected and have health and safety checks and the list goes on. We would love to be able to teach people without them having to have their own horse but just can't cover the costs without becoming a fully fledged, 6 horse teaching centre :(

From the midlands I would suggest that the nearest place that has their own lesson horses would maybe be Sovereign in March, Cambs.

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Re:I just want to learn western!

Posted by elkay - 2008/03/05 15:12

Hello,

Bruce Lawrence near Malvern has a lovely schoolmaster lessons horse, and that's probably only an hour from North Warwickshire? He's about 20 mins from M5 junction 7. I enjoy and get a lot from a lesson with Bruce and "Dude" even though my own horse is pretty well trained.

<http://www.equineresources.co.uk/>

Good luck!

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Re:I just want to learn western!

Posted by pleasurehorsejunkie - 2008/03/05 15:14

there are a few people in and around the midlands, who you might go 2 would depend on the level you are aiming for message me privatley if you would like to know more

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Re:I just want to learn western!

Posted by hondagirl - 2008/03/05 16:11

hi, from the north-ish midlands the best place to aim for with lesson horses has to be sovereign,fantastic facilites and a great trainer. speaking from first hand experience,you will not come away dissapointed! :)

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Re:I just want to learn western!

Posted by rosie - 2008/03/05 18:02

B) hi, i would also suggest lauren jolly in notts. her website is www.laurenjquarterhorses.co.uk i think.
rosie

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Re:I just want to learn western!

Posted by Belle - 2008/03/05 18:41

Just be sure to check that whoever you use has appropriate insurance and riding school council license etc... Good luck :)

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