Counseling and Counselor Education Services of Georgia, LLC

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**FARM PROTECTION AND SAFETY GUIDELINES**

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

SECTION A. Protective Attire

1. Please always wear hard-soled, fully enclosed shoes or boots and

 socks to protect feet and long pants to protect legs while working around or

 interacting with horses.

1. Bring water or other electrolyte solution for hydrating during cold and warm seasons.
2. Insect spray will be available; if you/child has any allergy or sensitivity to chemicals or essential oils, please bring your own spray.
3. Helmets are always required for any mounted activity. Helmets are sanitized between use.

SECTION B. The Nature and Physical Character of the Horse and Donkey

Domesticated, well-trained horses and donkeys are generally obedient and affectionate. However, it is important to understand their survival instincts are what have allowed them to survive from prehistoric times to the present day.

1. Horses and donkeys can be unpredictable by nature, particularly in new environments or when having new experiences, as are all animals both domestic and feral.
2. Horses are extremely heavy weighing from 800 to 1500 pounds on the average and donkeys weigh between 250 and 600 pounds, in general. These characteristics deserve a human being’s utmost respect.
3. When a horse or donkey is frightened, angry, under stress or feels threatened, it is their instinct to jump forward or sideways, to run away from danger at a trot, or gallop of speeds up to 35 miles per hour.
4. If a horse or donkey is frightened or feels threatened from behind, they may kick straight back, sideways in either direction or even forward with their hind leg and with tremendous force.
5. If a horse or donkey is frightened or feels threatened from the front, the natural reaction may be to rear up with both front legs, strike with one or both front legs, bite with teeth, throw the head up or from side to side, or run directly over whatever he/she fears in front of him/her.
6. Humans should approach an equine calmly and quietly with caution, preferably to the horse or donkey’s shoulder or lower neck, talking soothingly.
7. Loud and/or sudden unexpected movements, dropping of objects nearby, approaching vehicles or animals or people, ill-fitting equipment, or physical pain can provoke a horse or donkey to react according to their natural, protective instincts.
8. The first noticeable signs of anger or fear in a horse or donkey include the sudden tensing of the muscles of the body, the facial muscles, swishing tail, possibly laying the ears flat back against the head, quickly tossing or raising the head, or sudden snorting through the nostrils.
9. Equines can see independently with each eye, actually looking in one direction with one eye and another direction with the other eye. They can also focus both eyes on one object somewhere in front of him/her. Typically, the direction the ear is pointing will tell an observer where the eye is looking on the same side.
10. Equines have two blind areas around which they cannot see well at all. Those areas are directly behind them and directly in front. When an equine has his/her head lowered to the ground, the spot directly at the end of the nostrils is a blind area. This is the reason it is best to approach them close to the shoulder and avoid surprising them from the rear, or to reach first for their mouth.
11. While equines are very sure-footed by nature, they may accidentally step on an object such as a human’s foot when balancing or turning around. It is important to wear hard toe shoes or boots for protection and to reduce the risk of injury.

I have read and understand the above warnings concerning protective attire and the nature and physical character of horses and donkeys.

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Client Signature Date

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Parent/Guardian Signature Date