

## **SOPRIS MOUNTAIN RANCH EQUESTRIAN CENTER HANDBOOK of Rules and Requirements for Homeowners and Boarders**

**BEFORE you bring a horse onto Sopris Mountain Ranch (SMR), it is required that you provide the following:**

1. A current Health Certificate with inoculation history. A horse entering SMR must be vaccinated for the following: influenza, rhinopneumonitis, encephalitis (eastern and western), West Nile and tetanus and must have a negative Coggins test within the last 12 months.
2. A current worming history.
3. A Horse Registration and Emergency Form provided by the Ranch Manager.

Once your horse is boarded, SMR will then manage the worming of your horse according to the ranch schedule. The ranch schedule for worming is May and November.

Annual vaccinations are required. These vaccinations include influenza, rhinopneumonitis, encephalitis (eastern and western), West Nile and tetanus to be given in the spring, and an annual Coggins test if the horse travels outside of Pitkin County, Colorado. Optional but strongly recommended vaccinations for the fall are influenza, rhinopneumonitis and rabies.

SMR will pen or pasture your horse separately and across the fence from the herd as a means of safe introduction. After three or four days, your horse will join the herd. Please note that the equestrian facilities at SMR are a herd environment. If your horse is unable to assimilate with its herd, the Ranch Manager may request that you remove your horse from SMR. Mares are pastured separately from geldings. No stallions are allowed as we do not have the facilities or the staff to manage them. Foals will be allowed at the discretion of the Ranch Manager. Colts must be gelded whenever the Ranch Manager deems it necessary or within one year of birth.

The Ranch Manager will determine where each horse will be pastured. Please cooperate with this decision.

Horses are visually inspected twice daily. You will be called if there is any sign of injury or illness. In an emergency, first response medical aid will be given to the best of our abilities, then you and your veterinarian will be called to take over. The horse owner is responsible for any and all expenses for medical treatment of his/her horse(s).

Stalls are available for medical isolation. The horse owner is responsible for the cleaning of stalls used, as well as feeding and watering. For a fee, the SMR staff can provide stall cleaning, feeding, watering and limited medical care, for an additional fee (please see fee schedule).

## **FACILITIES**

The ARENA and ROUND PEN are for homeowner and boarder use. Please be considerate of other users while sharing either area. There is no exclusive use of the arena.

ALL GATES on SMR and on public lands are to be left as they are found. If a gate is closed, it must be re-closed and properly latched after riders pass through. **Never** leave a previously closed gate open, even for a short time. Ranch border gates are to be closed at all times.

TRAILS are marked and a trail map is posted in each tack room. Riders have free use of all trails on the ranch but should not deviate from trails and roads in consideration of other Homeowners' privacy.

THE POLO FIELD is available for Homeowner's and Boarder's use, provided that it is not being used for an event. Please stay on the dry areas of the field as wet areas are dangerous and slippery. Horses can cause great damage when ridden on wet areas. Riding on the polo field immediately following a heavy rainfall is **prohibited**.

**No horses may be loose on Parcel 5 without halters.**

## **GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS**

LIABILITY WAIVERS: All persons riding or handling any horse on SMR must **FIRST** sign a current liability waiver, available in the ranch office and the big red barn. This includes Homeowners, their guests, trainers, farriers, groomers, etc. All such persons must read and be familiar with Colorado Equestrian Law, which is posted in both barns. There is a separate waiver for children (under the age of 18), which must be signed by a PARENT or LEGAL GUARDIAN.

Adherence to this very important responsibility protects us all as the collective owners and users of SMR. Additional waivers are available upon request from the Ranch Manager.

SIGN OUT: For your safety, all riders are requested to sign out before departing on a ride out of sight of the barn, indicating intended trail, time out and approximate time of return. There are many trails on the ranch, and if someone comes up missing, this information will assist us in knowing where to search. There are sign out dry-erase boards at the door of both barns.

All children under the age of 18 **must wear helmets** when riding on SMR. All riders are encouraged to wear helmets. SMR owns several helmets in varying sizes which are available for your use.

DO NOT LEAVE HALTERS OR OTHER EQUIPMENT HANGING ON HITCHING POSTS WHILE YOU ARE RIDING! Please put tack boxes and other equipment up against the barn buildings before you depart as a courtesy to other riders.

TACK ROOMS are to be kept clean and orderly at all times. Each horse owner is assigned **one saddle rack per horse**, which must be marked with their name. Items other than saddles, bridles, halters and tack boxes should be kept in a lidded tack box or small trunk that fits under the saddle rack.

GRAIN AND SUPPLEMENTS are to be kept in appropriate air-tight containers and pilfer-proof containers to reduce attracting vermin. Please sweep up and dispose of any spills.

GUEST RIDERS must be accompanied by a Homeowner or Boarder at all times. This applies to the arena as well as trails.

CLEAN UP: Everyone, without exception, **MUST** clean up after their horse when using the barn and tacking areas **BEFORE** and **FOLLOWING** their ride. Manure, spilled grain, hoof shavings, hoof debris, etc. must be swept, hosed or removed as appropriate. Manure rakes, shovels, manure carts, tubs, brooms and hoses are provided for this purpose. The concrete apron should be swept after use.

Please properly dispose of any manure, hay, etc., after unloading or cleaning trailers.