



SUNFLOWER FARMS

SUNFLOWER SEEDS

January 1, 2008

Happy New Year! 2008 promises to be a year of international equestrian competition at the Summer Olympics, an election here at home, and what is turning out to be a cold and icy winter. Good luck with your New Year's resolutions to those of you who like to greet a new year with that traditional burst of optimism.

We have some new boarders here this month. A warm welcome goes out to Lynn Zbierski and her horse Dodger, and to Maureen Boyle with Hudson. We also welcome Charlie Carroll's aptly named new horse Grande Jake as an official boarder.

Because of the icy conditions, the landscaping crew has been working nearly around the clock on snow days to keep the walkways clear and safe for horses, pedestrians, and drivers. We've been plowing or breaking up the ice where possible, and putting down salt to keep paths clear. The salt we're using is a magnesium chloride and potash mixture which has the double benefit of being environmentally friendly, and not drying out our horses' hooves.

Thanks to everyone who came to our holiday party! We hope you had a wonderful time. It was really great to meet the families of so many boarders and barn staff!

Both Bristol and Dr. Koehler will be out to de-worm on the 14th of this month. Please sign up on the sheets located in the barns, and cross your name off if you do not want your horse de-wormed so we know you've seen the sheet.

We'd like to reiterate one of the most important rules for our indoor arenas. Lunging is fine in all of the indoor arenas – just check with the trainer first if there's a lesson in progress. However, if your horse is galloping around uncontrollably or leaping and bucking repeatedly please find a way to get him under control or leave the arena, and never use the indoors for turnout. When the horses go plunging around, especially on a small circle, their hooves can go down to the base and tear out little pockets. Horses on turnout also dig holes into the base while running around. Over time, these little holes become big holes, and the footing becomes unsafe for riding. This has already been a problem in all of our indoors, particularly Arena 3 where even footing is of paramount importance for horses maneuvering over jumps. Please protect all of our horses' legs – don't let horses run like crazy on the lunge and don't use arenas for turnout.



Finally, some wonderful news – Gregorio called Phil on Sunday, January 6th to ask when he can come back to work! He's feeling much better, and is eating and beginning to walk. He wanted to thank everybody so much for your care, support, and prayers. Gregorio, we miss you and we'll see you soon!!