



Casey's Safe Haven Holistic Horse Rescue

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CASEY'S SAFE HAVEN BOARDER'S OPERATIONS MANUAL



Barn Hours

Every Day – 8:00 am – 9:00 pm

Holidays – Barn closed at 6:00 pm

WELCOME TO CASEY'S SAFE HAVEN BOARDING OPERATIONS MANUAL

We are a full-service barn and equine boarding organization located on lush land convenient to many far western Chicago suburban areas. We have luxurious 12' x 12' box stalls with attached outdoor paddocks with automatic heated water dispensers, electrical outlets at each stall for your grooming convenience, a climate-controlled tack room for riders and up to 16 individual turnout paddocks connected to the box stall. Amenities include a heated observation lounge for guests to view the indoor riding arena activities with plenty of room to store saddles and tack. Our well-lit and very large indoor riding arena has slanted walls, providing exceptional safe riding for both rider and equine. The indoor arena is directly connected to the barn area allowing you to avoid the environment elements. We also provide an outdoor riding arena to enjoy for those beautiful weather months. Both arenas are regularly manicured and have exceptional footing. Accessibility to a luxurious bathroom is located off the observation lounge.

VISITORS BY APPOINTMENT

This Standards of Operations Manual is designed to help guide all individuals that engage in equine related care and/or activities and should serve as a reference for best practices within this barn.

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OUR MISSION

The mission of Casey's Safe Haven Boarding Manual is two-fold. First, we are here to support the health, safety and happiness of our boarded horses and their owners. We intend to do so by promoting sound equine health management practices, as well as sound business practices to ensure we are here for the long-term. Second, Casey's Safe Haven Boarding Manual exists to ensure a long-term home for Casey's Safe Haven Holistic Horse Rescue and Sanctuary. Casey's is a non-profit 501 (c)3 that is dedicated to healing each of their rescued equines in mind, body and spirit. Through their holistic therapies, compassionate partners, supporters and volunteers, they have had incredible success stories of healing both equines and the humans that love them. It is our hope that all boarders will grow to love Casey's rescues as we do.

INTRODUCTION

This Standard of Operations manual was created to help guide all our participants at Casey's Safe Haven Boarding Manual ("CSH") who engage in equine related care and/or activities. This manual should serve as a reference to be helpful in offering our best practices to maintain a safe environment for all the equines, boarders, volunteers, and guest's welfare. Everyone at CSH needs to follow these references and keep safety, practicality, and current legislation guidelines at the forefront for the protections of all. This manual does not replace any contract, waiver, release, indemnification or hold harmless agreement provided including but not limited to the Equine Activity Liability Act, 745 ILCS 47/1 et seq. It is the intention and understanding that the provisions of this Standard of Operations manual are subject to all applicable laws now in effect or hereafter adopted. In the event any of the provisions of this manual are or hereafter become invalid or unenforceable by reason of any federal or state law now existing or hereafter enacted, such invalidity or unenforceability shall not affect the other provisions of this manual. Such other provisions shall continue in full force and effect.

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GENERAL SAFETY RULES

1. Be respectful of everyone and every equine, remembering our purpose.
2. No running or screaming in the barn.
3. Return things where you found them.
4. If something is broken, please notify staff so it can be repaired.
5. Staff and volunteers should act in the best interest of the equines, boarders and guests in terms of safety, respect and privacy.
6. No smoking is allowed in any barn, barn area, arenas and/or pastures/paddocks.
7. Only authorized personnel (staff, boarders, volunteers, instructors/trainers, veterinarians, farriers, etc.) are allowed in the stall(s), barn areas, arenas, and/or pasture/paddocks, etc.
8. Observe and obey all safety signs.
9. Make sure that all gates are securely closed upon entry and exit at all times.
10. No illegal activities will be tolerated on the grounds of Casey's Safe Haven Boarding Manual including but not limited to: smoking, drinking, illegal drug use, sexual misconduct, harassment, assault, physical or verbal abuse, animal abuse, etc.
11. Anything that seems unusual about the equines, riders, volunteers, guests, trainers, amenities and equipment should be reported to the staff.
12. The speed limit is 5 mph.
13. No motor vehicles, except CSH equipment is allowed inside the barn, pastures and/or arenas.
14. "Horseplay" or other actions that are disruptive or offensive to others is not allowed.
15. Boarders, volunteers, staff, visiting riders, or trainers must sign a release of liability form that will be provided to all BEFORE riding and/or participation at Casey's Safe Haven.
16. There is no climbing on fences or dismantling the electrical fencing.
17. All riders should be equipped with riding boots, paddock shoes or foot wear with adequate heel for riding.
18. Any accidents involving injuries must be reported to Casey's Safe Haven staff.
19. Any person that behaves in a manner that is contrary, to include but not limited to, disorderly conduct, foul or abusive language, cruelty and/or intoxication, will be subject to loss of barn privileges and/or termination of status.

SAFETY AROUND THE EQUINES

1. Respect all animals at Casey's Safe Haven including, horses, donkeys, ponies (equines), and our barn cats.
2. If allowed or given permission by an animal's owner, introduce yourself to the equine by letting them sniff your hand and petting them gently.
3. Always approach an equine (horse, donkey and/or pony) where they can see you, an equine cannot see directly behind them or under their nose.
4. Don't run near or around any equine because sudden movement can scare them.
5. You can be accidentally hurt by an equine even if they don't mean to hurt you.
6. Don't duck under a horse's neck or lead rope.
7. Don't walk directly behind an equine or stand directly in front of them.
8. When leading a horse, walk beside them on the left side.
9. Keep the lead ropes and reins off the ground, so that a horse (and humans) cannot trip on them.
10. Don't wrap the lead rope around your hand/arm/body.
11. Equines must be properly tacked.
12. Horses must be ridden or lunged in a safe and controlled manner at all times.
13. Horses will remain at a walk in the barn and barn area.
14. No mounting or dismounting in the barn isles.
15. Never tie a horse to the stall grill.
16. Do not put your horse in another horse's stall.

CHILDREN

1. All children should be supervised by an adult when on the premises.
2. Children under 14 years of age must be accompanied by an adult and not left on the barn grounds without supervision.
3. Children under 10 years of age must be actively supervised, within eyesight, by an adult at all times. They cannot be left unattended while an adult is riding in any of the arenas, or left in the observation lounge.
4. Children under 18 years of age can jump hurdles only when directly supervised by their parent, guardian or trainer.

CELL PHONES

1. We ask that you put your phone on silent or vibrate for the time that you are in the barn or barn area. It can be distracting to the equines or others around you.

HELMETS

1. Helmets are recommended for all riders at all times. Adults who choose not to wear a helmet do so at their own risk.
2. Anyone under eighteen (18) years of age MUST wear a helmet when riding at all times.
3. All riders must wear a helmet while jumping.

PETS

1. Pets are not allowed at Casey's Safe Haven Boarding, unless previously approved.

MINIMUM AGE, INSURANCE, LIABILITY RELEASE

1. No one under the age of 14 is allowed to work directly with our equines due to insurance restrictions and safety concerns to the child and to the equine.
2. Guests must be in the presence of staff.
3. Prior to riding, training or volunteering at Casey's Safe Haven, everyone must sign a liability form and submit to the CSH office.
4. Only official CSH forms are valid and accepted and will not be accepted if substituted in any way.
5. CSH is not responsible for personal items. It is your responsibility to properly store all personal gear not in use.

ARENAS

1. Riding etiquette is a must for the safety for both rider and equine.
2. All arenas will be shared by all.
3. Before entering the indoor arena make sure your presence is known by announcing your entrance BEFORE you enter. Call out "door!" or "coming in!"
4. Up to two (2) horses may be lunged at the same time per arena.
5. No unsafe galloping or other actions that could disturb or endanger others (people and equines) are allowed.
6. Securely close the arena gate upon entry and exit.
7. Jump standards, poles, trail equipment, and/or barrels must be placed outside the gates in order to keep an area free for flat work.
8. The rider and/or trainer is responsible for returning the jumps and/or barrels after use in an orderly fashion.
9. Please pick up after your horse when riding in the indoor and outdoor arenas.

TACK AND FEED ROOMS

Tack and Tack Room

1. Tack rooms are for the storage of personal tack, supplies and horse related equipment.
2. Tack room assignments may be required.
3. All tack and equipment must be in good condition and suited for discipline.
4. CSH is not responsible for personal items left in the tack room.

Feed and/or Supplements

1. Feed rooms are for the storage of specialized horse feed (in moderation), supplements, supplies and horse related equipment.
2. All boarders that have additional feed/supplements for their horse(s) must be securely stored so no horse can have access, prevent contamination of feed, and to deter rodent intrusion which can cause serious health complications.
3. No dangerous, inappropriate or flammable materials such as paint or gasoline, etc. will be stored in tack and feed rooms.
4. Hay, shavings, and other debris will be swept and/or raked by the person(s) moving the hay, shavings or other items inside the barns, immediately outside of the entrances or around trailer areas.

BARN EQUIPMENT

1. Barn equipment, such as wheelbarrows, brooms, racks, etc. will be returned to their proper place in a clean and serviceable condition.
2. Any and all broken or damaged items will be set aside and called to the attention of the Barn Manager, Assistant Barn Manager or CSH designee.
3. Hoses will be coiled after use and not left lying across pathways.

SADDLE AND GROOMING AREAS

1. After grooming session, hair clippings, loose hair, any manure and/or hoof pickings will be removed by responsible person.
2. Don't forget to unlatch the saddle posts after use.
3. The cross tie areas will be kept clean of manure and debris and removed by the responsible person after each use.
4. If any drains are clogged or standing water, please bring this to the attention to the Barn Manager, Assistant Barn Manager or CSH designee immediately.
5. Please make sure that the water faucet(s) are securely tightened in the wash rack room.

PARKING - PERSONAL VEHICLE and HORSE TRAILERS

1. Please park your car/truck/SUV along the outside riding arena area only.
2. If you have a horse trailer to be parked overnight at CSH, there will be a designated area assigned.

BATHROOM FACILITIES

1. The bathroom is located in the in the main barn at the observation lounge.

EXTREME WEATHER CONDITIONS

1. In the event that extreme weather conditions arise unexpectedly or predicted such as but not limited to, tornadoes, high winds, lightening, hail, extreme heat and/or cold, etc. it will be **at the sole discretion** of the CSH staff to let out the horses to their assigned paddocks or when they will be returned to their assigned box stalls.
2. Depending on the extreme weather condition, CSH may cease all riding activity for the indoor and/or outdoor arenas for the day(s).

BOARDING SERVICES

1. Full-service box stalls are 12 x 12 – Most with runs, some without runs
2. The barn lighting is excellent with generous air circulation and insulation.
3. The box stalls have heated automatic water source for your horse with premium shavings, hay, and grain.
4. Sixteen (16) of our stalls have individual runs that your horse can use on a daily basis or as scheduled, if you are assigned to one of these stalls.
5. Casey's Safe Haven will have the sole discretion to let your horse out/in due to weather if you are assigned to a box stall with runs.
6. The owner shall have input to the schedule of the turn-out for their horse if they are assigned to a box stall with paddock, daily or otherwise and weather permitting. Standard daily turn-out together with the herd may be preferred and should be discussed.
7. If there are aggression issues from your horses and/or neighboring horse while in their individual paddocks, CSH will return your horse back to their box stall until we can discuss how to proceed thereafter. Due to safety concerns, and available options, CSH may need to move your horse to another box stall with paddock or if there is no other alternative, a box stall without a paddock.
8. If you so choose to have your horse turned out in the connected paddock, our staff will put on and take off fly-masks and blankets/sheets that will be provided by you. Fly-masks are considered part of CSH's daily routine, however the additions of blankets/sheets may require additional charges and should be discussed.
9. Each stall has electrical outlets for your grooming convenience.
10. The indoor arena is attached to the main barn. It contains a sand base surface, and is manicured on a regular basis and free of manure.
11. The outdoor riding arena is available for your outdoor riding pleasure.
12. All aisle ways in the main barn area have rough brick flooring that supports safe footing and exceptional lighting.
13. Explicit feeding instructions or special needs will be provided by our staff. There may be an exception to administering medication but CSH is willing to discuss.
14. Each boarder will sign and be provided with a boarding contract before acceptance.
15. Each boarder will have to pass the entrance requirements per horse boarded.
16. Outside of an emergency, holding your horse if you are not available for the veterinarian and/or farrier assistance – may require an additional fee.

FIRE PROCEDURE

Fire Reporting

***Please notify Casey's Safe Haven personnel immediately if possible. 911 instructions will be posted along with the barn's physical address on the wall next to the first floor "viewing room".**

1. Personal safety has to be your priority. Early detection of a fire is fundamental to you and your horses' safety. With just few breaths, toxic smoke could easily incapacitate you and your horse.
2. Avoid exposure to smoke by staying low to the ground where the air is cleaner.
3. Never let fire get between you and your way out.
4. It should never be considered safe to enter a burning building.

Containing a Fire

1. In the event of a small contained fire, staff may, if done safely, attempt to extinguish the fire (that is, fire in a trash can, stove, etc.)

Fire Extinguishers

There are fire extinguishers located on the wall next to the downstairs "viewing room" in the barn. A fire extinguisher is a dry powder extinguisher and is used in all fire types. When using a fire extinguisher, remember the acronym:

PASS: Pull-Aim-Squeeze-Sweep

Evacuation of Personnel

1. Make sure the barn is empty of all personnel, including riders, visitors and volunteers.
2. Only staff of Casey's or their designee, may remain to evacuate the horses from the barn, and *only if it is safe to do so*.
3. Make sure the tack rooms, feed rooms, observation lounge, office are empty.

FARRIER AND FARRIER ASSISTANT SAFETY GUIDELINES

1. A farrier's routine work is primarily hoof trimming and shoeing. In ordinary cases, it is important to trim each hoof so it retains its proper orientation to the ground. Horses with certain diseases or injuries may need remedial procedures for their hooves, or need special shoes. The hazards associated with horse shoeing and should not be underestimated.
2. The work should be done away from traffic and distractions.
3. Crossties should be used in an area where there are no restrictions front or back.
4. The area should be well lighted and ventilated.
5. Avoid cluttered areas with tack boxes, saddle racks, grooming and feed bins.
6. Use a properly fitted, sound halter with a good rope of adequate length.
7. Farrier assistant should be experienced with horses and have ability to anticipate and control horse reactions.
8. Farrier assistant should never stand directly in front of the horses. He/she should be positioned near the shoulder on the same side as the farrier is working.
9. If necessary and without medical restrictions, fly spray should be used before horse is shod.
10. Farrier and assistant should always wear close toed shoes.
Steel toe reinforced should be given serious consideration.
11. Please refrain from scheduling appointments near feeding times.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. All Owners, riders, handlers, lessee, boarders, spectators, agents, volunteers, contractors, sub-contractors, licensee, concessionaires, trainers, CSH staff, advisors, and/or agents, instructors, are to abide by all the rules and regulations of Casey's Safe Haven Boarding Manual. The practices in this manual may be modified at any time. All Owners will be notified via email and a new manual will be available upon request.

WARNING

Under the Equine Activity Liability Act, each participant who engages in an equine activity expressly assumes the risks of engaging in and legal responsibility for injury, loss, or damage to person or property resulting from the risk of equine activities

CIVIL IMMUNITIES (745 ILCS 47/1) EQUINE ACTIVITY LIABILITY ACT

(745 ILCS 47/1)

Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the Equine Activity Liability Act.

(Source: P.A. 89-111, eff. 7-7-95.)

(745 ILCS 47/5)

Section 5. Purposes. The General Assembly recognizes that persons who participate in equine activities may incur injuries as a result of the risks involved in those activities. The General Assembly who finds that the State and its citizens derive numerous economic and personal benefits from equine activities. Therefore, it is the intent of the General Assembly to encourage equine activities be delineating responsibilities of those involved in equine activities.

(Source: P.A. 89-111, eff. 7-7-95.)

(745 ILCS 47/10)

Section 10. Definitions. As used by the Act:

- (a) "Engages in an equine activity" means riding, training, assisting in medical treatment of driving, or being a passenger upon an equine, whether mounted or unmounted, or assisting as a participant. The term "engages in an equine activity" does not include being a spectator at an equine activity, except in cases where the spectator places himself in an unauthorized area and in the immediate proximity to the equine activity.
- (b) "Equine" means a horse, pony, mule, donkey, or hinny.
- (c) "Equine activity" means:
 - 1) Equine shows, fairs, competitions, performances, or parades that involve any or all breeds of equines and any of the equine disciplines, including, but not limited to, dressage, hunter and jumper, horse shows, grand prix jumping, 3-day events, combined training, rodeos, driving, pulling, cutting, polo, steeple-chasing, English and western performance riding, endurance trail riding and western games, and hunting.
 - 2) Equine training activities, teaching activities, or both.
 - 3) Boarding equines.
 - 4) Riding, inspecting, or evaluating an equine belonging to another, whether or not the owner has received some monetary consideration or other thing of value for the use of the equine or is permitting a prospective purchaser of the equine to ride, inspect, or evaluate the equine.
 - 5) Rides, trips, hunts, or other equine related activities.

(745 ILCS 47/15)

Section 15. Participant's responsibility. It is recognized that equine activities are hazardous to participants, regardless of all feasible safety measures that can be taken. Each participant who engages in an equine activity expressly assumes the risk of any legal responsibility for injury, loss, or damage to the participant or the participant's property that results from participating in an equine activity, except in specific situations as set forth in Section 20, when the equine activity sponsor or equine professional may be held responsible. Each participant shall have sole individual responsibility for knowing the range of his or her own ability to manage, care for, and control a particular horse or perform a particular equine activity, and it shall be the duty of each participant to act within the limits of the participant's own ability to, maintain reasonable control of the particular horse or horses at all times while participating in an equine activity, to heed all posted warnings, to perform equine activities only in an area or in facilities designated by the horseman, and to refrain from acting in a manner that may cause or contribute to the injury of anyone.

Each participant, or parent or guardian of a minor participant, may execute a release assuming responsibility for the risk of engaging in equine activities. The release shall give notice to the participant, or parent or guardian, of the risks of engaging in equine activities, including (i) the propensity of an equine to behave in dangerous ways that may result in injury to a participant, (ii) the inability to predict an equine's reaction to sound, movements, objects, persons, or animals, and (iii) the hazards of surface or subsurface conditions. A release shall remain valid until expressly revoked by the participant or, if a minor, then parent or guardian.

(Source: P.A. 89-111, eff. 7-7-95.)

(745 ILCS 47/20)

Section 20. Exceptions.

- (a) This Act shall not apply to the horse racing industry as regulated in the Illinois Horse Racing Act
- (b) Except as provided in Section 15, nothing in this Act shall prevent or limit the liability of an equine activity sponsor, and equine professional, or any other person if the equine activity sponsor, equine professional, or person:
 - 1) Provided the equipment or tack, and knew or should have known that the equipment or tack was faulty to the extent that it caused the injury.
 - 2) Provided the equine and failed to make a reasonable and prudent efforts to determine the ability of the participant to engage safely in the equine activity and determine the ability of the participant to manage safely the particular equine based on the participant's representations of his or her ability.
 - 3) Owns, leases, rents, or otherwise is in lawful possession and control of the land or facilities upon which the participant sustained injuries because of a dangerous latent condition that was known to the equine activity sponsor, equine professional, or person and for which warning signs were not conspicuously posted.
 - 4) Commits an act of omission that constitutes willful or wanton disregard for the safety of the participant, and the act of omission caused the injury.
 - 5) Intentionally injures the participant.
- (c) Nothing in the Act shall prevent or limit the liability of an equine activity sponsor or an equine professional:
 - 1) Under liability provisions as set forth in the products liability laws.
 - 2) Under liability provisions in the Fence Act.

(Source: P.A. 89-111, eff. 7-7-95.)

(745 ILCS 47/25)

Section 25. Warning.

- (a) Every equine professional shall post and maintain signs that contain the warning notice specified in subsection (b) of this Section. Signs shall be placed in a clearly visible location on or near barns, corrals, or arenas where the equine professionals conduct equine activities if the barn, corrals, or arenas are owned, managed, or controlled by the equine professional. The warning notice specified in subsection (b) shall appear on the sign in black letters, with each letter to be a minimum of one (1") inch in height. Every written contract entered into by an equine professional or the providing of professional services, instructions, or the rental of equipment or tack or an equine to a participant, whether the contract involves or not involves equine activities on or off the location or site of the equine professional's business, shall contain in clearly readable print the warning notice specified in subsection (b).
- (b) The signs and contracts described in subsection (b) shall contain the following written notice:

“WARNING
Under the Equine Liability Act, each
participant who engages in an equine activity
expressly assumes the risk of engaging in and
legal responsibility for injury, loss, or
damage to person or property resulting
from the risk of equine activities.”

(Source: P.A. 89-111, eff. 7-7-95.)

(745 ILCS 47/905)

Section 905. (Amended provisions; text omitted).

(Source: P.A. 89-111, eff. 7-7-95.)

(745 ILCS 47/999)

Section 999. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon becoming law.

(Source: P.A. 89-111, eff. 7-7-95.)

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AMERICAN EQUESTRIAN ALLIANCE
ILLINOIS STATE EQUINE STATUTE PUBLIC ACT 111, SENATE BILL 240

SYNOPSIS: AN ACT to limit the civil liability of persons participating in equine activities, amending a named Act. Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois, represented in the General Assembly:

Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the Equine Activity Liability Act.

Section 5. Purposes. The General Assembly recognizes that persons who participate in equine activities may incur injuries as a result of the risks involved in those activities. The General Assembly also finds that the State and its citizens derive numerous economic and personal benefits from equine activities. Therefore, it is the intent of the General Assembly to encourage equine activities by delineating the responsibilities of those involved in equine activities.

Section 10. Definitions. As used in this Act:

(a) "Engages in an equine activity" means riding, training, assisting in medical treatment of, driving, or being a passenger upon an equine, whether mounted or unmounted, or assisting a participant. The term "engages in an equine activity" does not include being a spectator at an equine activity, except in cases where the spectator places himself in an unauthorized area and in immediate proximity to the equine activity.

(b) "Equine" means a horse, pony, mule, donkey, or hinny.

(c) "Equine activity" means:

- (1) Equine shows, fairs, competitions, performances, or parades that involve any or all breeds of equines and any of the equine disciplines, including, but not limited to, dressage, hunter and jumper horse shows, grand prix jumping, 3-day events, combined training, rodeos, driving, pulling, cutting, polo, steeple chasing, English and western performance riding, endurance trail riding and western games, and hunting.
- (2) Equine training activities, teaching activities, or both.
- (3) Boarding equines.
- (4) Riding, inspecting, or evaluating an equine belonging to another, whether or not the owner has received some monetary consideration or other thing of value for the use of the equine or is permitting a prospective purchaser of the equine to ride, inspect, or evaluate the equine.
- (5) Rides, trips, hunts, or other equine activities of any type however informal or impromptu that are sponsored by an equine activity sponsor.
- (6) Placing or replacing horseshoes on an equine.

(d) "Equine activity sponsor" means an individual, group, club, partnership, or corporation, whether or not the sponsor is operating for profit or nonprofit, that sponsors, organizes, or provides the facilities for an equine activity, including, but not limited to, pony clubs, 4-H clubs, hunt clubs, riding clubs, school and college sponsored classes, programs and activities, therapeutic riding programs, and operators, instructors, and promoters of equine facilities, including, but not limited to, barns, clubhouses, pony ride strings, fairs, and arenas at which the activity is held.

(e) "Equine professional" means a person engaged for compensation (i) in instructing a participant or renting to a participant an equine for the purpose of riding, driving, or being a passenger upon the equine, or (ii) in renting equipment or tack to a participant.

(f) "Risks of engaging in equine activities" means those dangers of conditions that are an integral part of equine activities, including, but not limited to:

- (1) The propensity of an equine to behave in ways that may result in injury, harm, or death to persons on or around them.
- (2) The unpredictability of an equine's reaction to sounds, sudden movement, and unfamiliar objects, persons, other animals, or other things.
- (3) Certain hazards such as surface and subsurface conditions.
- (4) Collisions with other equines or objects.
- (5) The potential of a participant to act in a negligent manner that may contribute to injury to the participant or others, such as failing to maintain control over the animal or not acting within his or her ability.

(g) "Participant" means any person, whether amateur or professional, who engages in an equine activity, whether or not a fee is paid to participate in the equine activity.

Section 15. Participant's responsibility. It is recognized that equine activities are hazardous to participants, regardless of all feasible safety measures that can be taken.

Each participant who engages in an equine activity expressly assumes the risk of and legal responsibility for injury, loss, or damage to the participant or the participant's property that results from participating in an equine activity, except in specific situations as set forth in Section 20, when the equine activity sponsor or equine professional may be held responsible. Each participant shall have sole individual responsibility for knowing the range of his or her own ability to manage, care for, and control a particular horse or perform a particular equine activity, and it shall be the duty of each participant to act within the limits of the participant's own ability, to maintain reasonable control of the particular horse or horses at all times while participating in an equine activity, to heed all posted warnings, to perform equine activities only in an area or in facilities designated by the horseman, and to refrain from acting in a manner that may cause or contribute to the injury of anyone.

Each participant, or parent or guardian of a minor participant, may execute a release assuming responsibility for the risks of engaging in equine activities. The release shall give notice to the participant, or parent or guardian, of the risks of engaging in equine activities, including (i) the propensity of an equine to behave in dangerous ways that may result in injury to the participant, (ii) the inability to predict an equine's reaction to sound, movements, objects, persons, or animals, and (iii) the hazards of surface or subsurface conditions. A release shall remain valid until expressly revoked by the participant or, if a minor, the parent or guardian.

Section 20. Exceptions.

(a) This Act shall not apply to the horse racing industry as regulated in the Illinois Horse Racing Act of 1975.

(b) Except as provided in Section 15, nothing in this Act shall prevent or limit the liability of an equine activity sponsor, an equine professional, or any other person if the equine activity sponsor, equine professional, or person:

- (1) Provided the equipment or tack, and knew or should have known that the equipment or tack was faulty, and the equipment or tack was faulty to the extent that it caused the injury.
- (2) Provided the equine and failed to make reasonable and prudent efforts to determine the ability of the participant to engage safely in the equine activity and determine the ability of the participant to manage safely the particular equine based on the participant's representations of his or her ability.
- (3) Owns, leases, rents, or otherwise is in lawful possession and control of the land or facilities upon which the participant sustained injuries because of a dangerous latent condition that was known to the equine activity sponsor, equine professional, or person and for which warning signs were not conspicuously posted.
- (4) Commits an act or omission that constitutes willful or wanton disregard for the safety of the participant, and that act or omission caused the injury.
- (5) Intentionally injures the participant.

(c) Nothing in this Act shall prevent or limit the liability of an equine activity sponsor or an equine professional:

- (1) Under liability provisions as set forth in the products liability laws.
- (2) Under liability provisions in the Fence Act.

Section 25. Warning.

(a) Every equine professional shall post and maintain signs that contain the warning notice specified in subsection (b) of this Section. Signs shall be placed in a clearly visible location on or near barns, corrals, or arenas where the equine professional conducts equine activities if the barns, corrals, or arenas are owned, managed, or controlled by the equine professional. The warning notice specified in subsection (b) shall appear on the sign in black letters, with each letter to be a minimum of one inch in height. Every written contract entered into by an equine professional for the providing of professional services, instruction, or the rental of equipment or tack or an equine to a participant, whether or not the contract involves equine activities on or off the location or site of the equine professional's business, shall contain in clearly readable print the warning notice specified in subsection (b).

(b) The signs and contracts described in subsection (a) shall contain the following warning notice: Toed shoes.

Hard toed shoes are preferred. Avoid loose clothing and dangly jewelry; they can cause a safety hazard.