

Co-Ordinating Riding Program With Total Facility

1. The director of a facility that has a horse riding program should be familiar with the limitations and potential problems of riding programs. The safety of the riders should be their foremost consideration.
2. The goals are realistic for the program, considering the facilities, financial resources, type of clients and the training of the staff.
3. The program goals include:
 - a. Safe practices in riding and handling horses.
 - b. Awareness of responsibilities to animals and the environment.
 - c. Quality instruction designed to provide progressive education or appropriate input for the needs and interests of the riders (as applicable to the expectations of the program).
4. There is comprehensive documentation for the site, including:
 - a. Policies and procedures regarding the use of the horses.
 - b. The riding area and the trails.
 - c. Training programs for staff.
 - d. Training and conditioning programs for horses.
 - e. Induction for new horse staff.
 - f. Training of non-horse staff in horse-related safety issues.
5. Human resources policies are in use, which clearly present staff with job descriptions and responsibilities.
6. Workplace Health and Safety procedures are applied to all aspects of the Horse Program, including:
 - a. A written OHS or WHS Policy which covers responsibilities of employers and employees.
 - b. Induction in all activities to be undertaken including training in manual handling.
 - c. Safety Data Sheets (SDS).
 - d. Risk management and emergency procedures.
 - e. Provisions for safe handling.
 - f. Secure storage of hazardous goods.
7. The site has an appropriate public liability insurance cover with a recognised insurance provider.
8. Waivers (including risk warnings) are signed by all participants (or in the case of minors, by a parent or Guardian on behalf of the participants). Prior to activities commencing, participants (and when the participant is less than 18 years of age their parent or Guardian) are made aware of the inherently risky nature of horse activities.
9. Where sub-contractors are used, they should be appropriately contracted and complete induction training for site requirements.
10. There are current agreements with the land managers responsible for the land on which horse activities take place. These must be maintained and complied with.