



## **Code of Conduct for Horse Activities**

### **Responsibility to individuals**

EquusTerra Instructors/Volunteers should:

- Provide their services conscientiously and competently;
- Not breach public trust, or the specific trust of their participants, clients, staff or competitors;
- Ensure that advice and directions provided give full and proper cognisance to personal safety.

### **Technical skills**

EquusTerra Instructors/Volunteers should:

- Continue to develop their professional knowledge and technical skills;
- Not undertake activities they are not competent to perform and, when in doubt, obtain appropriate advice and assistance that will allow these activities to be competently carried out;
- State qualifications, experience and prior responsibilities accurately.

### **Behaviour**

EquusTerra Instructors/Volunteers should:

- Maintain a high standard of integrity, and apply honesty and fair dealing in all aspects of their operations;
- Carry out their professional duties with due care and diligence;
- Act and communicate in a professional manner towards both their colleagues and their clients;
- Act in ways which engender confidence regarding horse related activities and clearly support the Standards set out in the EquusTerra documentation.

### **In practice, this means that EquusTerra instructors/volunteers should:**

1. Place the safety and welfare of the participants above all else.
2. Ensure that equipment and facilities meet safety standards and horses are appropriate to the age and ability of their riders.
3. Ensure that the time riders spend with them is a positive experience. All clients deserve equal attention and opportunities.
4. Display control, respect and professionalism to all involved in their activities.
5. Encourage all participants.
6. Be consistent, objective and courteous when making decisions.
7. Promote respect for all participants.
8. Remember that they set the example. Their behaviour and comments should be positive and supportive.

9. Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of their gender, ability, cultural backgrounds or religion.
10. Ensure that any physical contact with a rider is appropriate to the situation and only undertaken when necessary for their skill development.
11. Show concern and caution towards sick and injured riders. Ensure that a rider/handler who has been involved in an incident/accident involving a horse, is not be permitted to recommence that activity until they have been assessed for possible injuries by a competent first aider. If any injuries are evident or suspected, these should be treated by a medical professional before continuing with the activities.

## **ALCOHOL/DRUGS**

EquusTerra is committed to providing a safe environment for every person involved in horse activities. Instructors, Volunteers and Riders should not be under the influence of alcohol or any illegal substances when involved in horse activities.

## **SMOKING**

Due to the dangers of passive smoking, non-smokers should be protected from tobacco smoke. For this reason EquusTerra recommends that smoking not be permitted in any areas where clients congregate, nor in resting or office areas of the organisation. Instructors should refrain from smoking while they are acting in an official capacity.

## **HARRASSMENT**

EquusTerra is committed to encouraging horse related environments which are free from harassment and discrimination. All clients, instructors, administrators, volunteers and staff members have the right to be treated with respect and dignity.

Sexual harassment and various other forms of harassment are unlawful under federal and state/territory antidiscrimination laws. People engaging in harassment can have legal action taken against them under these laws. In some cases, legal action can also be taken against the organisation for which they work or which they represent.

## **SUNSMART**

It is suggested that its members:

- Encourage the use of SPF 15 or higher sunscreen at all times when their staff members or clients are subject to the elements;
- Follow the Australian Horse Industry Council guidelines for clothing for riding;
- Ensure that, wherever practicable, on days of extreme heat, outdoor activities take place before 11am or after 2:30pm;
- Allow riders and staff members to wear sunglasses that meet the Australian Standard (AS 1067) if it is safe to do so.