

ART JURY CORNER

Horse Keeping

Along with citrus groves, chaparral and eucalyptus forests, the pastoral vistas of grazing horses lends a distinctive rural character to our community. Many people, who are not equestrians themselves, enjoy seeing the horses and riders in our community and view this as an emblematic symbol of a rural community. If you enjoy equestrian sports, being able to keep horses on your property and ride our marvelous trail system is one of the distinctive advantages that the Covenant offers. However, the keeping of horses within the Covenant carries responsibilities. A horse keeping facility that could be an asset to the community can be a community nuisance if it is not properly set up and maintained.

The Art Jury is charged with reviewing applications to keep horses within the Covenant. As it does with all applications, the Art Jury looks at the aesthetics of the proposal, but a part of the aesthetic review of the project is to determine if the design is one that will be conducive to proper management thereby avoiding future aesthetic problems. For instance, inadequate room for the storage of feed within a building results in the storage of feed outdoors (often covered by a blue tarp), which is an aesthetic problem.

When planning a facility for your horses, please keep in mind that the facility should be proportional to the size of the property as well as the number of horses. As with all new structures, the Art Jury wants to have stables that are not too visually prominent or draw undue attention to themselves. Have your designer create a stable that blends with the rest of the property and draws its distinction from quality design and materials rather than trying to create a "statement" based on sheer volume.

In addition to its aesthetic review, the Art Jury is also responsible for ensuring compliance with the objective standards of the Rancho Santa Fe Regulatory Code, which among other things stipulates minimum lot size, and minimum separations between horse keeping facilities and neighboring homes; applicants need to submit evidence of compliance with those standards. If you are contemplating keeping horses on a property that does not already have horse keeping facilities, pick up a copy of the animal keeping regulations within Chapter 40 of the Regulatory Code available at the Association office.

As an aid to members who are contemplating keeping horses, the Association has retained a horse keeping consultant who is an expert on the subject of horses and what it takes to keep them healthy and happy. The Association's horse consultant can assist Covenant members, free of charge, with all manner of practical considerations ranging from feed storage and pasture size to fly control. Please call the Association office for the name and number of our horse keeping consultant and make an appointment with her to come out to your property and give you some guidance on your plans. If you have any procedural questions regarding the application process, Art Jury schedule, or Regulatory Code requirements, call the Association and ask to speak with one of the planners.

After you have your horses, please be a good neighbor and maintain your facility in a neat, clean (odor free) manner. When maintained in proper condition, the appearance of a quality horse facility continues Rancho Santa Fe's rural legacy and enhances the Covenant's unique quality that we all enjoy.