

A HOTEL FOR THE HORSES, TOO

Where can I go fishing *and* ride my horse?

Meadow View Ranch & Guesthouse has the answer.

Just five miles from Bennett Spring State Park, Meadow View offers boarding for your horses so you can fish at the park in the morning and ride their meadows when you've caught your limit. Not only can you take your horses, but other pets are welcomed as well. You can ride on the property or trailer a short distance to many close-by government lands. (If you're interested in team roping, team penning, rodeos or barrel racing, McNail Multipurpose Indoor Arena in Lebanon is the place to go. Visit www.mcnaillarena.com for more information.)

"I have lots of pets," says owner Heidi MacQueen. "I wouldn't want to leave home without my pets, so I can empathize with people who want to vacation with theirs."

But, if guests don't bring their own horses or pets, there is plenty of opportunity to "borrow" one and help with the chores. Families get their introduction to farm life at the ranch by helping bottle-feed the calves.

"Dairy cows aren't always good mothers, so we buy them at 1 day old and bottle-feed them until they are ready for a new home."

Heidi also takes in neglected or unwanted horses that she nurses back to health to become much-loved fixtures at the ranch. So far, they have 13 horses, including a miniature horse and a donkey. And she's acquired two new piglets, which she named Porkchop and Ham.



Located five miles from Bennett Spring State Park, Meadow View Ranch & Guesthouse offers clients the chance to stay in inviting accommodations and board their horses as well.

Tired of the rat race and traffic in busy Riverside, Calif., Heidi and her husband, Craig, discovered the 200-acre ranch while visiting Craig's brother in Lebanon.

"We were amazed at the beautiful landscape and friendly people here," says Heidi. "After we built a small cabin for my parents to stay in when they visited from Germany, some of Craig's pilot friends visited and asked, 'Can we come visit and stay with our horses?'"

A year later the Web site was up and it became a horse motel.

The self-contained guest cabin features a long front porch with a peaceful, breathtaking view of a pasture of wildflowers. The cabin accommodates four people, has a fully-equipped kitchen, a dining area, living room and bathroom. Local TV/VCR, radio/CD player and heat and air conditioning are all provided for guests' comfort. The private patio overlooks forests, ponds and pastures and has an outside sitting area complete with a gas BBQ. Dog trollies hang between the trees for a nice shaded area to chain up your pet when you leave. Wildlife, including deer and turkey, abound in the secluded woods.

The studio apartment above the two barn stalls is appropriately called "The Hayloft." It also sleeps four and features the same amenities as the cabin.

At the end of the day, guests can be pampered with a massage, wrap or foot reflexology at the onsite day spa.

"We will be expanding our day spa in 2006 to include body scrubs, hot rock massages, sauna and therapeutic massages," MacQueen said.