

Morning Sun Ranch, Inc.  
815-A Calabasas Road  
Watsonville, Ca. 95076 831-728-9139  
www.morningsunranch.com

Student name: \_\_\_\_\_

Horses name: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Hold Harmless**

Release of liability and warning notice

*Please read this form in its entirety before signing*

#### **WARNING:**

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

- 1) I am hereby advised to purchase and wear a well-fitted, certified equestrian riding helmet, while working around or riding horses, to prevent injuries.
- 2) I am hereby advised to always wear hard soled, heeled, fully enclosed shoes or boots to protect feet, and long pants to protect legs while working around or 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 the horse to survive from prehistoric times to the present.

- 1) I am hereby 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, weighing from 600 to 1300 pounds on average. These characteristics deserve a human beings utmost respect.
- 2) I am hereby advised that when a horse is frightened, angry, under stress or feels threatened, it is his instinct to jump forward or sideways from danger, at a trot or gallop of speeds up to 35 miles per hour.
- 3) I am hereby advised that if a horse is frightened 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.
- 4) I am hereby advised that if a horse is frightened or feels threatened from above it or on its back, it may hunch its back and buck in a way that could throw a rider to the ground with tremendous force. A fall from a horse will usually be from 3 to 6 feet.
- 5) I am hereby advised that if a horse is frightened or feels threatened from the front, it may naturally react by rearing up on it hind legs, strike with one or both front legs, bite with its teeth, throw its head up or from side to side, or run directly from whatever it fears in front of it.

- 6) I am hereby advised that a human must always approach a horse calmly, quietly and cautiously, preferably from its shoulder or lower neck, while talking soothingly to it.
- 7) I am hereby 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 according to his natural protective instincts.
- 8) I am hereby advised that the first signs of anger or fear in a horse are the sudden tensing of the muscles of the body, possibly laying its ears flat back against its head, or quickly tossing or raising its head, or sudden snorting through the nostrils and accompanying at least one other warning sign.
- 9) I am hereby advised that a horse can see independently with each eye, actually looking in one direction with one eye on one object somewhere in front of it; 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 that moment.
- 10) I am hereby advised that a horse has two blind areas around it at which it cannot see. It cannot see directly behind it, nor what it is eating. This is the reason it is best to approach a horse close to its shoulder, and *never* to surprise a horse from the rear, or to reach first for the horses' mouth.
- 11) I am hereby advised that while a horse is very sure-footed by nature, it may accidentally step on an object, such as a human foot, while balancing itself or turning about. Also, if a horse is ridden or worked on unstable ground or slippery grass it could fall down injuring a rider or handler.

**Please write out the following statement on the lines provided:**

" I have read and do understand the above warnings concerning protective attire and the nature and physical character of the Horse.":

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After reading all the foregoing information, I nevertheless, hereby for myself, my heirs, executors and administrators, waive release and discharge and hold harmless ***Morning Sun Ranch, Inc.***, and their heirs, Michael and Gina Kindscher and all other persons and organizations, in anyway connected with the events, property, boarding, lessons or any other activity described herein, their representatives, heirs, administrators and assigns from any and all right, claim or liability for damage or for any and all injuries that might be sustained by me including injuries to animals or from any and all claims of any kind or nature that I might have as a result of or arising out of my and my family's participation in any activity. Furthermore, I do hereby acknowledge that this release will extend to any accidents, damages, or claims arising out of my participation, caused by

my own act, or the acts of any animal within my control. I further agree that I will defend, indemnify, and hold harmless **Morning Sun Ranch Inc.**, and their heirs, Michael and Gina Kindscher and their heirs against all claims, demands, and causes of action including court costs, and attorney fees, directly or indirectly arising from any action or other proceeding brought by or prosecuted for by benefit contrary to this release extended to all claims of every nature what-so-ever whether known or unknown and expressly waive any benefits I may have under Section 1542 of the California Civil Code relating to the release of unknown claims.

I do hereby acknowledge that I have read the foregoing paragraph and know and understand the content thereof.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please Print Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

**MINORS MUST HAVE THE FOLLOWING SIGNED BY PARENTS OR LEGAL GUARDIANS:**

We the undersigned parents of \_\_\_\_\_ for and in consideration of our children's participation in riding, showing, working with, and otherwise being around the horses and facility state that we have read the warnings, waiver, release and hold harmless written above and we expressly agree that the terms and conditions of said waiver, release and hold harmless shall apply to and be binding upon us and our minor children in so far as it pertains to their participation and to any injury or damage said minor children may sustain or cause as a result of said participation. We further warrant we have health and accident insurance on said minors.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\* All Minors MUST wear an equestrian helmet at all times while riding. All adults must wear equestrian helmets while jumping or undergoing instruction. While pleasure riding, please be advised that your risk of injury increases greatly should you take a fall from your horse without the benefit of a helmet.**