
Everything you Need to Know About Being a Weyrling at the Kadanzer Weyr

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Weyrlings are the young riders of juvenile dragons, who graduate into the combat wings after, on average, 18 months of weyrling training. All weyrlings have already been accepted by the Weyr as candidates before an Impression (for more information on being a candidate, please click [here](#)).

All weyrlings must be of good physical and mental health before being allowed to stand candidate. They will only impress during a Hatching at the Weyr.



DURING AN IMPRESSION

Weyrlings find themselves on the hot hatching sands, wearing only their candidate robes and any necessary underthings -- no footwear is allowed, nor are any belts or belt pouches. The candidates are standing in a loose semi-circle around the rocking eggs when the dragonets begin to break out of their shells. Impression occurs when the dragonet approaches a candidate and the eyes of dragonet and weyrling meet. In a moment of destiny, human and dragon heart, mind and soul meet and meld - a dragonpair is joined in an intimate relationship that cannot be severed by anything save death itself.

No one knows what makes a dragonet Impress their specific rider - only that all dragonets at a Hatching will impress a human soulmate, or else die on the Sands.



AFTER A HATCHING

Once Impression has been made, the new weyrlingpairs are led off the Sands by the Weyrlingmaster or his assistants, and taken to a waiting area where the dragonets are fed, oiled, and allowed to fall asleep of exhaustion, while the new weyrling's friends and family can come congratulate him or her. If the dragonet is strong enough after its first meal, the new weyrlingpair will be escorted to the Weyrling Barracks, where bunk assignments will be made. Dragonets will always fall asleep soon after their first meal and grooming. Whether or not a weyrling participates in a Hatching Feast is up to them - the experience of Impression is an exhausting, soul-shaking one, and most weyrlings find themselves as ready to get some rest as their new soulmates.

The Weyrling Barracks is a long, single-story barracks building with a shale roof; the building is divided into two halves, one for the female weyrlings and the other side for the male weyrlings. Two rows of two-tier bunk beds line the room, with a single, wide corridor down the center and with each bunk set flanked by a large wallow for the dragonets. A trunk for personal items rests at the end of each bunk set, and is shared by the weyrlings assigned to those bunks.

Each new weyrling class is assigned as single Weyrlingassistant as their immediate supervisor; this is their Weyrlingsecond. The Weyrlingsecond is responsible for overseeing the health and welfare of each weyrlingpair in a class, and reports directly to the Weyrlingmaster.

The first morning after a Hatching, the Weyrlingsecond of a class will rouse his/her charges out at bed at the first Weyrling Bell (approximately 6 a.m.); weyrlings dress quickly, then feed their dragons breakfast and muck out their wallows (adult dragons go [between] to defecate and urinate; weyrling dragons must visit the middens pit near the Barracks to relieve themselves; infant dragonets must be toilet-trained, and are pretty puppy-ish about their early housebreaking habits). Only after the dragonets have been fed and are taking their after-meal nap are weyrlings themselves able to bathe and run to the Weyrhall for their morning meal. Breakfasts normally consist of porridge, fresh fruit, bread, butter, milk, klah, or juice. Once they've eaten breakfast, weyrlings must return to the Barracks and bathe and oil their dragonets. They have approximately two hours (through the end of the second bell) to accomplish all of this.

This basic routine will now be followed for the rest of a dragonrider's life - the first thing a weyrling must realize is that they are completely and totally responsible for the health and well-being of their dragon, and that the needs of their dragon must come before their own. A dragon/rider pairing is not a completely equal one: a mistake many new weyrlings make at first is expecting their dragon will be a panacea, one who heals all of their ills and answers all of their needs. In truth, the relationship is mostly the opposite -- the rider is nearly the paternal unit to a draconic child, especially during the 18 months of a dragonpair's weyrlinghood.

Weyrling Training begins after the third bell (approximately 8 a.m.). The third Weyrling Bell lasts from approximately 8 a.m. to noon; during this time, a weyrling class is either involved in morning Ground Drills (later,

formation drills on the wing) or in performing assigned chore duties.

The fourth Weyrling Bell (approximately noon to 2 p.m.) is a lunch break for the weyrlings. Weyrling dragonets are bathed again, oiled, then return to the barracks. After seeing their dragonets settled, the weyrlings head to the Weyrhall for lunch.

The fifth Weyrling Bell (approximately 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.) begins the second block of training or chore duties for a weyrling class. Often, this time is broken into one block of lecture time, following by a several hours more of drill or chore duties.)

The sixth Weyrling Bell (approximately 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.) signals another bathing/grooming session for the dragonets, followed by dinner in the Weyrhall.

The seventh Weyrling Bell (approximately 8 p.m. to 10 p.m.) is a weyrling's free time. Weyrlings can spend this time socializing in the Weyrhall or the Barracks. Evening performance reviews for individual weyrlings often take place during the seventh bell; punishment chores are often assigned for the seventh bell.

The eighth Weyrling Bell (approximately 10 p.m.). Lights out in the Weyrling Barracks; all dragonets and weyrlings are bedded down at this time.



RESTDAYS

Each weyrling class gets four restdays during a 28-day time period (usually days 07, 14, 21, and 28, unless postponed by Threadfall) to use as the the weyrlings wish. Weyrlings are have earned disciplinary actions will be required to spend this day doing punishment chores. Older weyrlings whose dragons have learned to fly may not leave the Weyr without prior approval of the Weyrlingmaster - with permission, however, they are allowed to visit Gathers, other holds, etc.

A weyrling class inhabits the Barracks for the first six months of their dragonet's life; soon after this, a weyrling pair is assigned to a weycot in the Weyrling Complex, which they will share with one classmate of the same gender until graduation. The Weyrling Barracks is seldom inhabited by more than two weyrling classes at one time, with approximately 20 to 30 students per class.

Rules in the Weyrling Barracks are strictly upheld: they are simple and common-sense rules designed for the safety of weyrlings and dragonets. Weyrns are inherently military organizations, and as such, weyrlings are expected to follow the rules and to follow all orders to the letter. Among the barracks rules are a prohibition of pets other than firelizards, and of weyrlings pursuing romantic relationship (either with their fellow weyrlings, or with other weyrfolk). Once weyrlings graduate from the Barracks to private quarters, this rules are waived - as long as either romance or pet care do not interrupt a weyrling's training or a dragon's health or emotional stability.

Physical and emotional upset is something which all weyrlings quickly learn to control. If a weyrling gets upset, their young dragon will immediately grow upset as well. And once a young dragon gets upset, that anxiety is immediately shared will all of the dragons in their immediate vicinity. One single dragonet having a belly ache can easily upset an entire Barracks-full of young dragons -- meaning long, miserable nights for their young riders. Likewise, a weyrling sustaining a wound of some sort - or having a romantic spat with a possible love interest - can lead to grief and misery for every weyrlingpair in the Barracks. Weyrlings quickly learn to control their own emotions and to respond automatically to calm and control their dragonets when their dragonets get upset. Weyrlings who don't learn to control themselves and calm their dragons will soon be taught to do so - both by the Weyrlingmaster and his assistants, and by their unhappy classmates as well.