

**Sportsman's World Recreational Association**  
**Stable Policies and Procedures**  
**January 10, 2009**

General Statement:

The Sportsman's World Stable is an amenity available to all property owners of Sportsman's World who are current with their annual resident dues. Use of the stables is provided on a "space available" basis. An SWRA Board Member will be the contact for any issues with the stables.

The Sportsman's World stable is a unique entity. Each owner is responsible for the care of feeding of their respective horses, as well as ensuring the cleanliness of their assigned stall. In addition, each individual will participate in maintaining the common facilities. This facility is a "pasture" type arrangement. That is, the horses are stalled only for feeding, inclement weather, or other emergency situations. They are maintained, primarily, in a "herd" environment.

Cooperation and respect are essential in ensuring the safe, sanitary, efficient, and harmonious operation of this facility.

I. Permanent Stall Assignments

The stable facilities consist of six "inside stalls" with runs and three "outside" open stalls. Assignment of these stalls is made on a first come, first serve basis. A waiting list will be maintained to fill stall vacancies. Individuals who have permanent assignments can maintain this privilege indefinitely, as long as they meet the eligibility requirements described below.

Individuals with permanent assignments may, from time to time, send their horses to training, take them for medical treatment, or experience other reasonable absences without losing their assignment. However, if they sell their horse or their horse dies, they will be allowed 45 days in which to find a replacement horse. Otherwise, they will lose their permanent assignment. If they are unable to find a replacement horse within the time frame, they must request to be added to the waiting list, if they so desire. Exceptions to this 45 day time period will be considered by the stable committee on a "case by case" basis.

II. Eligibility

Eligibility to stable a horse at this facility requires an individual to be a current dues paying member of SWRA. The criteria for eligibility will be based on SWRA's policies for use of amenities such as swimming pool, tennis courts, etc. Priority for stabling and waiting lists will be given to residential dues paying members of SWRA in good standing.

SWRA reserves the right to refuse the continuation of board of any horse(s) for any reason, to include but not limited to: animal's poor health or unsoundness; dangerous propensities,

habits, and/or vices which the SWRA Stable is not equipped to handle; or owner's refusal to obey stable rules or to cooperate with the SWRA Stable on reasonable requests relative to the management, welfare and safety of animals and people on premises.

In such case where the Board of Directors unanimously agrees to discontinue boarding privileges to any owner, that owner will be given 30 days written notice to remove boarded animal from premises.

### III. Vet Protocol

Each individual stabling a horse at this facility is responsible for providing basic emergency instructions in writing. This includes identifying the specific veterinarian to be contacted, as well as emergency contact information (phone numbers). Each owner will be responsible for providing as detailed information as possible so that individuals on hand at the stable can make as informed a decision as possible regarding emergency care. This should include a relatively complete health history of the horse and the degree to which the owner is willing to seek treatment. Where possible, each owner should identify alternative individuals who can act on their behalf if they cannot be contacted. All users of the facility, in a cooperative/caring spirit, will exercise due diligence to identify when an animal has been injured, is in distress, or otherwise requires veterinarian attention. Once a situation is identified, the emergency instructions for the respective horse will be implemented. Every attempt will be made to contact the owner. Each owner is aware that some emergency situations may not allow sufficient time for notification and that the welfare of the animal takes precedence. All owners agree that emergency veterinarian notification and care can take precedence over immediate notification of the owner. The individual who has to make such a decision will make every attempt to get telephonic advice from the veterinarian and/or other stable users. The owner shall promptly pay all expenses for emergency services. It is recommended that each owner make available credit card information so that the stable coordinator or other stable user making these decisions is not liable for the cost of treatment.

### IV. Timeline – Stall

When a stall vacancy exists, the first person on the waiting list will be notified. They will have 45 days in which to occupy the vacant stall. If they are unable to accomplish this within the designated time period or they decline the offer, the next person on the list will be contacted and given the same opportunity. This process will continue until the vacant stall is filled or there are no more individuals on the waiting list.

## V. Stable Coordinator

The Board of Directors will designate a “stable coordinator”. The responsibilities of this individual include the following:

- a. Provide a contact point for individuals “dropping” horses for temporary boarding in the corral area. The maximum number of horses that can be boarded in the corral area is four—three in the corral itself and one in the round pen. Under no circumstances will stallions be boarded, either temporarily or permanently.
- b. Make the determination whether or not a horse to be boarded temporarily is healthy and will not create an unsafe situation due to over-aggressiveness.
- c. Ensure that individuals “dropping” horses have the required current Negative Coggins paperwork for their horses.
- d. Coordinate with other permanent stable users for the scheduling of veterinary and farrier visits, as well as delivery of hay.
- e. Maintain emergency contact information for all stable users. Identify whether or not a situation is an emergency requiring immediate attention or can be classified as a “non-emergency” and handled otherwise.
- f. Maintain required records, such as current Negative Coggins tests on all horses. Provide duplicate copies of this information to the SWRA secretary.
- g. Maintain the waiting list, with courtesy copies provided to the SWRA secretary, as well as other permanent stable committee members.
- h. Ensure that feeding schedules and other pertinent information are maintained currently and accurately on the stable calendar.

All other stable users will assist the stable coordinator in the performance of the above duties, as needed. When the Stable Coordinator is absent, he/she will ensure that one of the other stable users is available to assume his/her duties.

## VI. Liability (sign, etc.)

Texas State Statutes provide basic limitation of liability pertaining to equine activities. These statutes apply to this stable facility and related activities. Selected excerpts are delineated as follows:

**Texas Equine Activity Statute**

**VERNON'S TEXAS STATUTES AND CODES ANNOTATED  
CIVIL PRACTICE AND REMEDIES CODE  
TITLE 4. LIABILITY IN TORT  
CHAPTER 87. LIABILITY ARISING FROM EQUINE ACTIVITIES...**

**87.003. Limitation on Liability**

Except as provided by Section 87.004, any person, including an equine activity sponsor, equine professional,... is not liable for property damage or damages arising from the personal injury or death of a participant in an equine activity...if the property damage, injury, or death results from the dangers or conditions that are an inherent risk of an equine activity..., including:

- (1) the propensity of an equine...animal to behave in ways that may result in personal injury or death to a person on or around it;
- (2) the unpredictability of an equine...animal's reaction to sound, a sudden movement, or an unfamiliar object, person, or other animal;
- (3) with respect to equine activities, certain land conditions and hazards, including surface and subsurface conditions;
- (4) a collision with another animal or an object; or
- (5) the potential of a participant to act in a negligent manner that may contribute to injury to the participant or another, including failing to maintain control over the equine...animal or not acting within the participant's ability.

Individuals participating in equine activities at the SWRA Stables are advised as follows:

**SECTION A. PROTECTIVE ATTIRE**

- 1.) To purchase and wear a well-fitted helmet, hard hat or similar head gear fastened securely under the chin, while working around or riding horses, to prevent injuries.
- 2.) 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 have allowed the horse to survive from prehistoric times to the present day. Accordingly, participants are advised:

- 1.) 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 powerful physically. Horses are extremely heavy weighing from 600 to 1300 pounds on the average. These characteristics deserve a human being's utmost respect.
- 2.) 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 an hour.
- 3.) If a horse is frightened, from behind, it may kick straight back, sideways in either direction, or even forward with either of its hind legs with tremendous force.
- 4.) 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 ½ to 5 ½ feet.
- 5.) 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 run directly over whatever it fears in front of it.
- 6.) 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.) 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.) A horse can see independently with each eye, actually looking in one direction with one eye and another direction with the other eye, or it can focus both eyes on one object somewhere in front of it; that usually the direction the ear is pointing will tell an observer where the eye is looking on the same side, and consequently on what the horse is likely concentrating on at that moment.
- 9.) 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 it's head, or sudden snorting through the nostrils accompanying at least one other warning.
- 10.) A horse has two blind areas around it which it cannot see. It cannot see directly behind it, nor what it is eating. This 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.) While a horse is 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 that if a horse is ridden or worked on unstable ground or slippery grass or footing it could fall down injuring a rider or handler.

Users of the SWRA Stable facilities will be required to sign a waiver indicating that they have read and understand the above warnings.

## VII. Safety

Individuals using the stables will observe prudent safety measures at all times, including the care and handling of their horses. In addition, they will respect the property of other stable users. All stall gates will be kept closed while horses are in the pasture. Individuals interacting with the horses in the pasture area and the stalls should be reminded of the nature and physical character of horses delineated above.

## VIII. Required horse documentation

- a. Current Negative Coggins certificate mandatory for all horses (permanent and temporary)
- b. Vaccinations (West Niles, Tetanus, F-1 4-way, etc.)
- c. Proof that horse has current worming treatment

## IX. Facilities

As noted in Section II above, the SWRA Stable facilities consist of 9 permanent stalls available for assignment on a “first come, first serve” basis. However, other eligible Sportsman’s World owners can bring their horses for temporary boarding with proper advance notice to the stable coordinator. Temporary boarding, however, is limited to the corral and round pen area. This is an open area, and no protective cover is available. Due to the “herding” nature of horses, temporary users will not be allowed to release their horses into the pasture area, which is reserved for horses belonging to permanent assignees. Individuals boarding their horses temporarily will be required to provide their own feed and hay, as well as buckets and feeding bowls for food and water. These individuals will also be responsible for maintaining the cleanliness and security of this area and leave the area in the same condition when they arrived. Each permanent assignee will also be responsible for maintaining the stable area in a safe and clean condition.

Secure areas for permanent stable users include the tack room, feed room, bathroom, and bunkhouse. Temporary users will only be allowed access to the bathroom. Separate locks will be maintained to secure the respective areas accordingly. The pasture area will be secured with separate locks and temporary users will only have access to the corral and round pen areas. Temporary boarding will be limited to 5 consecutive days.

All individuals utilizing the stable facility will respect the property of others. Tack, tools, and supplies belonging to others will not be used without the express permission of the owner.

## X. Feed and Care

Each individual stabling a horse at this facility is responsible for ensuring that sufficient feed and forage is available for their horse at all times. Since the adjacent pasture has limited

grazing, it is imperative that owners provide appropriate feed and forage (hay). This includes providing proper buckets/bowls for feeding and watering their animal.

Current users of the facility have established a cooperative arrangement whereby there is shared responsibility for care and feeding of the horses. All individuals wishing to use this facility must be willing to respect and abide by these arrangements.

XI. Horse Boarding Agreement and Liability Release

Each individual boarding a horse at the SWRA Stables, either permanent or temporary, shall be required to read and sign a basic agreement which indicates that this individual has read the stable policies and procedures, as well as pertinent warnings related to equine activities. Each individual will be required to sign a statement that they fully understand these policies and procedures, understand the inherent risks associated with equine activities, and agree to abide by all rules and regulations delineated.

This policy and procedure statement has been approved and adopted by the SWRA Board of Directors as evidenced by the minutes of the meeting held May 14, 2005 and reaffirmed by the minutes of the meeting on May 15, 2009. The Board reserves the right to revise and update these policies and procedures as needed.

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