



WELCOME to HIGH DESERT HORSEMEN!

Hello and thank you for joining the High Desert Horsemen (HDH). As an HDH member, you can look forward to a fun-filled year of day rides, horse camping, the Presidents Ride & BBQ, Clinics and Christmas party. Enclosed please find a copy of the Release of Liability and Club Rules

Our club's website is www.highdeserthorsemen.org where we post our yearly Ride Schedule, events calendar, membership information, pictures, ride rules and general information.

We also have a private facebook page. If you would like to be included, please click on <https://www.facebook.com/groups/128499140659530> and request to join. This is where you can also keep up on a lot of membership information, event listings, member posts and fun pictures.

Feel free to contact any board member listed below for any questions regarding HDH. For questions regarding HTAP, please contact Lisa Sandbo at lisajoe4@gmail.com. We look forward to seeing you on the trail.

2025 Board of Directors

- Kelly Knapp, President at kelcha@netzero.net
- Linda Mulkey, VP/HTAP at llmulkey@yahoo.com
- Sunday Minnich, Treasurer at sminnich1962@gmail.com
- Debbie Lower, Secretary at debbie.lower@yahoo.com
- Roxann White, Membership Secretary at threegonefishing@gmail.com
- Susan Groteguth, Calendar Secretary at groteguths@gmail.com
- April Taylor, Board Member at ataylorx4@sbcglobal.net
- Jill Ann Browning, Board Member at mtbarranch3@yahoo.com
- Cindy Clark, Board Member at onebite@aol.com

HAPPY TRAILS!!

Kelly Knapp
President

Roxann White
Membership Secretary

HDH LIABILITY WAIVER & HORSE RELATED ACTIVITY WARNING

For the mutual consideration of the parties hereto, it is hereby agreed to as follows:

1. I agree to assume all risks, liability, damage to and loss of property for any cause whatsoever arising out of participation HDH activities.
2. The User, parent or guardian understands that upon taking up the reins or lead rope the User is in primary control of the horse and that HDH is not responsible for the results of the User's actions or in-actions. The User further agrees to not abuse, misuse or deliberately agitate the horse as these actions may result in increased risk to himself and others.
3. The User has been advised that he/she should wear an approved helmet (helmet use is mandatory for 17 and younger) so as to prevent horse related injuries.
4. LIABILITY RELEASE: I understand that I am responsible for bodily injury or property damage which I or my child or legal ward should sustain while participation in HDH activities. I hereby, for myself, my heirs, administrators and assigns release and discharge, HDH or any and all claims, demands, actions and causes of action for such injuries sustained to my person, or that of my child or legal charge and/or property.
5. That the User is currently covered by accident-medical insurance as listed on the membership registration and that the User further understands that should medical emergency treatment be required, the current insurance information here listed will be provided to attending clinic or hospital to cover payment of incurred bills.
6. The User agrees to hold harmless and indemnify HDH against any injury, damage to personal property, or any other loss sustained by the User and by or to relatives, children, guests, handlers and any and all other persons participating in HDH activities.
7. The User shall be responsible for any and all damage to horses or personal property of others arising out of his/ her participation in HDH activities.
8. That this contract is entered into in the state of Nevada and will be interpreted and enforced under the laws of that state.
9. Upon the signing of this contract, User acknowledges that he/she has read and agrees to be bound to HDH's rules which are incorporated herein by this reference.
10. The User agrees to leave the Area immediately, if HDH, or agents for same determine that the activities being undertaken by the User may prove harmful to the User or others for any reason.
11. The User, Parent or Guardian has read and signed the "Horse Related Activities" Warning.
12. The User acknowledges this Contract incorporates Attachment A "Liability Release for Specific Events" as part of this Contract.

Horse Related Activities Come with this WARNING

Section A – Protective Attire

1. I am hereby advised to purchase and wear a well-fitted helmet, hardhat or similar protective head gear fastened securely under the chin, while working around or riding horses, to prevent injuries.
2. I am hereby advised to always wear hard-soled, fully enclosed shoes or boots and socks to protect feet, and long pants to protect legs while working around or riding horses.

Section B – The Nature and Physical Character of the Horse - While domesticated, well-trained horses are usually obedient, docile and affectionate, it is important to understand that their survival instincts are what has allowed the horse to survive from prehistoric time to the present day.

1. I am advised that horses are unpredictable by nature, with minds of their own, as are all animals both domestic and wild. The horse is often somewhat high strung or nervous by nature. Horses are extremely strong and powerful physically. Horses are extremely heavy – weighing from 600 to 1,300 pounds on the average. These characteristics deserve a human being's utmost respect.
2. I am advised that when a horse is frightened, angry, under stress or feels threatened it is his instinct to jump forward or sideways, to run away from danger at a trot or gallop of speeds up to 35 miles per hour.
3. I am advised that if a horse is frightened or feels threatened from behind, it may kick straight back, sideways in either direction, or even forward with either of its hind legs with tremendous force.
4. I am advised that if 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 a height of 3 to 6 feet.
5. I am advised that if a horse is frightened or feels threatened from the front, it may naturally react by rearing up with its front legs, strike with one or both front legs, bite with its teeth, throw its head up or from side to side, or turn directly over whatever it fears in front of it.
6. I am advised that a human must always approach a horse calmly and quietly and cautiously, preferably from near its shoulder or lower neck, talking soothingly to it.
7. I am advised that loud and/or sudden unexpected movements, dropping of objects near a horse, approaching vehicles or animals or people, ill-fitting equipment or physical pain can provoke a domesticated horse to react according to his natural protective instincts.
8. I am advised that the first signs of anger or fear in a horse are the sudden tensing of the muscles of the body, possibly laying its ears flat back against its head or quickly tossing or raising its head, or sudden snorting through the nostrils accompanying at least one other warning sign.
9. I have been advised that a horse can see independently with each eye, actually looking in one direction with one eye and in another direction with the other eye. The direction the ear is pointing is usually a hint about what the horse is concentrating on at that moment.
10. I have been advised that a horse has two blind areas around it that it cannot see. It cannot see directly behind it, or what it is eating. That is the reason it is best to approach a horse close to the shoulder, and never to surprise a horse from the rear, or to reach first for the horse's mouth.
11. I have been advised that while a horse is a very sure-footed by nature, it may accidentally step on an object such as a human foot, when it is balancing itself or turning about. Also, if the horse is ridden or worked on unstable ground or slippery grass or footing it could fall down injuring a rider or handler.

Trail Riding Etiquette and Safety

Etiquette and safety are close relatives that share a proportional relationship. In many cases a lack of one creates a breach of the other. Poor etiquette typically leads to unsafe activities, while excellent etiquette paves the road for safe riding experiences. Please follow these guidelines and be aware of the riders near you.

- Collect & keep your muck in the trailer and dispose of it at home and level any uneven areas before you leave
- Tie only to your trailer, or designated hitch post
- Ride at the level/speed of the least experienced rider
- Ask the group (and get consent) before increasing speed as well as be aware of anyone falling behind the group as this increases anxiety and negative behavior in the lagging horses. Do not leave riders behind on their own.
- Communicate concerns clearly-Safety is everyone responsibility please speak up
- Keep 10 feet or more between horses, pay attention to the body language of the horses around you. Swishing tails, pinned ears and a tense body are signs you are too close, be aware of surroundings (You should be able to see the hind feet of the horse in front of you is a good rule of thumb)
- Leader should ask if all riders are ready before starting ride and after each time the ride has stopped
- Wait for all horses to drink before leaving a watering area
- At a difficult spot on the trail (log step-over, steep downhill etc) moving off slowly giving each horse time to get through without rushing
- Wait for riders when they have dismounted (open/close gaits, equipment checks, potty stops, dropped items, etc)
- Do not trot or run up behind or alongside other riders
- If your horse is known to kick tie a red ribbon in its tail
- Keep your horse moving while on the trail
- When meeting others on the trail be friendly and talk to them pleasantly
- When passing other riders leave as much room as possible
- Follow the leave no trace ethics (more information at www.Int.org.)

DOG RULES FOR HDH CAMPOUTS

1. Dogs allowed at campouts must be on leash at all times
2. No dogs allowed on trails. If you do not have proper containment for your dog while riding (trailer, RV, LQ, etc), please do not bring your dog. Dogs are not allowed to be left in a tent or tied outside due to possibility of getting loose and lost.
3. All campground rules regarding dogs must be followed
4. If your dog has separation anxiety and barks and howls while you are gone, please do not bring to a campout. It will be happier left at home. If your dog barks and howls while you are on a ride, it will not be allowed back.
5. Please pick up after your dog
6. No aggressive dogs allowed
7. No dogs allowed in eating/food area
8. If you do not adhere to these club rules, you will lose the privilege of bringing your dog to a HDH campout.