

## **RELEASE OF LIABILITY**

### **READ AND UNDERSTAND THIS BEFORE YOU SIGN IT**

In consideration of \_\_\_\_\_ (the "Rider") being permitted to ride horses and/or receive instruction and/or instruct others on horsemanship and/or board horses on premises owned by Prancing Pony, LLC and operated by Rivendell Farm, LLC, located at 2 Cherry Lane, Durham, Connecticut (the "Premises"), and in consideration of the Rider being permitted to ride horses owned or boarded by Rivendell Farm, LLC and/or receive instruction and/or instruct others on horsemanship at locations on and off said Premises, the Rider and his/her parent or guardian (if Rider is under 18 years of age) agree that Lisa Harness-Passavant, Roger Passavant, Prancing Pony, LLC, Rivendell Farm, LLC and the members, agents, servants, employees and independent contractors of any of them (collectively the "Releases") shall not be liable for, and agree to waive, discharge, and release them from, any accident, personal or bodily injury, death or property damage that may be sustained by any person or entity, including without limitation the Rider, as a result in whole or in part from the Rider's riding horses on or off the Premises and/or receiving instruction on or off the Premises and/or instructing others on or off the Premises and/or boarding horses on the Premises and/or being on the Premises for any purpose. This Release includes without limitation, any accident, personal or bodily injury, death or property damage arising in whole or in part from the negligence of the Releases.

The Rider and his/her parent or guardian recognize that riding and working around horses can be dangerous due to their size and unpredictable nature. Rider and his/her parent or guardian also understand that the Premises and other riding locations may contain uneven footing and other hazards caused by tree roots, animal burrows, erosion, low lying tree branches, rocks and other natural and man-made conditions. Rider and his/her parent or guardian voluntarily assumes all risks and dangers associated with same.

The Rider and his/her parent or guardian agree to hold harmless, defend and indemnify the Releases from any claims, demands, or suits arising in whole or in part from Rider's riding on or off the Premises and/or receiving instruction on or off the Premises and/or instructing others on or off the Premises and/or boarding horses on the Premises and/or being on the Premises for any purpose, including without limitation those arising in whole or in part from the negligence of the Releases.

The Rider and his/her parent or guardian represent that the Rider has medical insurance covering the Rider in the event the Rider is injured, that the Rider will continue to have such medical insurance in effect at all times, and that the Rider and his/her parent or guardian will seek reimbursement for all medical expenses solely from said insurance.

This Release is binding on the Rider and his/her parent or guardian and their heirs, executors, administrators, successors and assigns whether or not said accident, personal or bodily injury, death or property damage is due in whole or in part to the negligence of the Releasees.

Rider has received a copy of this Release.

This Release is signed at Rivendell Farm, 2 Cherry Lane, Durham, CT 06422 on

Date \_\_\_\_\_,

Rider's signature \_\_\_\_\_

Rider's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Rider's Address \_\_\_\_\_

Rider's Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

**If Rider is less than 18 years old;**

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Address \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

## **Protective Attire & Physical Character of the Horse**

### **Section A. Protective Attire**

I am hereby advised to purchase and wear a well-fitted helmet fastened securely under the chin, while working around and or riding horses to prevent injury.

I am hereby advised to always wear hard soled, fully enclosed shoes or boots, socks to protect feet, and long pants to protect legs while working around and 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 them to survive from prehistoric times to present day.

I am advised 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 strong and powerful physically. Horses are extremely heavy, weighting from 600-1,300 pounds on average. These characteristics deserve a human beings respect.

I am advised that when a horse is frightened, angry or under stress or feels threatened from behind, it may kick straight back, sideways in either direction, or even forward with either of its hind legs with tremendous force.

I am advised that if a horse is frightened or feels threatened from above or on its back, it may hunch its back and buck in a way that could throw riders to the ground with tremendous force. A fall from a horse will usually be from a height of 4 to 7 feet.

I am advised that if a horse is frightened 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.

I am advised that a human must always approach a horse calmly and quietly and cautiously, preferably from head, to its shoulder to neck talking soothingly.

I am advised that 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 accordingly to their natural protective instincts.

I am advised that the first signs of anger or fear in a horse are the sudden tensing of muscles of the body, possibly laying its ears back against its head or

quickly tossing or raising its head, or sudden snorting through the nostrils accompanied by at least one other warning sign.

I am advised that a horse can see independently with each eye, actually looking in one 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 the moment.

I am advised that the horse has two blind areas around it, which it cannot see. It cannot see directly behind it, and not what it is eating. This is the reason it is best to approach a horse close to its shoulder, and never surprise a horse from the rear or to reach for its mouth.

I am advised that while a horse is very sure-footed by nature, it may accidentally step on an object such as a human foot, when 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, thus injuring rider and handler.

I am advised that the above paragraphs are not exclusive or exhaustive, that individual horses may react to stimuli in unpredictable ways.

After reading the above, please write out the following statement on the line provided below;

**YOU MUST WRITE OUT THIS STATEMENT BEFORE YOU CAN RIDE**

**“I have read and understand the aforementioned warnings concerning protective attire and the physical character of the horse.”**

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**Signed**\_\_\_\_\_

**Date**\_\_\_\_\_

**Guardian or parents if a minor child or legal ward is less than 18 years old.**

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