



TOVIE VAN NES

# Newbies just horsing around

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Sun Country

Throw out your copy of *Horses for Dummies*.

Now there's something even better — a crash course designed for people who love horses but know nothing about them.

The pet project of local businesswoman and horse lover Tovie Van Nes, "Just Horsing Around" is a six-week course designed for people who want to learn everything about owning, caring for and riding horses.

She got the idea in April, when she attempted to lease a horse by placing an ad "suitable for beginners," and the response was overwhelming.

"I got so many calls from people who knew nothing about horses, but wanted to learn," she says.

**"The problem for most horse lovers is that they don't know where to turn to get started."**

Tovie Van Nes, who runs Just Horsing Around, a course for beginners

"They want to know everything there is to know about horses, from riding to ownership," Van Nes says.

"However, the problem for most horse lovers is that they don't know where to turn to get started."

The program "begins with the very basics — parts of the horse, walks, trots and canters, and conformation."

Having grown up in the city, Van Nes had no horse experience of her own until she volunteered with the Calgary Handicapped Riding Association in her late 20s.

When the association fell through, the

horses had nowhere to go and Van Nes agreed to take one on.

She quickly learned horses are a lot of work, and the learning curve is steep.

"If you don't have the skills and experience," Van Nes says, "a horse is a really scary undertaking."

"I started from scratch and it took 20 years to get here."

The year-round program consists of seven one-on-one sessions with Van Nes.

For more information, go online to [www.justhorsearound.blogspot.com](http://www.justhorsearound.blogspot.com) or call 508-3012.