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Your Legal Questions Answered!

Do you have your own equine legal question that needs answered? Or a situation in which you could really use some advice?

Submit any equestrian legal questions by [email here](#) with the subject line "Leone Equestrian Law Q&A."

Beginning next month, we'll answer your questions in our monthly newsletter and on the [Leone Equestrian Law Facebook page!](#)

After the Sale: Heartburn or Afterglow?

The excitement of a horse purchase rests on the dreams and hopes of a new horse and rider coming together and embarking on a new adventure.

When the fit is right and the horse can perform as intended, a warm afterglow is shared by buyer and seller. When the fit isn't right or the horse goes lame, relationships deteriorate quickly. Although litigation was never contemplated, the potential for a buyer feeling duped and the seller being sued exists. When dealing with horses, anything can go wrong, from an unanticipated injury, exacerbation of a pre-existing condition, development of a new illness, or incompatibility of horse and rider – just to name a few. There are ways to lessen a claim of non-disclosure and fraud against a seller. There are also ways to maximize a buyer's chance of satisfaction with the horse.

Here are a few guidelines that can help to maximize the promise and minimize the risk of disappointment leading to litigation:

Write it Down – If there is something important to the transaction, write it down in the bill of sale or lease. For instance, if a lease will be voidable and partly refundable if lameness results from a known pre-existing injury, write it into the lease.

Seek Help from a Trainer – Never overlook the assistance of a qualified trainer to help you in selecting a horse if you are an amateur. It may sound obvious, but it requires saying. The fit between horse and rider does not instantly snap into place. Most often there is a learning and 'coming together' period after a purchase. Trainers manage riders' transitions to new horses, as well as horses to new riders.



Get a Pre-Purchase Exam – A pre-purchase exam can be advantageous to both buyer and seller. The exam can alert a potential buyer to undisclosed and unknown medical conditions that may be problematic. A pre-purchase exam can also protect the seller from claims of undisclosed risks. If a buyer decides not to perform a vet exam to save costs because of familiarity with the seller or otherwise, note that in the bill of sale.

[Click here to read more!](#)

Can They Do That?

Questions Surrounding the USOC Complaint from Kelley Farmer and Larry Glefke

Professional hunter riders and trainers Kelley Farmer and Larry Glefke have filed a United States Olympic Committee (USOC) Section 10 Complaint against the United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) regarding their suspension by USEF following a positive drug test.

The complainants seek to have the USOC put the USEF's National Governing Body (NGB) status on a six-month probation based on allegations that the USEF Hearing Process was unfair and did not provide due process to them as required under the Ted Stevens Amateur Sports Act and the USOC Bylaws. They want the USOC to intervene and find that the USEF Hearing Committee has not been compliant with its requirements to provide a fair hearing. More details can be found [here](#) and [here](#).



But do Farmer and Glefke really have a legitimate claim with the USOC? Armand Leone weighs in briefly on this interesting new development in the **Farmer and Glefke suspension case**:

Q: I thought the USOC only oversees athletes that compete in the Olympic Games and championships. Is this really something that they would be involved with?

A: While the role of an NGB under the USOC includes the regulation of national competition, its primary focus is on the international equestrian disciplines and their pipelines.

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