

## HORSE RIDING AGREEMENT AND LIABILITY RELEASE FORM 2025

20022 Trappe Road, Bluemont VA 20135

Manager/Owner Heather Heider

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY BEFORE SIGNING

SERIOUS INJURY MAY RESULT FROM YOUR PARTICIPATION IN THIS ACTIVITY. Van Vixen FARM DOES NOT GUARANTEE YOUR SAFETY OR THAT OF YOUR HORSE. IT IS HEREBY AGREED TO AS FOLLOWS THAT:

A. REGISTRATION OF RIDERS AND AGREEMENT PURPOSE I, the following individual hereinafter known as the "RIDER," and the parents or legal guardians thereof if a minor, do hereby voluntarily request and agree to participate in horseback riding lessons or riding camps on Van Vixen FARM, owned by Heather Heider who is owner/manager of Van Vixen Farm, premises, and that this RIDER will ride his/her own horse or one borrowed from Van Vixen Farm for a lesson or for 2023 camp dates.

RIDER NAME/AGE (if under 21) \_\_\_\_\_

B. AGREEMENT SCOPE AND TERRITORY AND DEFINITIONS- This agreement shall be legally binding upon me the registered RIDER, and the parents or legal guardians thereof if a minor, my heirs, estate, assigns, including all minor children, and personal representatives; and it shall be interpreted according to the laws of the State and county of Loudoun, Virginia. Any disputes by the RIDER shall be litigated in and venue shall be Loudoun County, Virginia. The term "HORSE" herein shall refer to all equine species. The term "HORSEBACK RIDING" or "RIDING" herein shall refer to riding or otherwise handling of horses, ponies, mules, or donkeys, whether from the ground or mounted. The term "RIDER" shall herein refer to a person who rides a horse mounted or otherwise handles or comes near a horse from the ground. The terms "I," "me," or "my" shall herein refer to the above registered rider and the parents or legal guardians thereof if a minor.

C. ACTIVITY RISK CLASSIFICATION- Horseback riding is classified as RUGGED ADVENTURE RECREATIONAL SPORT ACTIVITY, and that there are numerous obvious and non-obvious inherent risks always present in such activity despite all safety precautions. According to NEISS (National Electronic Injury Surveillance Systems of United States Consumer Products) horse activities rank 64<sup>th</sup> among the activities of people relative to injuries that result in a stay at U.S. hospitals. Related injuries can be severe, requiring more hospital days and resulting in more lasting residual effects than injuries in other activities.

D. NATURE OF RIDING HORSES- No horse is a completely a safe horse. Horses are 5 to 15 times larger, 20 to 40 times more powerful, and 3 to 4 times faster than a human. If a rider falls from a horse to ground it will generally be at a distance of from 3 ½ to 5 ½ feet, and the impact may result in injury to the rider. Horseback riding is the only sport where on much smaller, weaker predator animal (human) tries to impose its will on, and become on unit of movement with, another much larger, stronger prey animal with a mind of its own (horse) and each has a limited understanding of the other. If a horse is frightened or provoked it may divert from its training and act according to its natural survival instincts which may include, but are not limited to: stopping short, changing directions or speed at will; shifting its weight; bucking; rearing; kicking; biting; or running from danger.

E. RIDER RESPONSIBILITY- Upon mounting a horse and taking up the reins, the RIDER is in primary control of the horse. The RIDER'S safety largely depends upon his/her ability to carry out simple instructions, and his/her ability to remain balanced aboard the moving animal. The RIDER shall be responsible for his/her own safety.

F. CONDITIONS OF NATURE- Van Vixen Farm and all farms associated with Van Vixen Farm, employees of Van Vixen Farm and volunteers listed above is NOT responsible for total or partial acts, occurrences, or elements of nature that can scare a horse, cause it to fall, or react in some other unsafe way. SOME EXAMPLES ARE: thunder, lightning, rain, wind, wild and domestic animals, insects, reptiles, which may walk, run, fly near, bite and/or sting a horse or person; and irregular footing on out-of-door groomed or wild land which is subject to constant change in condition according to weather, temperature, and natural and man-made changes in landscape.

G. INSPECTION OF PREMISES- RIDER has inspected Van Vixen's facilities and all facilities associated with camp and trails and is satisfied that all premises conditions are reasonably safe for RIDER'S intended purpose, usage and presence upon the Van Vixen Farm premises for camp and lessons.

H. ACCIDENTAL/MEDICAL AND PERSONAL LIABILITY INSURANCE- Should medical treatment be required,

I and/or my own accidental/medical insurance company shall pay for all such incurred expenses. My accident/medical insurance company is \_\_\_\_\_ and my policy number is \_\_\_\_\_. Should my actions or that of my horse cause injury or damage of any, I and/or my own personal liability shall pay for such damages. My personal liability insurance company is \_\_\_\_\_ and my policy number is \_\_\_\_\_. *Van Vixen Farm does not carry swimming insurance on any water activities including swimming on or off premises of Van Vixen Farm, nor does Van Vixen Farm provide a life guard around any water activity including swimming. Any accident or loss resulting in or around water activities is in no way the responsibility of Van Vixen Farm. Please initial that you have read this policy and waive all future claims against Van Vixen Farm.*

I. PROTECTIVE HEADGEAR WARNING-I have been fully warned and advised by Van Vixen Farm that the RIDER should purchase and wear protective headgear (riding helmet), and that the wearing of such headgear while mounting, riding, dismounting, and otherwise being around horses, may prevent or reduce severity of some head injuries and even prevent death from happening as the result of a fall or other occurrence. Minors 16 and under are required to wear protective headgear. The Client shall at all times maintain personal injury and other liability insurance to cover any potential liability hereunder.

J. LIABILITY RELEASE- In consideration of Van Vixen FARM allowing my participation in this activity, under the terms set forth herein, I, the RIDER, and the parent or guardian thereof if a minor, do agree to hold harmless and release Van Vixen FARM, its owners, agents, employees, instructors including Lissa McCauley, Karen Nutt, Victoria Yeago, Amy Zettler, Carol Eichnor, Miley Holtzman, anyone teaching riding lessons or taking clients trail riding or hunting, showing, officers, volunteers, members, premises owners, insurers, and affiliated organizations from legal liability due to Van Vixen Farm's and owners of ordinary negligence; and I do further agree *that except in the event of Van Vixen Farm's gross negligence and willful and wanton misconduct*, I shall not bring any claims, demand, legal actions and causes of action, against Van Vixen Farm and/or its associates, for any economic and non-economic losses due to bodily injury, death, property damage, sustained by me and/or my minor child or legal ward in relation to the premises and operations of Van Vixen FARM or events to include while riding, handling, or otherwise being near horses owned by or in the care, custody and control of Van Vixen Farm.

- I. Van Vixen Farm is not responsible for other non-camper adults or children while on Van Vixen Farm Property. Please have children well supervised and at no time enter the stable or pasture without permission and adult supervision of other siblings or guests brought with you. ***At no time, should any animal not belonging to Van Vixen Farm be allowed on property without personal consent from Heather Heider. Please leave all cats and dogs at home during pick up and drop off of campers or during scheduled lessons. Please do not bring them along in the car as there is a greater risk for escaping and Van Vixen Farm holds no liability to loss or accident to animal not belonging to Van Vixen Farm.***
- II. ***I give permission to Van Vixen Farm for photo usage of images of their child to be used only for marketing and promotional purposes.***
- III. ***While teaching a student, at times an instructor needs to correct body position of the hip, back, shoulder, and legs. I give my permission for my child to have Van Vixen Farm riding instructors assist in body position correction that may involve touching and moving body positions.***

All Riders and Parents or Legal Guardians must sign below after reading this entire document:

SIGNER STATEMENT OF AWARENESS

I/WE, THE UNDERSIGNED, HAVE READ AND DO UNDERSTAND THE FOREGOING AGREEMENT, WARNINGS, RELEASE AND ASSUMPTION OF RISL. I/WE FURTHER ATTEST THAT ALL FACTS RELATION TO THE APPLICANT ARE TRUE AND ACCURATE.

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE OF PARENT, GUARDIAN

\_\_\_\_\_ for child \_\_\_\_\_

NAME (PLEASE PRINT) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

