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TIP OF THE MONTH:


"Know before you go" in 2017.


Dr. Kent Allen recently summarized several important things to know about allowable medication in competition and other veterinarian rules that apply to all riders, trainers, and owners who compete at USEF shows. Before heading off to your 2017 show circuit, take the time to review Kent's tips for best practices [here](#). You owe it to your horse and the sport!

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When to Call an Equine Lawyer

While the scenarios are endless, Leone Equestrian Law regularly encounters a few of the same common legal matters within the equine industry. The bad news: problems ranging from unpaid client bills to lease agreements gone wrong are frequent within professional circles of the horse world. The good news: you don't have to go it alone; there is help out there.

If you find yourself in one of the following three scenarios, it's time to call an equine lawyer:

Buyer / Seller Remorse

Owning, leasing, and selling competitive sport horses is a risky business. Even after all the 'T's have been crossed and 'I's have been dotted, things can go wrong for buyer, seller, trainer or all three.

Good Rules to Follow:

1. Be transparent in your bill of sale or lease agreements, noting any lameness issue or special circumstances.
2. Never overlook the need for a qualified veterinarian and trainer consultations to help you in selecting a horse.
3. Always offer the buyer or lessor the opportunity to get an independent veterinarian examination prior to completing the transaction.
4. Arrange a trial period with the horse if reasonable.

But, even after the most diligent efforts, people may claim after the sale or lease based on alleged non-disclosures related to soundness, suitability, or something else. If it happens to you, an equine lawyer can help.



The Delinquent Boarder

As any horse owner knows all too well, maintaining a horse in proper condition, whether riding for pleasure or more competitively, is undeniably costly. In turn, barn owners, trainers, and providers of veterinary services often deal with the daunting unpaid bill. Efforts like a mandatory boarding contract and published price sheet can often ward off a possible non-payment situation. But, if saddled with a client's debt, barn owners may be protected under a stableman's lien.

What's A Stableman's Lien? It is a state law that can allow a stable owner to keep possession of a horse whose owner has not paid for boarding and other services that are owed. It allows a lien to be placed on the horse until the bill is paid and may afford a process for selling the horse in a public auction if it is not.

If you are dealing with stableman's lien issues, you should consult with an equine lawyer.

[Click here to read more and to learn the third common scenario, indicating you may need to contact an equine lawyer.](#)

In the Press

"An owner at my barn walked out on a horse ten months ago and has been unreachable since. I took over financial responsibility of the horse at that time. Do I have any legal rights to ownership considering the length of time I have been caring for the horse? If no, how do I go about assuming legal ownership without contact with the owner?"



[Find Armand Leone's answer to the question above in this past issue of The Plaid Horse, here!](#)

About Leone Equestrian Law

Leone Equestrian Law LLC provides legal services and consultation for equestrian professionals ranging from riders and trainers to owners and show managers in the FEI disciplines on a wide variety of issues. With a wealth of experience in the equestrian industry, Leone Equestrian Law LLC gives their clients personalized care with the utmost respect for confidentiality. Visit www.equestriancounsel.com to learn more!