

PROGRAM SAFETY RULES for  
Riding On Angels' Wings



*Running a safe operation for riders, staff, volunteers, and horses is foremost in our minds. We ask each of you to share our concern for safety. If you see something that looks dangerous, alert program staff about it right away so it may be addressed properly.*

**Confidentiality**

Riders at **ROAW** Therapeutic Riding Center have the right to confidentiality of their medical conditions, progress, behavior and participation at the facility. Riding on Angels' Wings is bound by a policy of confidentiality regarding our riders. We are not at liberty to discuss with you all the aspects of their history, but we will tell you everything we can to assist you in being an effective volunteer for that rider. We understand you will wish to share your experiences here at Riding on Angels' Wings with friends and family, but we ask that you do it in a non-specific manner with regards to riders' and parents' names. Please read the confidentiality statement carefully before signing it.

**Rider Requirements:** All riders **MUST** have at least 2 sidewalkers with them at all times (for liability and safety issues we must insist on this) Riders may be required to provide one sidewalker to assist them if we are short on volunteers. This individual must be at least 5'2 and 14 years of age. Parents are welcome to sidewalk with their child if they so choose. All caregivers/staff are welcome to fill this requirement also.

**Rider removal** - Please understand that we know our horses best and if we feel there is a problem with the child or the horse, we will adjust to that at any time. If we are dealing with a rider's behavior or a horse's behavior, and we feel it is unsafe for the rider, horse or the volunteer, we will remove the rider immediately and/or replace the horse.

**Helmets** - Riders **MUST** wear helmets, which will be provided at each session. If you choose to buy your own helmets, they **MUST** meet the safety standards. Please contact R.O.A.W. on what type and where to buy them.

**Dress code –**

\*Riders – **NO** nylon pants, **NO** sandals or open toed shoes, and **NO** windbreakers.

\*Volunteers & staff - Everyone should come prepared for any type of weather. It is advisable to dress in layers as our weather can change quickly. Comfortable, sturdy shoes are important as we do a lot of walking on uneven terrain--no steel-toed shoes or boots; no open-toed sandals or flip-flops. Wear comfortable shoes that you can jog in that won't fill with arena dirt or sand. Boots offer the best protection. If you have them, wear them. Close-fitting clothes are important as loose-fitting clothes could get caught in

equipment and may make the horses nervous. Please do not wear any nylon, windbreaker type clothing that will spook the horses.

Shorts may be worn at your discretion. Please do not wear revealing clothing, such as jog bras or halter-tops without a t-shirt or tank top over them. Also, no cropped t-shirts should be worn. There should be no holes and should not contain inappropriate language or potentially offensive pictures.

Some of our riders, as well as our horses, may have sensitivities to perfumes, so please do not use them when you expect to volunteer. Perfumes also attract bees! Remember, we are trying to keep you and the riders safe! We suggest you tie long hair back into a ponytail and refrain from wearing long dangling jewelry and necklaces. Some of our riders may want to grab your hair or jewelry.

**No smoking** will be allowed in buildings or around the riders.

**No pets** are allowed.

**No hand-feeding of the horses.** Unfortunately, feeding our horses treats after every class, by hand or otherwise, would mean a substantial consumption of extra sugar and protein. This ‘innocent’ action can induce an undesired ‘treat demand’ response from our horses and may result in biting and nibbling.

**Camera Policy** – Camera usage will be restricted to parents and director ONLY. Parents will be allowed to take pictures of their children. Please understand that not all riders or families have signed the Photo/Video Release, and we need to respect their wishes.

**Cell Phone Policy** – For the safety of our riders, volunteers, and horses, NO cell phones will be allowed in or around the arena area. If a cell phone were to ring, the horses may spook, which could endanger the riders, as well as any other personnel in the ring.

**Siblings:** - Please NO siblings. The risk of someone disappearing or spooking the horses is to great and we need time for the children and the horses to adjust – less people, less risk!

**Emergency Procedure and First-Aid kit are located in the barn.**

***If there is an emergency while a lesson is in session:***

1. The instructor is in charge.
2. All horses will be halted.
3. All handlers will position themselves in front of the horses. *DO NOT LET GO OF THE HORSE.*
4. All sidewalkers will stabilize their riders. Sidewalkers will calmly and quietly reassure the mounted riders.
5. There is to be no excessive talking or noise during an incident.
6. The instructor will supervise the dismounting procedures verbally or personally.
7. If circumstances call for the arena to be evacuated, the riders will be escorted out first by their volunteers and the horses will be removed by their handlers to an appropriate place after the riders are out of danger.
8. The instructor will determine if medical personnel are required and will request assistance in contacting specific personnel.

**Ambulance – 911 (5062 120<sup>th</sup> Ave N. – Felton, MN)**  
**Fire – 911 (Program location fire number is: Dilworth Fire #5062)**  
**Police – 911 (5062 120<sup>th</sup> Ave N. – Felton, MN)**

**From Moorhead – take Hwy 75 North 8 miles. Go east on County road 26 for 3 miles. Go north on 50<sup>th</sup> Street for 3 miles. At 120<sup>th</sup> Avenue take a right, then a quick left into our farm.**

**Parking:** Please park in designated areas east of the house. All riders that are in wheelchairs are encouraged to unload and park closer to the arena.

### **Weather Policy**

- Classes cancelled for storm or tornado warning in Clay County.
- Classes cancelled if the heat index is unsafe for the horses and/or riders.
- The recorded message at Riding on Angels' Wings (218-359-0007) will indicate cancellations two hours prior to class time. If in doubt, call before you come!

### **NATURAL DISASTER EMERGENCY PROCEDURES**

**Fire:** If there is a fire, riders will be dismounted and everyone will be directed by the Program Director or Instructor to a safe location. Horse handlers will do their best to ensure safety for the horses and then join the group.

**Tornado:** If there is a tornado warning, riders will be dismounted. If there is time, untack horses and let them loose in the arena. Everyone will be directed by the Program Director or Instructor to a safe location.

**Threatening Weather:** If threatening weather approaches, riders will be dismounted and everyone will be directed by the Program Director or Instructor to a safe location.

**In the case of an emergency, it is imperative that everyone remains calm, follow directions, and proceed to safety.**

### **BARN SAFETY**

Riding on Angels' Wings horses are very special to us and we take pride in knowing that our horses are well taken care of. Taking great care of our horses also means ensuring that they receive their proper rest and relaxation time.

Due to ensuring proper care for our horses, **the only persons allowed in the barn during sessions will be program staff and horse handlers.** Commotion inside the barn causes the horses to become nervous and it also disturbs their rest periods.

Horse handlers and staff will be the only persons entering or leaving the barn with horses, due to safety regulations.

If you are directly asked by one of the staff to enter the barn, please do not disturb the horses. There will be time for you to visit the horses after sessions, but not without supervision.

If you wish to rest or visit, please use the picnic area outside the arena.

If you would like to come to the farm at a time other than a regularly scheduled class, please call 218-359-0007 and set up a time first.