

# 2025 VDRC Survey

40 responses

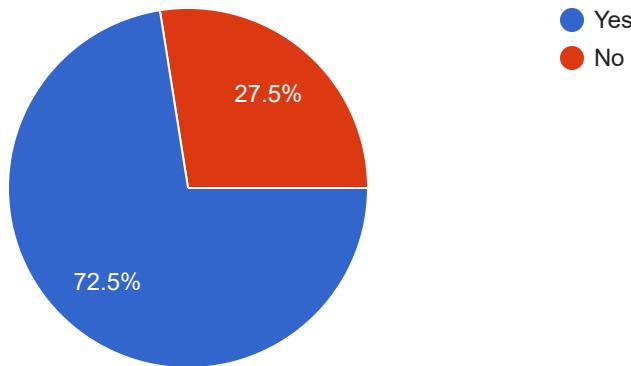
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## Member Engagement & Community

Are you a member at Vernon District Riding Club (VDRC)?

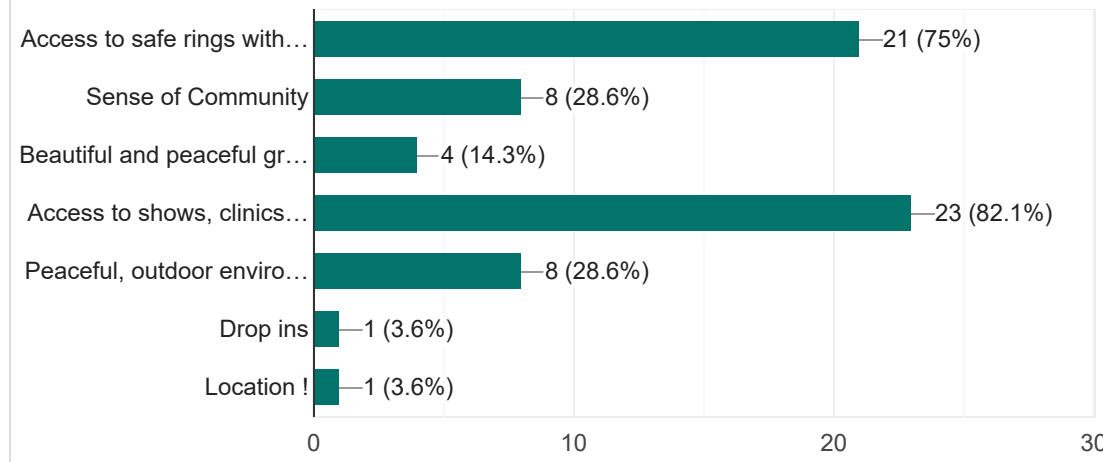
40 responses



If Yes: What do you value most about being a member of the club?

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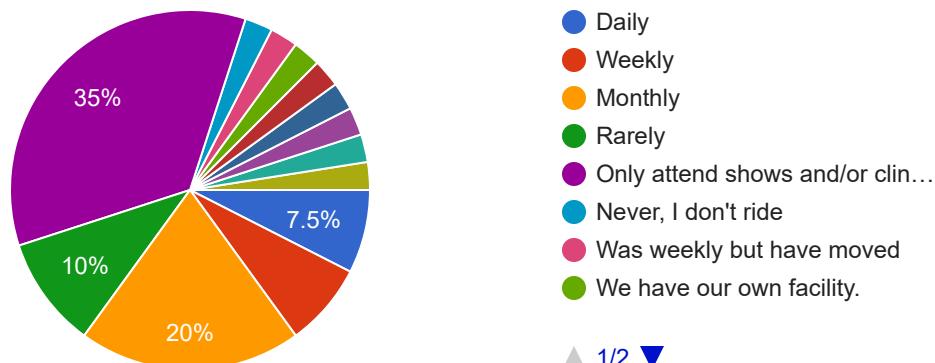
28 responses



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### How often do you use the facility?

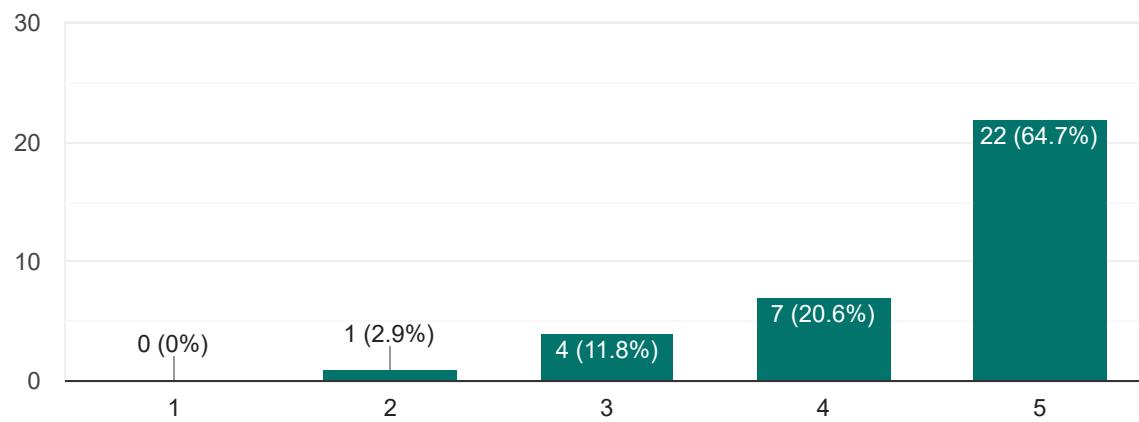
40 responses


 1/2 

### Do you feel your membership fees provide good value for the facilities and events offered? (5 good value, 1 poor value)

 Copy

34 responses



What membership benefits would you like to see added? (Currently members receive discounts on stabling at clinics and shows and first opportunity for stabling at events)

17 responses

Discount if trailering in or on clinic fees - a rate for members and a rate for non members

There should not be a haul in fee for members at shows

Small discount on entry fees, classes/awards specifically for VDRC members

No haul in fee for members.

Social events

Seems fair for the price.

No fees to be a coach @ VDRC

There is no benefit to being a VDRC coach. It is expensive enough to keep up on all the credentials necessary to be licenced. Value your coaches & the new members they can bring in.

No haul in fee for members at shows

I am happy with what I receive

I'm happy with that

I feel VDRC does a great job

These are great benefits

More for members, less for coaches

I really enjoy coming to the club

I think I get excellent value for my membership and wouldn't expect anything extra without an increase in fees so I am happy with the status quo.

Discount at a feed store and bbqs

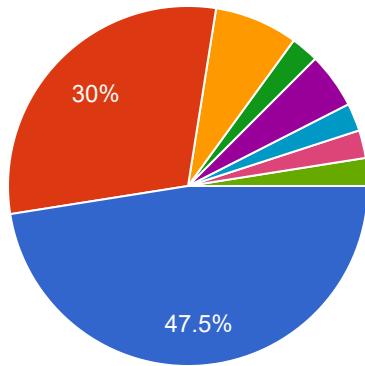
Love the discounts at shows and clinics





## How welcoming and inclusive do you find events at the facility?

40 responses

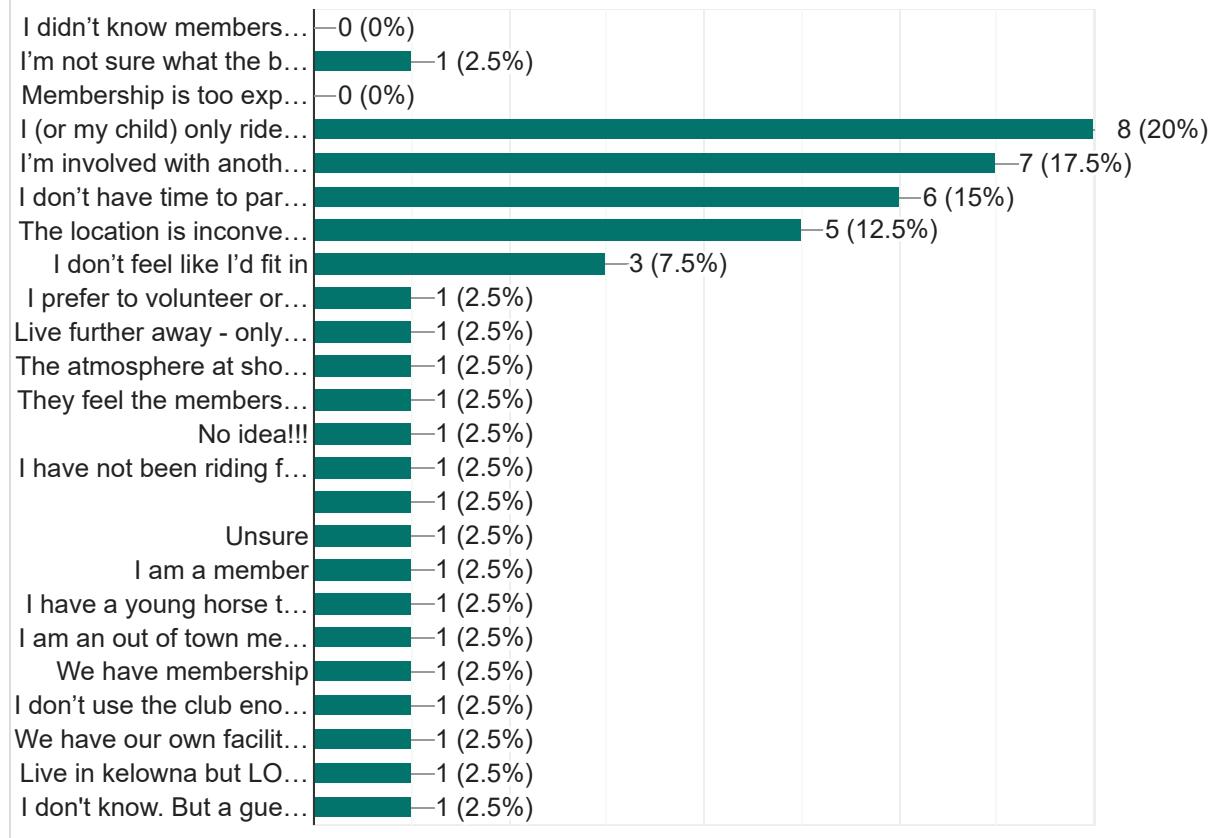


- Very welcome and included
- Mostly welcome
- Neutral/unsure
- Occasionally unwelcome or somewhat excluded
- Often unwelcome or isolated
- Coaches can be very irritable.
- I have not had any experience with this facility but know peo...
- The events are very focussed...



## What are the main reasons you (or people you know) have not become members of our club?

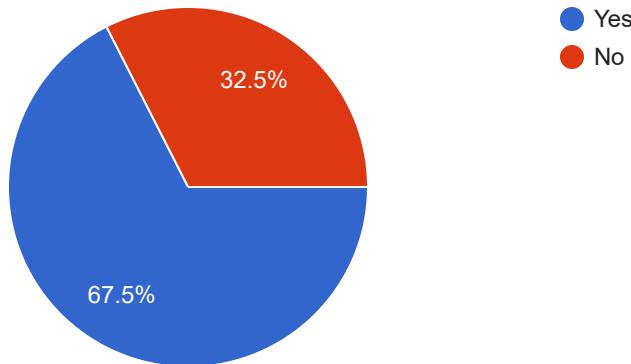
40 responses



Would you be interested in a dual membership with VDRC and Kelowna Riding Club if offered?

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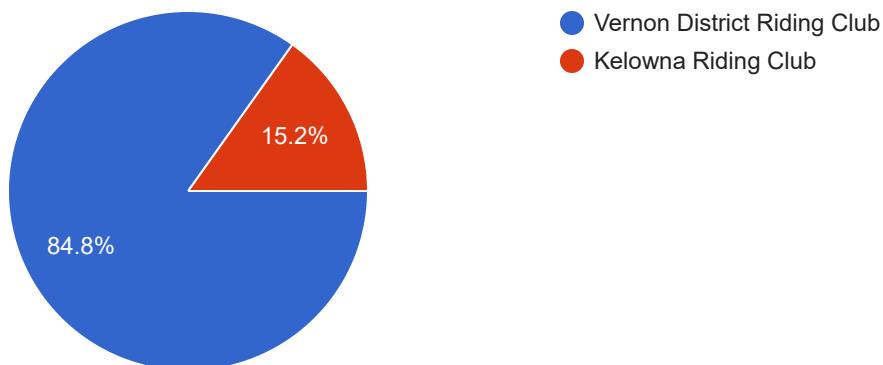
40 responses



If yes, which would be your primary club?

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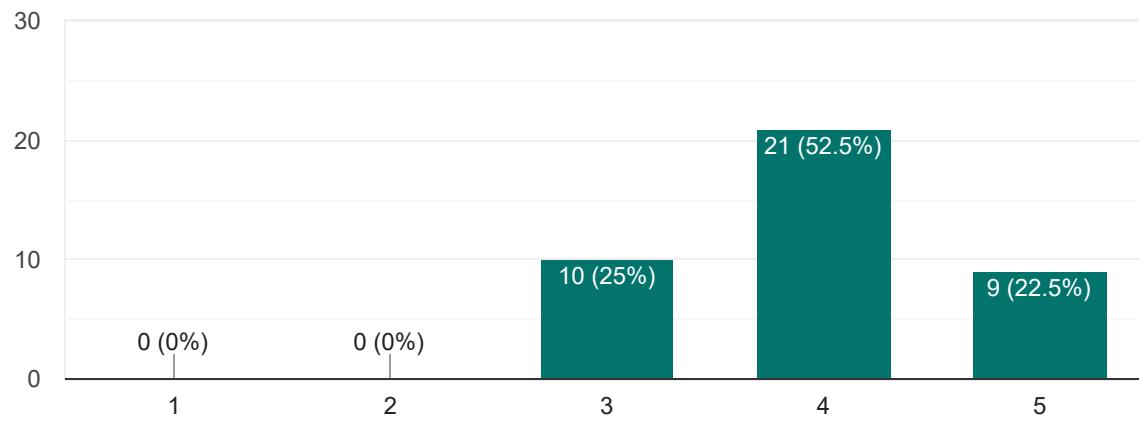
33 responses



The club communicates clearly, regularly, and keeps me well informed. (5 strongly agree, 1 strongly disagree)

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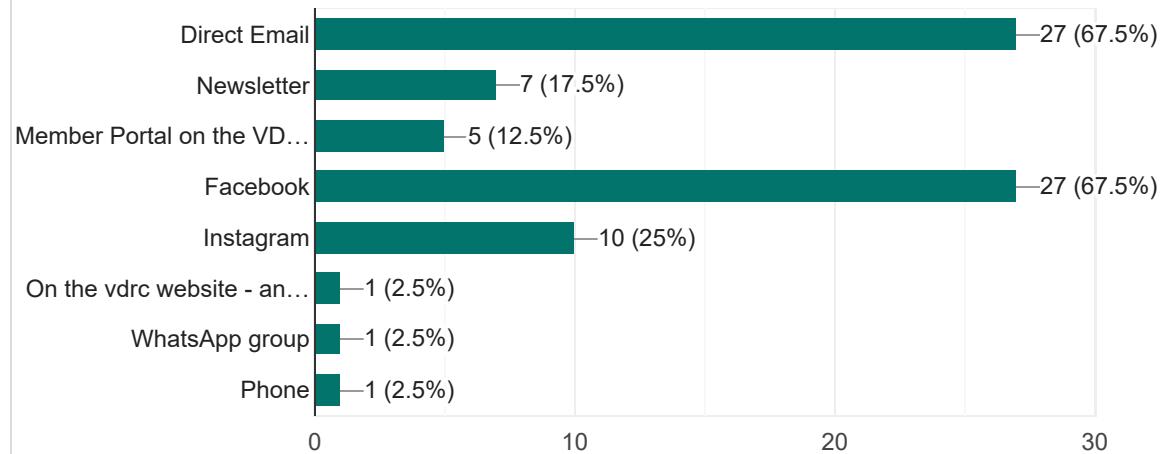
40 responses



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What is the best way to communicate with you about VDRC information, events, decision-making etc.? (Pick 2)

40 responses



Are there any policies or rules at VDRC you feel need clarification, updating, or removal, or things that are unclear?

13 responses

No

Unknown

Dogs being on leash at all times needs to be pushed harder. Way too many off leash dogs at events or entering rings when people are riding.

Dogs!!!!

Keep your dogs @ home or on a leash all the time. (Follow rules for the safety of all)

Horse shots need removal

Why is there a coaching fee when there are coaches giving lessons there that are not on the approved list? That is unfair to the coaches that do pay to be on the approved list.

If show organizers are paid, perhaps they should not publicly COMPLAIN. It's very off-putting. Perhaps have rules or expectations re this.

no

Not that I can think of...

What types of riding are not allowed

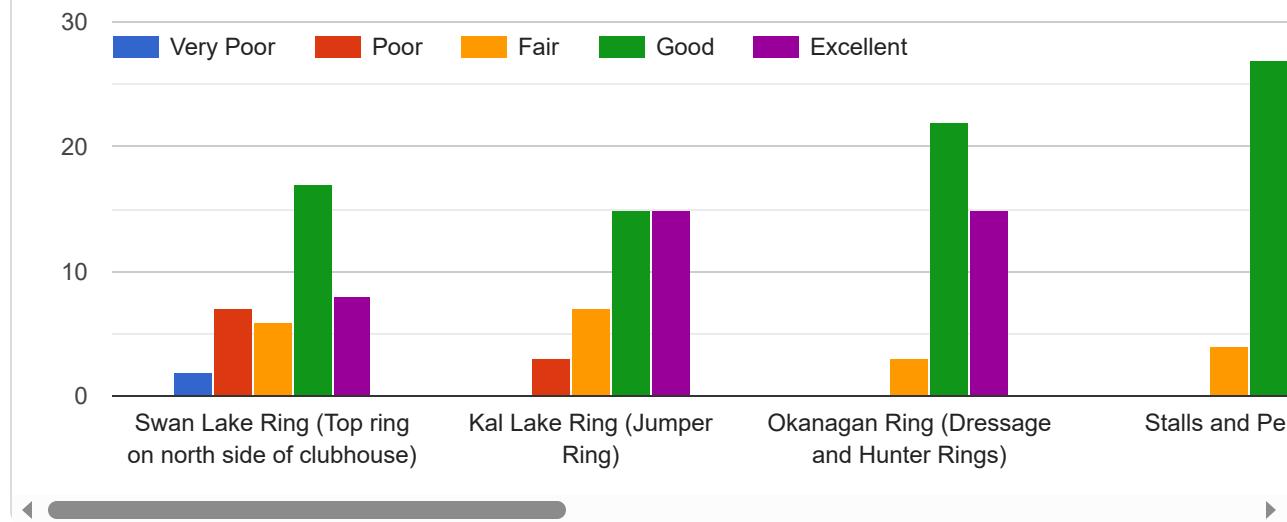
Jumping alone under age



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## Groundskeeping & Facilities

How would you rate the condition and maintenance of the following areas?



Do you have any concerns or suggestions regarding groundskeeping, equipment, or facility upkeep?

25 responses

More fake flowers around dressage practice ring

Footing in the jumping arena

The club always looks great!

Parking can be a challenge. But I'm not sure there's anything that can be done about it

Would like to see clubhouse winterized to allow for events to be held there such as AGM and other gatherings

The drag looks like it is not set properly. My guess is it would be contributing to the deterioration of the footing in all rings

Adding showers to the clubhouse or an outbuilding in future renovation plans would be well-received by many of us who stay onsite for 3-4 day shows/clinics.

Better footing in the round pen for lungeing; it very slick in the spring.

Adding mesh/wire fencing around the perimeter to keep neighbour dogs out would be lovely. As stated above, dogs enter rings without handlers way too often and it is a safety issue. (Dogs from neighbouring properties being the worst and will get somebody hurt one day).

Jump clock for competition & new jumps light weight aluminum for easier moving on the wish list.

The footing in the arenas is excellent, I heard that there was talk of replacing the footing in the jumper ring, I feel this is an unnecessary expense

None

No concerns really, need jumper jump refresh, kal ring needs help

They do an excellent job

Lawn mower

Emma did a fabulous job this year!! The footing is a bit hard currently but has been great at other times.

1. Swan lake ring needs an over haul!

2. The harrows can sometimes make the depth of footing uneven if turned to tightly and will cause problems in the long term in all rings

new footing would be excellent.

No it has always been well looked after.

Emma does a fabulous job love the green clubhouse

Nice to have dust co trol on the road in before/during events it gets very dusty/bad for horses and riders

No - I contacted Emma about a broken covered pen we discovered and she indicated she would fix ASAP.

It's all great.

It tricky to manage the automatic sprinkler system when you aren't there on a daily basis. I would be interested in volunteering for that in between events next year.

Schedule

The watering of the jumper ring (overwatered during rainy days). Water pools into ring

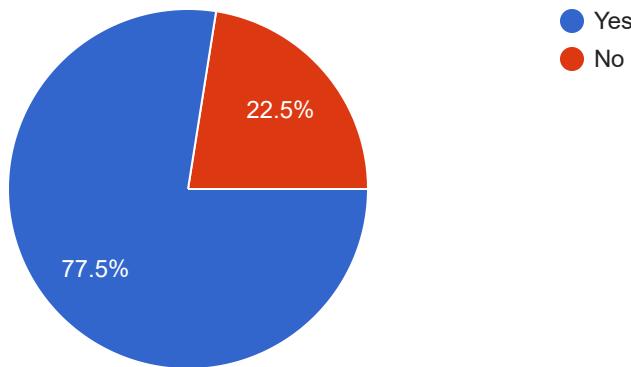


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## Horse Shows, Clinics, and Programs

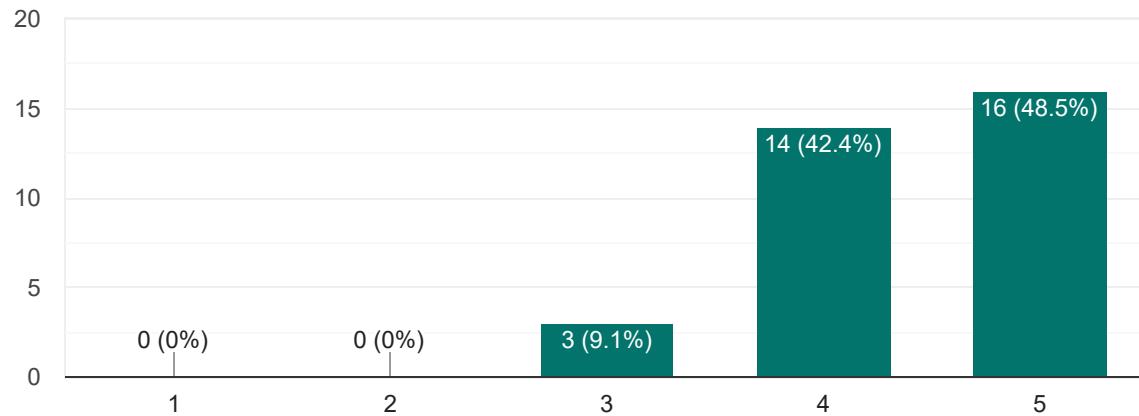
Have you participated or attended any horse shows hosted by VDRC this year?

40 responses



If yes, how would you rate your overall experience at our horse shows? (5 Excellent, 1 Poor)

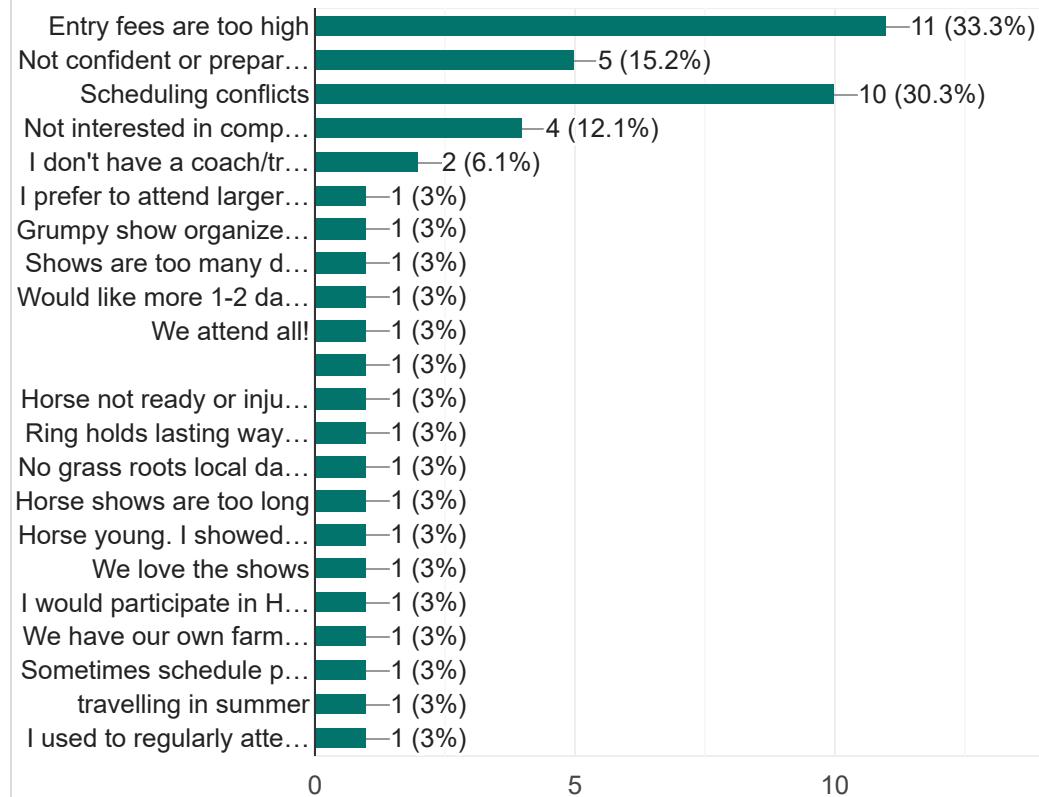
33 responses



## What prevents you (or your child) from participating in VDRC horse shows?

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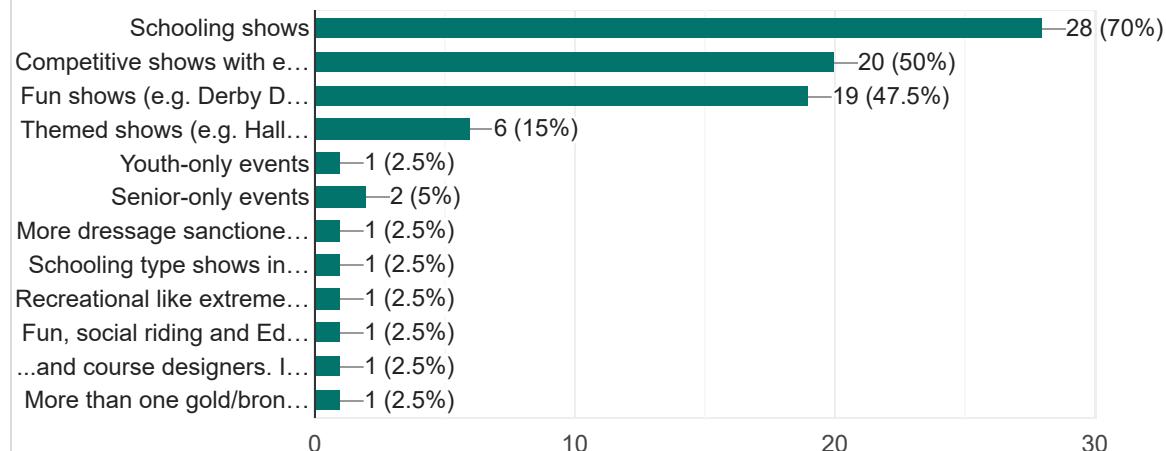
33 responses



## Which types of horse shows would you like to see more of?

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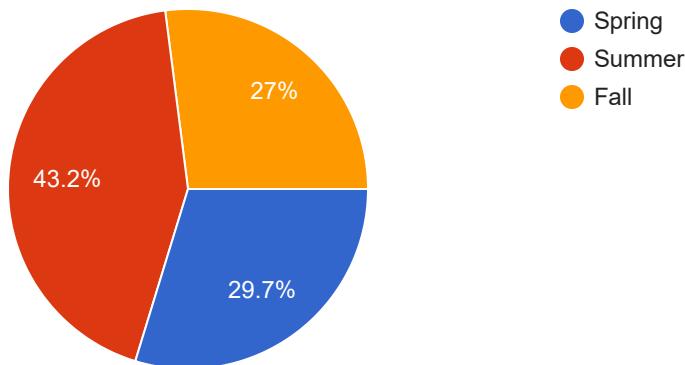
40 responses



## What season do you enjoy showing the most?

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37 responses

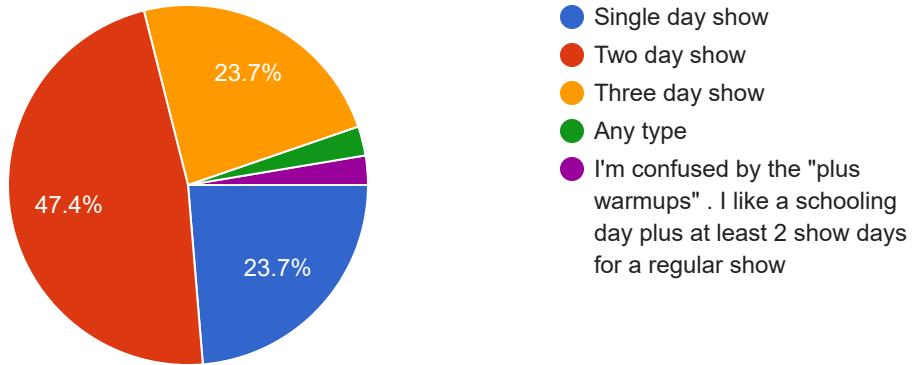


- Spring
- Summer
- Fall

## Do you prefer 1 day 2 day or 3 day shows? (Plus warmups)

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38 responses

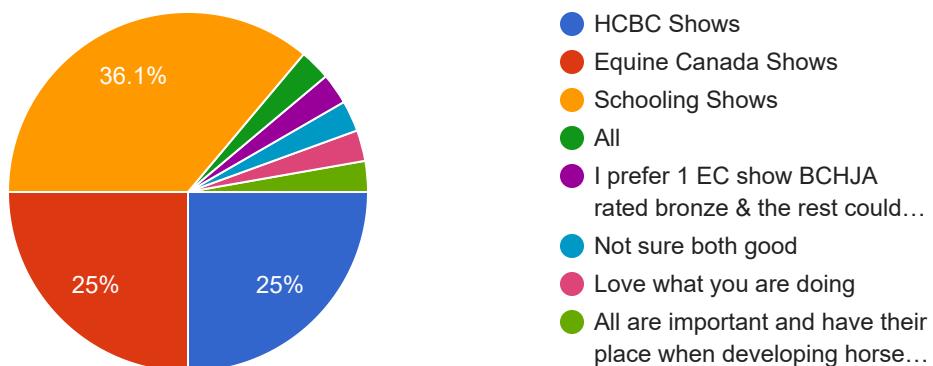


- Single day show
- Two day show
- Three day show
- Any type
- I'm confused by the "plus warmups". I like a schooling day plus at least 2 show days for a regular show

## Do you prefer HCBC or Equine Canada or schooling level of shows?

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36 responses



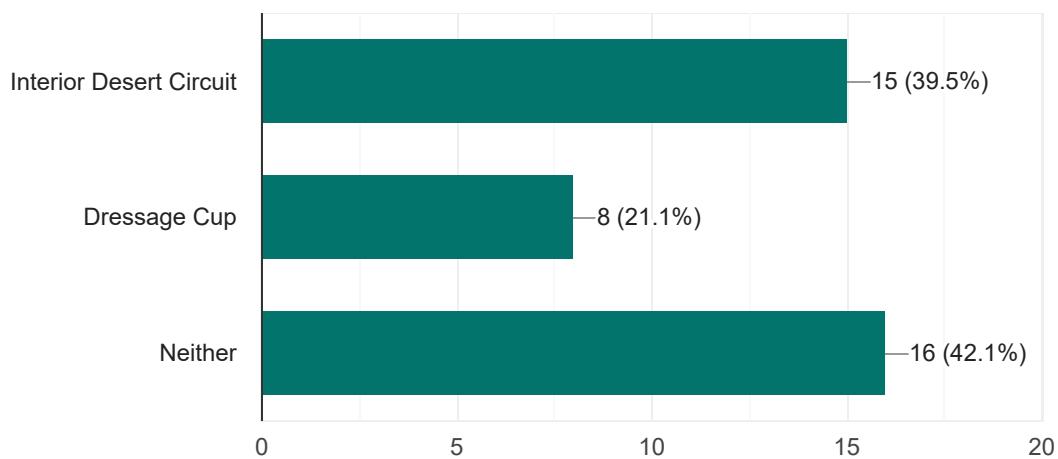
- HCBC Shows
- Equine Canada Shows
- Schooling Shows
- All
- I prefer 1 EC show BCHJA rated bronze & the rest could...
- Not sure both good
- Love what you are doing
- All are important and have their place when developing horse...



## Do you follow the points of Interior Desert Circuit or Dressage Cup?



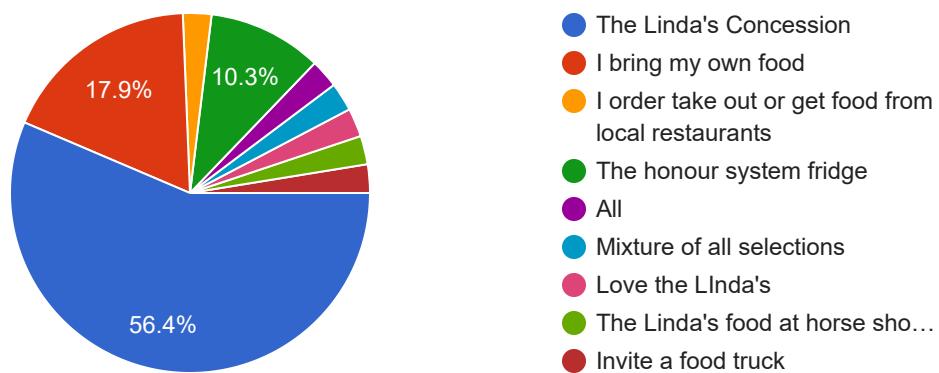
38 responses



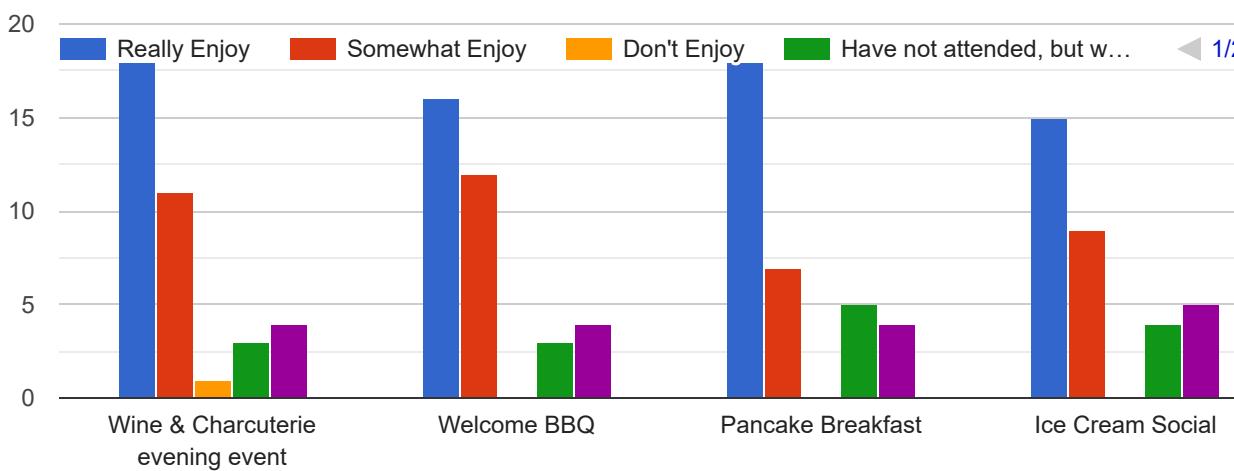
## At shows, what kind of food do you prefer?



39 responses



## How much do you enjoy the following horse show social events?

Do you have any suggestions for social events at horse shows that would build community and enhance connections within the equestrian community?

10 responses

A Christmas market

Beer and burger night

Social events are nice but not a significant factor for me

No

Guest speakers

Not sure

Evening BBQs /workshops/ evening food&drink fayres showcasing local providers

Educational events. Less about coaches. Some are rather crabby and irritable!

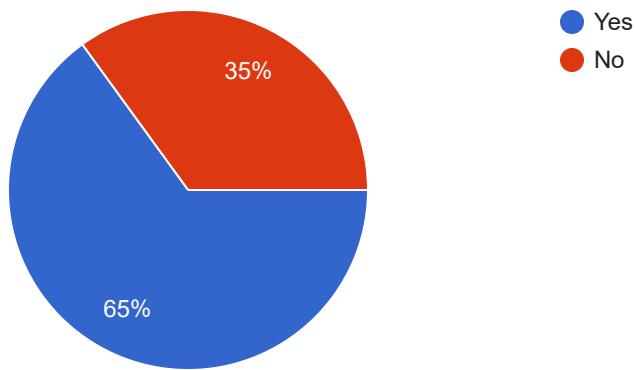
Polocross and tent pegging

Tack sale!

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Have you attended any clinics at the club?

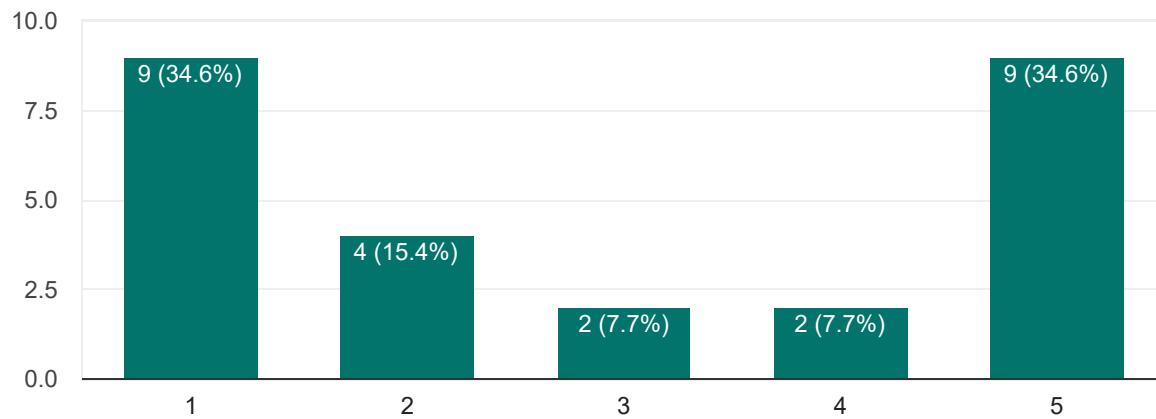
40 responses



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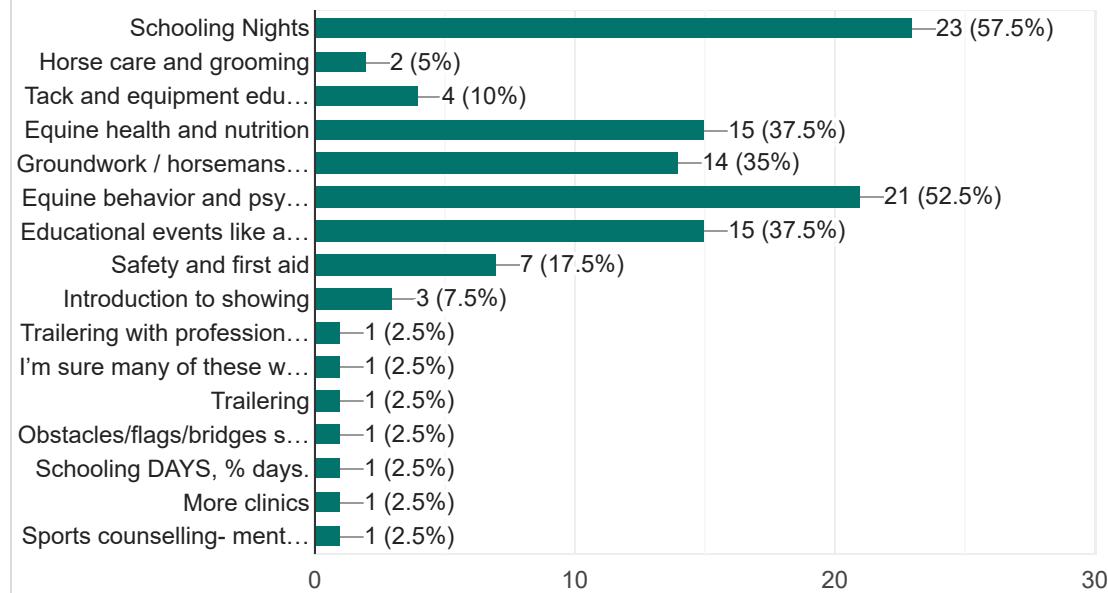
If yes, how valuable did you find the educational events you've attended?  
(1 very educational, 5 not very helpful)

26 responses



What types of educational events would you be most interested in?  Copy

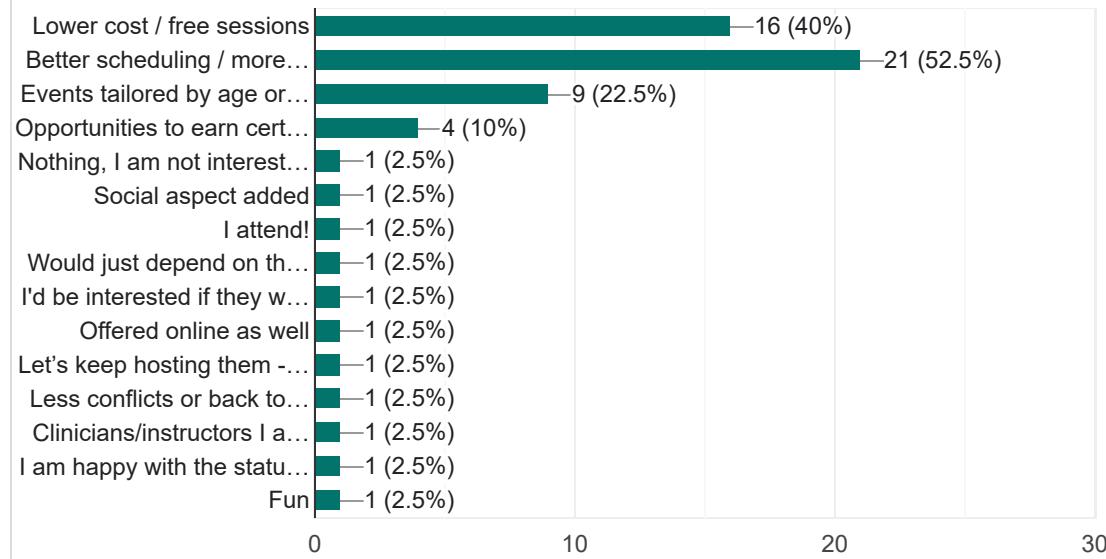
40 responses



## What would make you more likely to attend educational events?

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40 responses



Are there any specific clinicians you would like to see at clinics in 2026 or 2027 or any special disciplines?

22 responses

Dressage clinics

Use our good local clinicians.

Bill Ulmer, Emma Bosma, Karin Johnson

No

Georgia Hunt, Bill Ulmer

Georgia Hunt (but in the fall instead of spring)  
Cheryl Keith (also in the fall instead of spring)

Local coaches/clinicians, there are so many great coaches locally.

No

Natural Horsemanship/ groundwork

Eiren Crawford, Jonathan Field

Georgia Hunt

Judy Wise, Alex Grayton, Brian Morton, Channay Lloyd, Lindy Townley,

Wider variety of clinicians introducing new skills like WE, trail, liberty etc.

Claudia Cojocar, Esmee Ingham,

Maybe someone newer, ethical and not selling horses or a product. Or themselves.

georgia Hunt

Not necessarily, as long as we have at least one EC High Performance Clinician for H/J..

Maury Grant

Georgia Hunt!

More dressage clinics throughout summer, not just at the start or end of season. Some working equitation clinics too

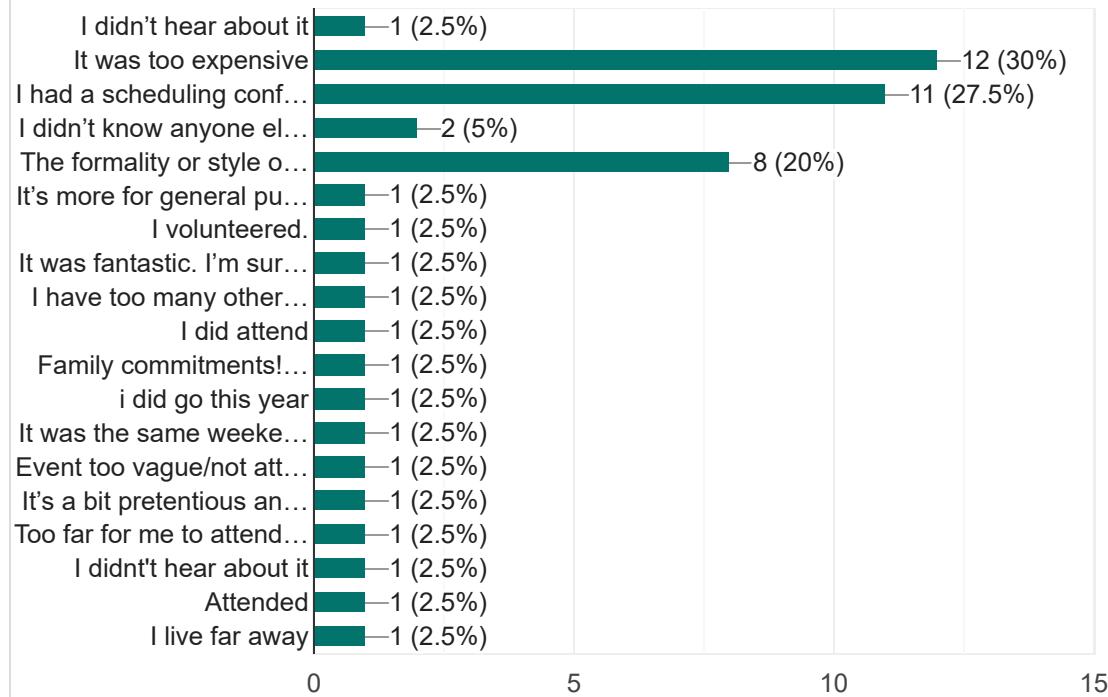
It would be encouraging to see a clinic that was not focussed on jumping nor dressage.

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## Other Events

VDRC hosted the second annual White Table Event this summer. If you did not attend, why not?

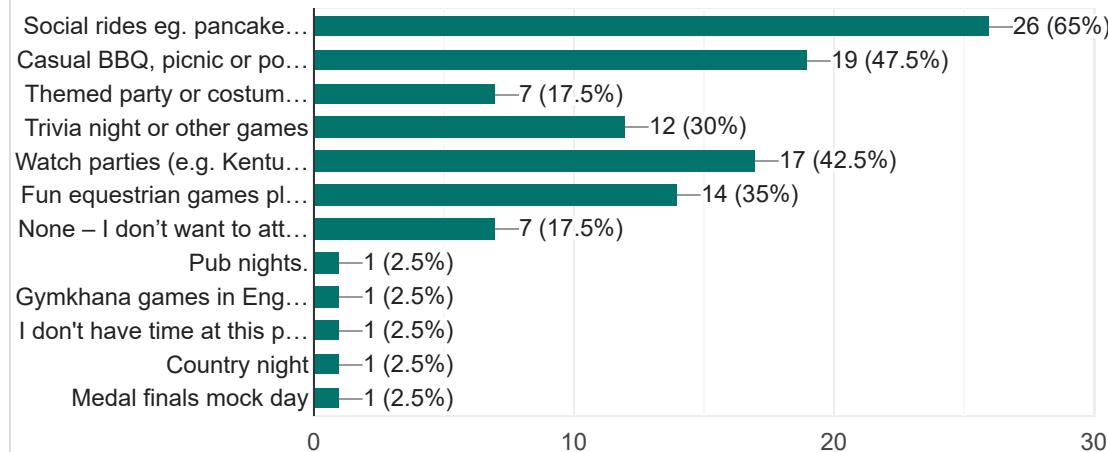
40 responses



## What kind of social events would you be more likely to attend?

 Copy

40 responses

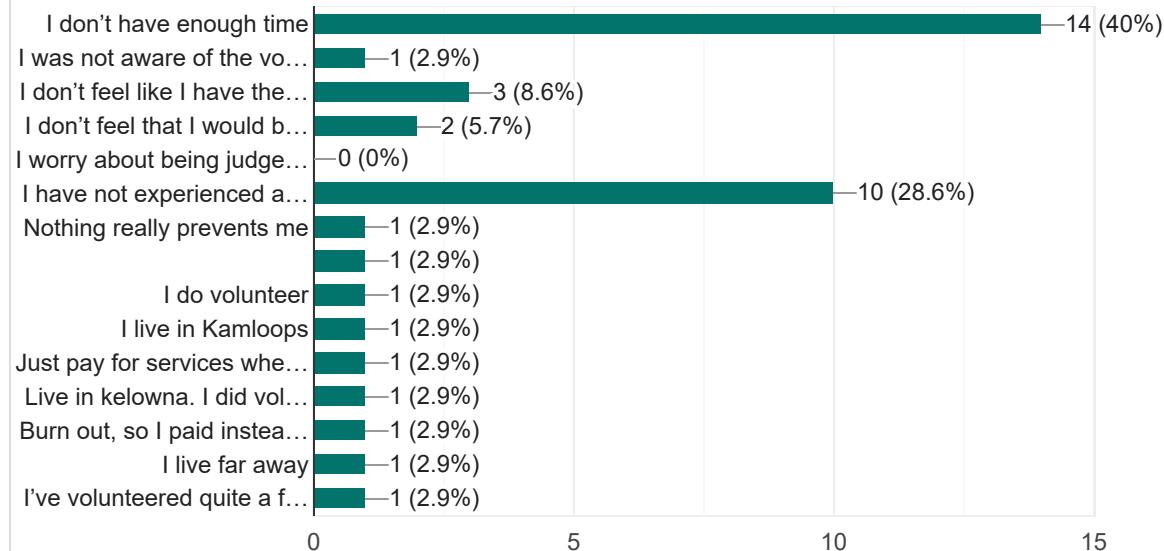


## Volunteering

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What has prevented you from volunteering or has been a barrier to volunteering?

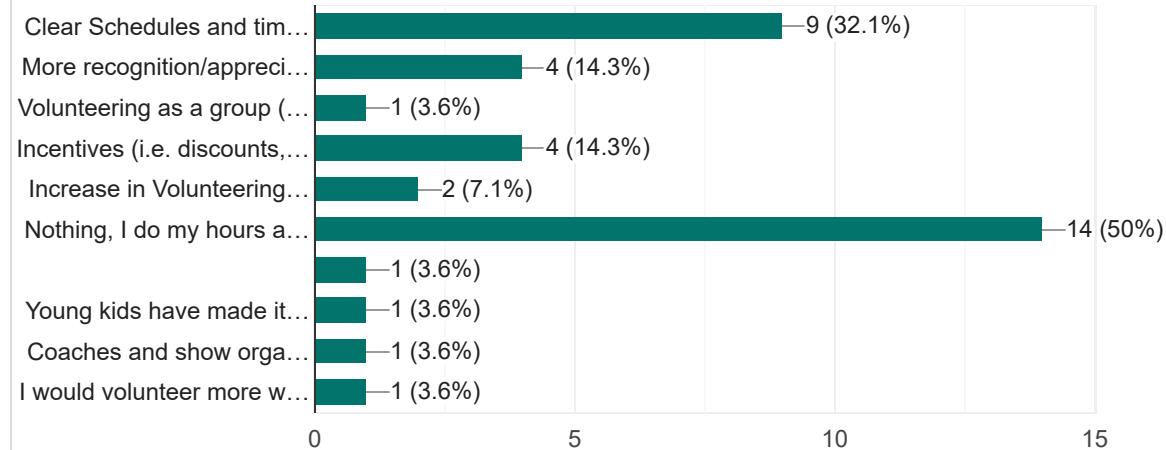
35 responses



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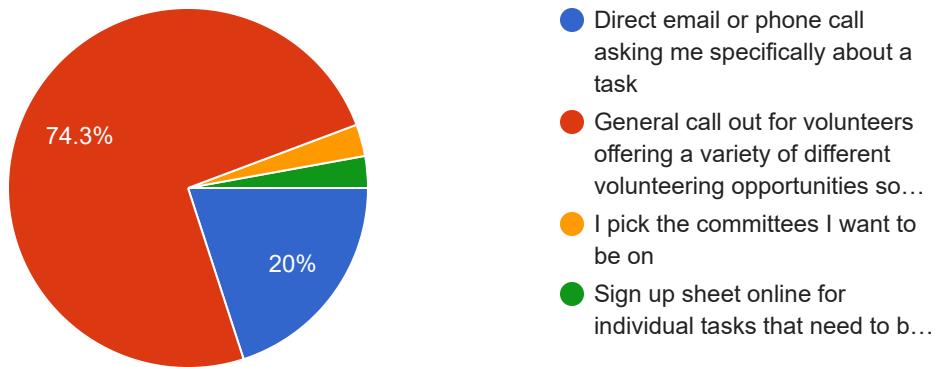
## What would make you more likely to volunteer?

28 responses



## What is the best approach for VDRC volunteering opportunities?

35 responses



## Future Planning & Open Feedback

What is one improvement you'd most like to see in the coming year?

40 responses

Sound system in stables so if rings on hold or delay riders know before going to warm up

Extend overhangs to provide more shade to stabled horses

I would like to see more events at the club

Ask that show organizers refrain from complaining on social media.

Remove haul in fee for members attending shows, especially on schooling days

More shows, clinics

Update clubhouse for year round use.

Better parking management of Spector vehicles

Love it as is!

That I participate

Footing in the rings. I understand the cost and undertaking is enormous (I in no way expect it to be redone) and that many likely would not agree on what would be best footing to use but the footing is boarder line dangerous. Between soft spots and pitty holes , concrete, uneven depth of sand, base coming up.

I would not jump my personal horses on the footing and am hesitant to have my riders jump more the .85.

The drag looks like it is not adjusted properly, the tines should not be digging into the base as they are pulling it up, you can clearly see the base coming up, all the pebbles and rocks are base. This is making replacing the footing a much larger and more expensive project as the base will need to be redone as well, it is almost causing pot holes. You might not see them but you can feel them. The tines should not touch the base and should not be deeper then the leveling blade. The level also looks like it may be lopsided as it will dig into on the side through turns as well.

Whoever is dragging the ring needs to be extremely particular about how it is set and needs to take the time to adjust it accordingly.

A link to view IDC points from VDRC website

Communication other than social media

More variety in events/disciplines and more fun events.

And the dog issue. (Big in this as I've had many poor encounters with off leash dogs and neighbour dogs, also somebody that rides a reactive horse that will hurt a dog if it comes at it)

Every member deserves the right to ride safely @ VDRC "Everyone" needs to follow the rules you post.

Winterize clubhouse

The dressage ring to be set up consistently for drop ins

Stall doors, footing in kal ring

I like to have the dressage ring set up. Most of the time it was. I enjoyed this year.

Showers

Focus on long term money management and planning

We love the club and so appreciate all the team members keeping it running. Keep planning and hosting a variety of events,

The swan lake footing to be improved

new footing.

More dressage percentage days

Classes to be on time

Safer cross fencing for shows- no flag strings

Better jump standards for competitions. Kal lake ring footing improved

Focus on less competitive opportunities

This is my first year as a member. We only moved to the area last year so I'm just starting to explore opportunities - at VDRC, trail riding, various informal shows, clinics, etc. VDRC has already exceeded my expectations of what I would find in the Okanagan.

Not sure



?

Standards of behaviour for show organizers who are paid. If you choose to do a job, don't complain on social media or guilt show entrants who also pay!

Communication of upcoming events, more clinic opportunities

Keeping the VDRC going!

I would like the Swan Lake Ring available to all for schooling in the morning at the H/J shows. It is too busy to have all of the green riders and horses forced into the Okanagan schooling. Management said they did it that way so that the kids riding in the baby ring (Swan Lake) weren't riding in the heat of the afternoon. But Swan Lake gets shade in the afternoon so that is less of a factor than having a serious injury in an over crowded warm up (Okanagan) with horses and riders that may or may not be under control. I would also like to do away with the Swan Lake "warm up" area. The show ring was too small to build a safe course for all as the ends were too tight and the lines were too short. I think having an area for collecting and learning the course is great but it could be smaller. Riders entered in that ring should be allowed to warm up in the show ring for an hour or so prior to the class. That way they aren't forced to go in the main warm up or forced to careen around a shoebox. If riders/coaches feel like a warm up jump is necessary before they are to be judged they should be allowed to school over jumps in the show ring. These shows are suppose to be friendly and inviting for green riders and green horses. I didn't find the August Swan Lake format to be either of those things...and I was not the only one.

More fun events

Watering of rings

More dressage shows and clinics, add working equitation clinics/schooling show

I would love to have a larger variety of clinics available.

Low stress, fun events, such as gymkhanas or schooling shows with flat classes.



Is there anything else you'd like the Board of Directors to know before the AGM?

12 responses

No

I appreciate all the time and effort you put in. Thank you.

There should be someone or multiple people contacting every local, trainer, vet, farrier, local business collecting sponsorships. Have very cheap options as well. For everything.

There also should be Reserve Champion ribbons.

We appreciate your work

You did a fantastic job this year and your hard work is appreciated.

They are all doing a fantastic job and we are grateful

I came from the coast - boarded at a large show facility. Seriously VDRC is WAAAAAYYY above the everyday standard I had there. Condition of rings, welcoming atmosphere, variety of jumps, can-do attitude. Ditto for my experience at KRC at the Mission Creek derby, so positive. You had about twice the entries for your H/J show in August than MREC did - for good reason. I am grateful (and surprised) to find such a welcoming and inclusive equestrian community in the Okanagan.

The club seems to be struggling

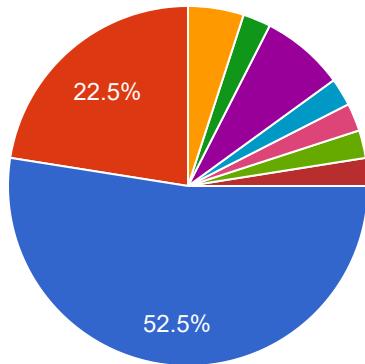
You guys are amazing! Thank you for your commitment to our little gem of a club.

I was a member of the Croy club for a few years. Then we were informed that the club would not be able to meet on the weekends due to scheduling conflicts with other events that we're having. It appears that anything related to Hunter Jumper takes priority. That was when I decided not to renew my membership.

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What is your primary discipline?

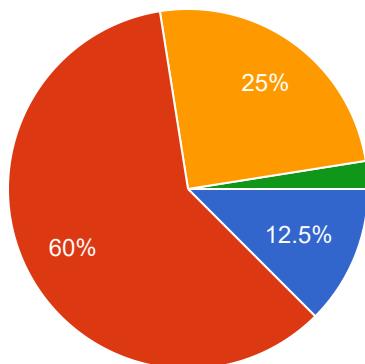
40 responses



- Jumping
- Dressage
- Eventing
- Western
- Trail/recreational
- Non-Rider
- Equal mix of dressage/jumping/ eventing/trail.
- Several disciplines
- Staying alive

Are you a:

40 responses



- Youth rider
- Senior Rider
- Professional/Coach
- Non-Rider

