

### **Horse Related Activities Come With These Requirements:**

**Protective Attire:** Head gear is required on all riders, any volunteer who has been certified to backride, on an instructor when demonstrating on horseback, and on any volunteer who is invited to ride. You are required to purchase and wear your own well-fitted bicycle helmet, or Pony Club approved riding hard hat, or similar protective head gear which may be fastened securely under the chin to prevent head injuries. Head gear is required on all riders.

You are required to wear hard-soled shoes or boots (with socks) to protect your feet, and appropriate long pants or riding breeches, to protect your legs. Most of us wear sneakers for comfort while working on the ground during classes. But please recognize that sneakers do not afford much protection if you get stepped on by a horse. Shorts, halters, or tank tops are not allowed to be worn while working in a class. No riding is allowed in shorts.

### **Horse Related Activities Come With This Warning Required By Our Insurance Carrier - The American Banker's Insurance Company**

While our domesticated, well-trained horses are usually obedient, docile and affectionate, it is important for you to understand that their survival instincts are what has allowed the horse to survive from prehistoric times to the present day.

Horses are unpredictable by nature, with minds of their own, as are all animals - domestic and wild. The horse is often somewhat high strung or nervous by nature. Horses are extremely strong and physically powerful. They weigh from 600 to 1300 pounds on the average. These characteristics alone deserve a human being's utmost respect.

Please understand that when a horse is frightened, angry, under stress or feels threatened, it is his instinct to jump forward or sideways, and/or to trot or canter away at speeds up to 35 miles per hour. If a horse is frightened or threatened from behind, it may kick straight back, sideways in either direction, or even straight forward with its hind legs with tremendous force.

Please understand that when a horse is frightened or feels threatened from above it (or on its back), it may hunch its back and buck in a way that could throw a rider to the ground with tremendous force. A fall from a horse will usually be from 3 to 6 feet.

Please understand that if a horse is frightened or feels threatened from in front, it may naturally react by rearing up on its hind legs, and with its front legs, strike out with one or both legs, bite with its teeth, or (as a last resort) run directly over whatever it fears in front of it.

You must always approach a horse calmly and quietly and cautiously, preferably from near its shoulder or lower neck, talking soothingly to it.

Please understand that loud and/or sudden movements, dropping or throwing objects near a horse, approaching vehicles, people, or other animals, ill-fitting equipment, or physical pain can provoke a well-trained domesticated horse to react according to his natural protective instincts.

The first sign of stress in a horse is the sudden tensing of the body muscles, and or ears laid flat back on the head, snorting, sudden head tossing. (Our volunteers &e expected to watch for these signs and take appropriate action)

A horse can see independently with each eye, actually looking in two different directions, or focus with both eyes somewhere 6 feet in front of it. (Often an ear will be pointing in the direction of the primary focus pattern.) But the horse has two blind areas where it cannot see: directly behind and

directly in front less than 6 feet. That is why it is best to approach a horse close to his shoulder never from the rear. And do not reach for his mouth. Since he can't see your hand, he may think your fingers are food!

While the horse is very sure-footed by nature, it may accidentally step on a human foot while it is balancing or turning around. Our horses don't want to step on you, but it is up to you to watch where the horse's feet are in relationship to yours.

Please write the following statement in the space below:

"I have read and I understand the requirements and the warning."

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Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return the signed copy with your application. No application can be processed until this form is signed.