



THE HORSE  
PROTECTION  
LEAGUE.ORG

THE HORSE PROTECTION LEAGUE  
17999 W. 60<sup>th</sup> Ave., Arvada, CO 80403  
P.O. Box 741089, Arvada, CO 80006  
www.thehorseprotectionleague.org  
303-216-0141

## SAFETY RULES AND FACILITY POLICIES

Welcome and thank you for your interest in The Horse Protection League! HPL greatly appreciates its volunteers and the work they do. We understand the love and concern that bring volunteers to work with our equines and the natural attraction equines hold. But safety is our highest priority. In order to keep both our valued volunteers and our rescued equines safe and happy, we have developed the following *Safety Rules and Facility Policies*. We expect every person who visits our Ranch to follow these *Safety Rules and Facility Policies*, and to treat all HPL personnel with respect; otherwise you may be required to leave the FACILITY immediately.

**PLEASE READ CAREFULLY. THE *SAFETY RULES AND FACILITY POLICIES* MUST BE READ AND SIGNED BY ALL VISITORS, VOLUNTEERS, OR THEIR PARENT/GUARDIAN, BEFORE ANY PERSON MAY TOUR THE HPL FACILITY OR PARTICIPATE IN ANY ACTIVITIES WITH THE STAFF OR HORSES AT THE FACILITY.**

### WARNINGS

*Under Colorado Law, an equine professional is not liable for an injury to or the death of a participant in equine activities resulting from the inherent risks of equine activities, pursuant to Section 13-21-119, Colorado Revised Statutes.*

THE HORSE PROTECTION LEAGUE does not guarantee your safety. Everyone who visits or volunteers at our FACILITY must also sign the Liability Release Agreement or be covered by a Group Program Agreement.

**IF YOU ARE EVER IN DOUBT ABOUT THE SAFETY OF ANY ACTIVITY YOU ARE ABOUT TO UNDERTAKE, STOP! THEN GET A MORE EXPERIENCED PERSON TO HELP YOU.**

**A. DEFINITIONS.** The term "VOLUNTEER" refers to anyone who signs this Agreement, regardless of whether they are interacting with HORSES, visiting the facility, volunteering, or acting on behalf of a minor child as the parent or guardian of that child. A "VOLUNTEER" also refers to any minor child whose parent or guardian signs this Agreement. The term "VOLUNTEERING" refers to grooming, mucking, stacking hay, handling HORSES, transporting HORSES or participating in any activity whatsoever at the FACILITY, or watching others engaged in the same activities, whether on the ground or mounted.

THE HORSE PROTECTION LEAGUE or "HPL" refers to the 501(c)(3) nonprofit horse rescue organization located in Arvada, Colorado.

The terms "HORSE(S)" refer to any equine species that may be present at the FACILITY.

“MANAGER” refers to the employees or persons otherwise authorized by the MANAGER or Executive Board of Directors of HPL.

“MOD” refers to the HPL employee or volunteer Manager of the Day who is authorized to act for the MANAGER.

“FACILITY” refers to HPL’s ranch complex located at 17999 W. 60th Ave., Arvada, CO 80403; or to any other location where a VOLUNTEER participates in activities sponsored by HPL, including but not limited to transporting HORSES or the stables of potential adoptees.

**B. VOLUNTEER ACCEPTANCE OF RESPONSIBILITY AND AGREEMENT TO FOLLOW *SAFETY RULES AND FACILITY POLICIES*.** All VOLUNTEERS must read, understand and agree to follow these *Safety Rules and Facility Policies*, and all instructions from MANAGER. VOLUNTEERS are solely responsible for their own safety and the safety of their minor children. If anyone fails or refuses to follow the *Safety Rules and Facility Policies* and/or the instructions from MANAGER, or otherwise acts in an unsafe or inappropriate manner, they may be required to leave the FACILITY immediately.

**C. INHERENT RISKS OF WORKING WITH RESCUED HORSES.** Any HORSE can be dangerous simply because of its size and tendency to run first and think later. But rescued HORSES such as those we have here at HPL may have severe behavioral problems as a result of previous mistreatment or pain that can make them particularly dangerous to handle. Everyone who works directly with HORSES must do so with the understanding that the HORSES at HPL will not necessarily react the same way as other HORSES they may have worked with in the past. In addition, we expect everyone to treat our HORSES with care, respect and never abusively.

**D. GENERAL RULES**

1. Absolutely no smoking or drug use is allowed anywhere at the FACILITY
2. No alcohol consumption allowed without approval of the MANAGER or HPL Board of Directors
3. No dogs are permitted at the FACILITY without prior approval of the MANAGER or HPL Board of Directors
4. Parking is limited to designated areas only
5. Minors under the age of 18 must be visibly supervised by an adult parent, guardian or designated group leader unless otherwise approved by the MANAGER or HPL Board of Directors
6. Proper attire is required, including use of safety gear if necessary for the activity. For example, NO SANDALS OR OPEN-TOED SHOES are allowed at the FACILITY. Sturdy shoes or boots are preferred. Long pants, long-sleeved shirts and gloves are recommended when working with HORSES or participating in manual activities
7. HPL highly recommends that each VOLUNTEER have a current tetanus shot
8. No running or yelling
9. No climbing on gates or fences

10. No possession of unauthorized firearms at the HPL FACILITY

### **E. VOLUNTEER PROTOCOL**

1. Everyone should demonstrate continued commitment to HPL's mission and respect for its property, procedures and staff
2. Except during regular volunteer hours, everyone must schedule their visit in advance with the MANAGER or a designated HPL member. No one may be on the property unless the MANAGER, an HPL Board member, Volunteer Coordinator or the MOD is present
3. All VOLUNTEERS must sign the logbook, including the date and time, each time they visit the FACILITY
4. Before starting any tasks on your own, first check with the MANAGER or MOD
5. Use of certain equipment, and participation in certain activities, requires training. VOLUNTEERS are encouraged to attend training sessions whenever they are offered
6. Do not operate any motorized equipment without authorization from the MANAGER or MOD. A driver's license is required of anyone who operates an HPL motorized vehicle either on or off HPL property
7. Keep scheduled commitments. If you have been scheduled for a job or an event and are unable to meet your commitment, please inform the appropriate supervisor or coordinator as far in advance as possible. Commitment and punctuality are extremely important, especially when feeding HORSES and working at public events
8. Please be professional whenever you are representing HPL as a VOLUNTEER or employee
9. Return any tools you use to the place where they belong, in a clean condition, including hammers, pliers, wheelbarrows, manure rakes, grooming kits, etc. Report any breakage or if you find anything missing
10. Never leave tools unattended near a HORSE or in a pen with an HORSE
11. Participation in and removal from special groups or committees is at the sole discretion of the MANAGER and HPL Board of Directors

### **F. HORSE-SPECIFIC RULES**

1. No one may work with, handle or move an HORSE, or enter a pen or corral, without either direct supervision from a designated HPL staff member, or prior permission to do so. Permission may require completing training or demonstrating that you have the experience and skill necessary to handle or work in proximity to that type of HORSE
2. HPL reserves the right to limit volunteer tasks, including working with HORSES, to members only. We encourage everyone who supports HPL's mission to become a member
3. At least two people must always be present when anyone is working with a HORSE, unless otherwise directed by the MANAGER. Use caution at all times when in a corral with one or more HORSES
4. Horses must be haltered for all handling
5. All gates must be closed. If a HORSE gets loose, yell "LOOSE HORSE" and immediately secure main gates

6. Do not tie a HORSE. Have someone hold the HORSE for you unless given specific permission by the MANAGER to properly tie that HORSE
7. Never feed a HORSE any hand-held treats of any kind without permission and direct supervision from the MANAGER. Do not hand-graze HORSES or feed HORSES without permission from the MANAGER or MOD.
8. At no time is anyone allowed to ride or sit on any HORSE without permission from the MANAGER or MOD. Anyone riding an HPL HORSE must have been approved to do so after an evaluation. The MANAGER, MOD or another designated HPL VOLUNTEER, must be present while anyone rides an HPL HORSE
9. Any VOLUNTEER riding an HPL HORSE must wear an ASTM-approved helmet and ride only on HPL property or other FACILITY. VOLUNTEERS must provide their own helmets
10. No VOLUNTEER is allowed to work in HPL's HHH boarding area without prior approval of the MANAGER and the horse owner

## **G. SEPARATION FROM HPL AND AUTOMATIC DISMISSAL**

The commission of any offense considered serious enough by HPL's Board of Directors, without limitation to those outlined below, will, except in extraordinary circumstances at the sole discretion of the HPL Board of Directors, be followed by the immediate and permanent dismissal of that VOLUNTEER and termination of that VOLUNTEER'S services or activities at the FACILITY. Thereafter, access to the FACILITY is prohibited and may be considered as trespass.

1. Committing serious infractions of rules and procedures outlined in Articles B, C, D, E, and F above
2. Failing to show up for designated task without notifying a MANAGER or MOD
3. Making false statements or omitting pertinent facts on your volunteer application or in an interview
4. Threatening, assaulting, fighting with, verbal abuse or harassing another VOLUNTEER, MANAGER, Board member, or anyone else encountered during the course of volunteering
5. Bringing or threatening to bring legal action against HPL
6. Possession of unauthorized firearms at HPL FACILITY
7. Volunteering under the influence of alcohol, narcotics, or other drugs, with the exception of physician-prescribed medications
8. Conviction of a felony offense and/or imprisonment
9. Falsifying or destroying HPL documents or computer files
10. Stealing or deliberately damaging HPL's or other VOLUNTEER'S property

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[End of listings of *Safety Rules and Facility Policies*. The next page is a signature page that you return to HPL.]

**Return this page to The Horse Protection League**

**SIGNER STATEMENT OF AWARENESS:** I, THE UNDERSIGNED, HAVE READ AND DO UNDERSTAND THESE *SAFETY RULES AND FACILITY POLICIES* AND I AGREE TO FOLLOW THEM.

Signature of Adult VOLUNTEER \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ADULT VOLUNTEER NAME (print): \_\_\_\_\_

For Minor(s):

Signature of Parent/Guardian for Minor(s)

\_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian's Name (print): \_\_\_\_\_

MINOR CHILD VOLUNTEER NAME (print):

\_\_\_\_\_

Birth Date of MINOR CHILD) (if under 18): \_\_\_\_\_