



Leone Equestrian Law LLC



**Q:** I own and operate a boarding stable at which I've always allowed boarders to happily bring their children along, however, I've never allowed them to bring their dogs. But I'm now getting an increasing number of requests to change that rule! I just worry about scenarios such as a dog spooking a horse and the rider getting hurt. Should I keep my no dog rule as is, or, if I change the rule how do I protect myself against those situations?

**A:** Great question, and I spoke to this topic in a recent issue of *Heels Down Magazine*.

In my opinion, there is no reason that you can't allow dogs if it is something that your boarders have requested, and *if you take the necessary precautions*.

First, put up signs stating your rules regarding dogs on the property. Common sense comes into play a lot here. Signage that states that dogs must be on a leash puts people on notice that dogs cannot run loose. That's the first step in protecting yourself from liability from an injury.

The second step is actually enforcing those rules. If you hang up signs stating that dogs must be on a leash but then allow dogs to roam the property at will, you are opening the door to issues because then the incident comes down to facts.

Find more information on the liability of both dogs and children at the barn in the *January 2018 issue of Heels Down Magazine*.

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### From the Archives

Leone Equestrian Law's Armand Leone and Encore, described by Armand as "the most brilliant horse I have ever ridden...She was a very difficult Thoroughbred mare, only 15.3hh, but very hot and incredibly fast and cluey. She was a terror, but a winner. I loved her for that."

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### In the News

Armand Leone sat on the FEI Tribunal for this bizarre case of show jumping sabotage in which one Hungarian rider was found to have intentionally drugged the horses of two of his teammates!

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**SUBMIT YOUR OWN LEGAL QUESTION!**



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.

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175 Rock Road - Glen Rock, NJ 07452 - 201.444.6444