

# Health and Safety Policy

## Kelowna Riding Club (KRC)

The Kelowna Riding Club (KRC) is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for all members, visitors, volunteers, and staff. This Health and Safety Policy outlines our approach to managing safety risks and promoting well-being for all who participate in equestrian activities at our facilities.

### *1. Commitment to Safety*

The safety of our members, guests, and horses is our top priority. KRC will take all reasonable steps to:

- Identify and address potential hazards
- Provide clear safety guidelines for riders, handlers, coaches, and visitors
- Maintain facilities and equipment to high safety standards

### *2. Member and Visitor Responsibilities*

All members, visitors, and event participants must:

- **Personal Responsibility:** Prioritize their own safety and the safety of others while on KRC grounds.
- **Respect for Rules:** Follow all club safety rules, signage, and instructions from officials or board members.
- **Helmet Use:** Approved helmets must be worn at all times when riding or driving a horse.
- **Safe Riding and Handling:** Riders and handlers must act safely at all times, especially in shared areas like arenas and barns.
- **Reporting Hazards:** Report any hazards or unsafe conditions to the KRC board or designated safety officer immediately.

### *3. Facility Safety*

KRC will ensure that its facilities meet safety standards, including:

- **Arenas:** Riding surfaces will be regularly maintained to reduce the risk of injury.
- **Fencing and Gates:** Regular inspections will ensure all fencing and gates are in good condition.
- **Stables and Barn Areas:** Stables and barns will be kept clean, dry, and free of hazards, with proper equipment storage.
- **First Aid Kits:** First aid kits for humans and horses will be available at key locations.

#### ***4. Event Safety***

During events, KRC will:

- **Safety Briefings:** Provide briefings and safety protocols to ensure all participants understand the risks.
- **Emergency Preparedness:** Ensure emergency contacts and plans are clearly communicated.
- **Crowd Control:** Implement measures to protect participants and spectators, with designated safe areas.

#### ***5. Horse Health and Safety***

To ensure the safety and welfare of horses on club grounds:

- **Vaccinations and Health Records:** Horses must be up-to-date on vaccinations, and provide proof of a negative Coggins test if required.
- **Fitness and Condition:** Riders are responsible for ensuring their horses are fit for work.
- **Safe Tacking and Equipment Use:** Proper tack and equipment must be used, fitted correctly, and in good repair.

#### ***6. Incident Reporting***

In the event of an incident:

- **Human Emergencies:** Report injuries or accidents involving people to a KRC board member or event organizer. Contact emergency services if necessary, and file an incident report.

- **Equine Emergencies:** Report equine injuries to a board member, and contact a veterinarian if required. The horse's owner or handler must take appropriate actions.
- **Fire and Evacuation:** Evacuation procedures will be posted in the clubhouse, barns, and arenas. Members and visitors should familiarize themselves with these procedures.

**Blank incident reports** are available at the clubhouse porch or can be downloaded from the KRC website. If an incident occurs, it must be reported to a board member as soon as possible.

## ***7. Training and Education***

KRC encourages ongoing safety education by offering:

- **Safety Clinics:** Regular clinics on horse handling, first aid, and emergency procedures.
- **Access to Resources:** Safety guidelines and educational materials available online and at the clubhouse.

## ***8. Enforcement and Compliance***

KRC reserves the right to enforce this Health and Safety Policy. Non-compliance may result in:

- **Warnings:** Verbal or written warnings for minor infractions.
- **Suspension or Expulsion:** Temporary or permanent loss of club privileges for serious or repeated violations.

For questions or to report any safety concerns, contact the KRC board or a designated safety officer. Together, we can maintain a safe, enjoyable environment for all.