

**ACT 93 OF 2005**  
**LIABILITY PROTECTION FOR EQUINE OPERATORS**

Persons, groups, clubs and businesses that sponsor, organize, perform or provide areas for “equine activities” are given statutory protection from liability for injuries that may occur as a result of an individual’s participation in an equine activity through the enactment of Act 93 of 2005.

Act 93 of 2005 lists numerous activities that are protected as “equine activities.” Although not all “equine activities” given protection under Act 93 are listed here, the list includes equine training, teaching and riding instruction; shows, fairs, and parades; equine competitions, such as dressage, hunter and jumper shows, rodeos, steeplechasing, English and Western performance riding, and endurance and nonendurance trail riding; recreational and therapeutic riding; boarding and normal daily care; natural and artificial equine breeding; inspecting, riding or evaluating an equine in the course of a purchase or prospective purchase of an equine; recreational rides involving the use of an equine; shoeing or hoof trimming; and leading, handling or grooming of equines.

In order for the equine operator to be protected, he or she must conspicuously post signs in two or more locations on the premises where the equine activity is conducted. The signs must be at least three feet by two feet in size, and must state: “You assume the risk of equine activities pursuant to Pennsylvania law.”

The protection provided under Act 93 is limited to injuries to an adult resulting from his or her participation in the equine activity. An equine operator will not be protected under this legislation for injuries that may occur to minors.

Act 93 also recognizes that Act 93’s protection from liability is to be strictly interpreted by the courts. This means that equine operators must still take due care to eliminate or control conditions posing risk of injury to participants in equine activities that the operator would reasonably be expected and able to foresee and eliminate or control.

A copy of the enacted version of Act 93 (Senate Bill 618, Printer’s Number 1359 of the 2005-2006 Legislative Term) is available on the Internet through Pennsylvania’s Electronic Bill Room at:

<http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/home/session.cfm>

The statutory provisions of Act 93 also appear in Title 4, Sections 601 through 606 of Purdon’s Pennsylvania Statutes.