



## **PARD Therapeutic Riding Program Report 2021**

Although PARD was able to provide therapeutic riding lessons for the 2021 season, our program had to be modified to accommodate all the governing bodies regulations regarding COVID protocols.

The instructors agreed that a 'soft' start to lessons was the best approach as we had no idea how many volunteers would be coming to the program. It was agreed that no new riders would be evaluated for the 2021 season.

Both the Tuesday and Thursday lessons began with only 2 riders on the first night of lessons. One rider at the 6pm time slot and one rider at the 7pm time slot. This allowed time between riders coming and going, avoiding potential crowding in the parking lot area. Parents/caregivers were asked to remain in their vehicles during the lessons.

Eventually the Tuesday program was able to provide lessons to 6 riders with a total of 9 lesson nights. Thursday was able to provide lessons to 5 riders with a total of 12 lesson nights. Tuesday lessons had enough volunteers for the reduced number of riders throughout the 9 weeks of lessons. The Thursday program was not so fortunate and struggled to maintain enough volunteers for the 12 weeks of lessons.

As PARD was not able to provide lessons to all the riders from the pre-Covid year, there were some very disappointed riders and parents. Most parents and caregivers were very understanding of the hurdles PARD faced but there were some parents who had a difficult time understanding why PARD had the protocols in place.

Overall, it was wonderful to have lessons up and running once again after having to be completely closed during the previous year.

Kathy Carruthers  
Program Director/Instructor  
PARD Therapeutic Riding