

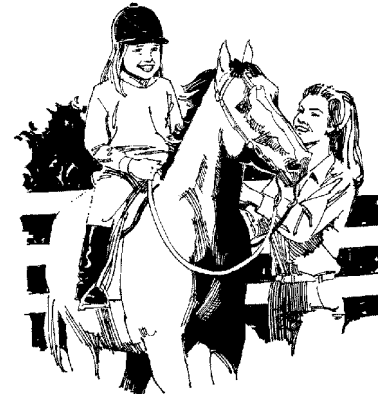


RESPONSIBILITIES AS A 4-H HORSE LEADER

by Lisa Townson, Extension Specialist, 4-H Youth Development

As a 4-H Horse Leader you are responsible for working with youth in a variety of settings, from club meetings, to field trips and horse shows. Horses are large animals and can be unpredictable. Youth and adults working with horses must be very aware of safety rules and your role as a volunteer leader is vital to keeping these youth safe. This guide is designed to make sure you are aware of your responsibilities and limitations within your role as a UNH 4-H Cooperative Extension Volunteer.

When you became a 4-H Volunteer you signed a 4-H Volunteer Agreement Form. This guide further defines and clarifies the role of volunteers working specifically with the 4-H horse project. By reading this and following the guidelines here, you can be assured you have taken appropriate precaution to protect yourself from liability in the case of an accidental injury to the youth you work with and others. The University System of New Hampshire and Cooperative Extension covers you under its general liability policy **ONLY** when you are acting within your role as a 4-H volunteer.



4-H Volunteer Roles Specific to the Horse Project Include the Following:

- Working with youth at regularly scheduled 4-H meetings and special 4-H events on a volunteer basis. This includes meetings, 4-H shows, 4-H-sponsored practice events, 4-H sponsored field trips and fair shows offering 4-H classes.
- Providing opportunities to/coaching/teaching all 4-H members equally, without any conditions or restrictions.
- Acting as a chaperone or coach for one of New Hampshire's 4-H Horse Teams during practices or trips to regional and national events.

- Requiring all individuals, regardless of age, who are mounted on or being pulled by a horse to require a ASTM/SEMI approved equestrian safety helmet at all times, including when participating in barn activities or mounted activities at meetings and during practices and shows.
- Ensuring all 4-H Horse shows follow *NH 4-H Rules and Classes for Horse Shows and Activities*. This includes the requirement of all riders to wear ASTM/SEMI approved equestrian safety helmets when mounted on or being pulled by an equine animal and the *exclusion* of lead line classes, or any classes involving equines for youth under the age of 8 years old. Youth under age 8 may not participate in 4-H activities involving horses or other large animals.
- Adhering to items listed in the 4-H Volunteer Agreement Form.

4-H Volunteer Roles DO NOT Include the Following:

Any activity where you are involved in receiving compensation for lessons, educational programs, or coaching provided to 4-H members or other youth.

- Providing any type of opportunity or activity to specific members, while not offering the same or similar opportunities to all other members in the group you're working with.
- Any situation where 4-H participation is conditional on compensation or other business arrangements, like boarding or leasing of an animal.
- Arranging for leasing of animals is not governed by UNH Cooperative Extension, but are private agreements between individuals. All leases should be in writing, but UNH Cooperative Extension and the 4-H Youth Development program will not be involved in setting lease agreements. When private parties are setting up leases, liability issues should be determined and put in writing.
- Trucking livestock – This is also a private agreement between two parties and is not considered part of your responsibilities as a 4-H Volunteer.
- Assisting with *ANY* horse show/event, in your role as a 4-H volunteer, where the *NH 4-H Rules & Classes for Horse Shows and Activities* are not being followed.

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