

Equine Assisted Occupational Therapy (Hippotherapy Approach)

Minimum age: 2 years old

Fees: 130\$ /hr individual, 80\$ /30 min individual, 250\$ evaluation fee for the first appointment

In Equine Assisted Occupational Therapy, clients first go through an evaluation process based on their level of functioning. A treatment plan is established based on their needs to achieve functional objectives. The horse is used to engage sensory, neuromotor and cognitive systems as well as social skills, increasing client motivation and participation. Examples of objectives utilizing this approach are acquiring / improving the walking pattern, maintaining the sitting position, increasing postural control and tone, improving self-regulation, daily autonomy and functioning at school.

Registration process

Space in the program is limited, and spots are only reserved once the registration forms are received.

Once an application has been processed, we will email or contact you by phone to confirm your place in the program. If the time slot that you have requested is not available or you have made a choice that is not appropriate, our office will call and try to fit you into another appropriate slot.

Forms must be completed and signed on an annual basis. It is the client/guardian's responsibility to ensure that all necessary emergency information (i.e. medical and special needs) has been disclosed. For the protection, safety, and therapeutic benefit of each client, no one will be allowed to participate if their forms are not current.

Cancellation policy:

We ask that if you must cancel an appointment, you do so with as much notice as possible so the therapist can organize the horses, volunteers, and employees accordingly. **Cancellation and No Show fees are the sole responsibility of the client and must be paid in full before the client's next appointment. Please note that such fees will not be covered by your insurance.**

- **More than 48 hrs notice:** Clients/guardians may cancel their appointment with more than 48 hrs notice without incurring a penalty.
- **More than 24 hrs notice:** Appointments cancelled with less than 48 hrs notice but with at least 24 hrs notice will pay a 75\$ fee for a 50-minute appointment, or a 40\$ fee for a 30-minute appointment
- **Less than 24 hrs notice:** Those absent for their appointment, without notice, or with less than 24hrs notice will have to pay their full appointment fee. After two missed appointments without notice (no-shows), the client could lose the time slot that was reserved for them or be refused service moving forward

Please note that there are no exceptions to the notification deadlines and cancellation fees, including circumstances out of the client's control.

Late arrivals:

- Appointments are run on a tight schedule and must start and end promptly to avoid disruption to concurrent programming. As such, clients must arrive at least 10 minutes before the scheduled start of their session to have time to settle in, use the washroom and be dressed appropriately to ride. It is not guaranteed that clients arriving after the start of their therapy session will be mounted on the horse

Payment and receipts policy

- Clients in equine-assisted therapy (hippotherapy) pay after each therapy session
- Payment is accepted by cash, cheque, credit card or e-transfer and is due before the next session.
- NSF Cheque Policy: There is a \$25 fee charged for all NSF cheques
- Receipts are issued after receipt of payment for each session in occupational therapy
- A year-end summary receipt for tax purposes can be issued on request. A 20\$ administration fee will apply
- Should you require a replacement receipt, a \$20 administration fee will apply

Discharge of clients

Équi-Libre strives to provide clients, volunteers, and employees with the safest possible conditions. Acceptance and continued participation in our program depend on volunteers' availability and suitable horses. We must be able to accommodate the client safely. Équi-Libre adheres to precautions and contraindications for participants established by the Canadian Therapeutic Riding Association (CanTRA) and the American Hippotherapy Association (AHA). Équi-Libre retains the right to refuse services to clients we cannot safely accommodate. Clients may be asked to leave the program for several reasons, including but not limited to the following:

- The development of a contraindicated condition or the deterioration of a condition to the point that the activity or therapy is no longer beneficial and could harm the participant or where safety for the client or others has become a concern. (see the list of contra-indications below)
- Weight gain above 180 pounds
- A display of threatening behaviour, animal abuse, the abuse of children or adults, verbal abuse of volunteers or others, alcohol or drug use on the grounds, or behaviour that is disruptive to the normal functioning of the program
- Two (2) or more missed therapy sessions without advance notification
- Ongoing inappropriate language or behaviour, rudeness to staff, volunteers, etc.

All dismissals will be a collaborative process involving the client and parent/guardian, and occupational or physical therapist. A written reason for dismissal will be recorded in the client's file. The grounds for dismissal will be discussed privately with the client and/or parent/guardian.

List of contraindications

The following conditions may be considered contraindications to mounted activities and, if present, may not be safe or beneficial in a riding setting:

- Fused spine / internal rigid spinal fusion dev.
- Harrington Rod
- Scoliosis of 30 degrees or greater
- Spinal cord paralysis above the mid-thoracic area
- Spondylothesis (vertebral dislocation with acute pain)
- Prolapsed or herniated intervertebral disc
- Subluxation, dislocation, or degeneration of the hip
- Osteoporosis and/or history of fractures
- Acute arthritis
- An indwelling catheter
- Experiences vertigo or dizziness
- Open pressure sores and/or wounds on weight-bearing body-parts
- Increased blood pressure
- Heart condition or ever experienced chest pain

Keep Équi-Libre informed

All clients must have complete and up-to-date documents on-site, which must be updated annually.

Changes to medical status must be shared with a therapist immediately, preferably before arriving at the Centre. Depending on the individual situation, clients may still be accommodated. However, in some cases, clients cannot safely be mounted due to the increased risk of injury. This includes but is not limited to:

- Onset of seizures / recent seizure activity
- Changes in medications or dosages
- Injuries, including abrasions, pressure sores, and bruising on weight-bearing areas
- Minor and major medical procedures, particularly where any type of anesthetic is used
- Behavior changes given these often reflect physiological changes taking place at an otherwise non-symptomatic level, especially for clients who are non-verbal



Privacy policy

We collect information about your family to provide the best and most appropriate care for you or your child. All personal information is processed and stored in a secure database with access controls. We do not sell or rent your information to any person or organization. Information is only given to those directly involved in providing a service to your child or as required by law.