Introduction to the Equine Assisted Program and Informed Consent

Horses Easing Life’s Pain (H.E.L.P.) is a program created to provide Equine Assisted Psychotherapy (EAP) and Equine Assisted Learning (EAL) activities for those desiring personal growth and learning. It is our pleasure to offer this Equine Assisted Program through CFCC and Associates, Inc., whose mission is to be a compassionate place for hope and healing for all people in North East Kansas. By offering opportunities to interact with horses, it is our goal to instill hope, to help people find their own solutions, and empower them to make healthy lifestyle choices.

Values:

The values that are important to the HELP Program include:
1. The safety of all participants, human and animal;
2. Respect for all;
3. The courage to try new things without judging the outcome;
4. Cooperation and negotiation with others;
5. Personal growth and learning;
6. Balancing consistency and flexibility; and
7. Responsibility.

We believe that through the process of building relationships with animals and the natural environment an individual can come to know one’s self better. This process also allows individuals to develop and improve communication with others and to manage the expressions of feelings with greater clarity.

Goals:

It is important to us that we provide a safe environment in which to:
1. Discover and nurture strengths, interests and talents;
2. Support effort toward change;
3. Establish consistent and stable relationships;
4. Improve interpersonal skills;
5. Enhance self-worth and empowerment;
6. Identify and develop individual learning styles;
7. Gain knowledge, communication and coping skills through program experiences;
8. Conduct Equine Assisted Psychotherapy (EAP) and Equine Assisted Learning (EAL).
Additional Considerations:

You will be introduced to safety aspects of being around animals during your initial sessions. Attention to safety issues by all involved will be a regular part of each session. If you are the parent/guardian of a program participant, your interest in the process and activities is important. Please notify the therapist of any significant behavioral/emotional or physical changes which may impact activities.

We wish to keep participation in the program a productive experience for all. The same confidentiality laws that apply to your treatment at CFCC & Associates, Inc. apply at the arena. If you are participating in a group, you are responsible to keep the other member’s information confidential also. Since the program is being held at a place that conducts other business, please be aware that you and/or your group may be seen by other staff or clients of the arena. No information about you or your treatment will be shared with these individuals. The only exception to this rule applies to the Horse Professional that is a part of your treatment team. Since they participate in the therapy session, it is necessary for them to have a basic understanding of why you are there. The Horse Professional has signed a contract stating all information will be kept confidential.

In addition to matters of confidentiality, please be aware that program participants need to wear clothing suitable to being in a barn and animal oriented environment. This means closed toed shoes and clothes you are willing to get dirty.

Agreement:

I have read and understand the above program considerations. I agree to be responsible in keeping confidential any information I see or hear while participating. I also agree to be responsible for my physical, spiritual, mental and emotional safety, and in that way, add to the safety of all involved.

____________________________________  _____________________
Participant                                    Date

____________________________________  _____________________
Parent/Guardian, if applicable                  Date
Horses Easing Life’s Pain Program

**Adult Participant Release of Liability Agreement**

I, (participant) ______________________________________________________ for and in consideration of the agreement with CFCC & Associates, Inc. to provide Equine Assisted Services to myself, do hereby forever release, acquit, discharge and hold harmless, CFCC & Associates, Inc., and its officers, trustees, agents, employees, representatives, successors and assigns, for all manner of claims, demands, and damages of every kind and nature whatsoever, which the undersigned may now, or in the future, have against CFCC & Associates, Inc., its officers trustees, agents, employees, representatives, successors or assigns on account of any personal injuries, physical or mental condition, known or unknown, to the undersigned and the treatment therefore as a result of, or in any way growing out of, the acts of CFCC & Associates, Inc., its officers trustees, agents, employees, representatives, successors or assigns, including but not limited to, their negligence or gross negligence, in rendering the services above described or in any way incidental thereto.

*Under Kansas law, there is no liability for an injury to or the death of a participant in domestic animal activities resulting from the inherent risks of domestic animal activities, pursuant to K.S.A. 60-4001 through 60-4004. You are assuming the risk of participating in this domestic animal activity. Inherent risks of domestic animal activities means those dangers or conditions which are an integral part of domestic animal activities, including, but not limited to: (1) The propensity of a domestic animal to run, buck, bite, shy, stumble, rear, fall, step on or behave in ways that may result in injury, harm or death to persons on or around them; (2) the unpredictability of a domestic animal’s reaction to such things as sounds, sudden movement and unfamiliar objects, persons or other animals; (3) certain hazards such as surface and subsurface conditions; (4) collisions with other domestic animals or objects; and (5) the potential of a participant to act in a negligent manner that may contribute to injury to the participant or others, such as failing to maintain control over the animal or not acting within such participant’s ability.*

____________________________________________ __________________________
Signature of Participant Date

____________________________________________ __________________________
Signature of Program Personnel Date
Child Participant Release of Liability Agreement

I, (parent/guardian) ______________________________________________________ for and in consideration of the agreement with CFCC & Associates, Inc. to provide Equine Assisted Services to (child participant) _______________________________, do hereby forever release, acquit, discharge and hold harmless CFCC & Associates, Inc., its officers, trustees, agents, employees, representatives, successors and assigns, for all manner of claims, demands, and damages of every kind and nature whatsoever, which the undersigned may now, or in the future, have against CFCC & Associates, Inc., its officers trustees, agents, employees, representatives, successors or assigns on account of any personal injuries, physical or mental condition, known or unknown, to the undersigned and the treatment therefore as a result of, or in any way growing out of, the acts of CFCC & Associates, Inc., its officers, trustees, agents, employees, representatives, successors or assigns, including but not limited to, their negligence or gross negligence, in rendering the services above described or in any way incidental thereto.

Under Kansas law, there is no liability for an injury to or the death of a participant in domestic animal activities resulting from the inherent risks of domestic animal activities, pursuant to K.S.A. 60-4001 through 60-4004. You are assuming the risk of participating in this domestic animal activity. "Inherent risks of domestic animal activities" means those dangers or conditions which are an integral part of domestic animal activities, including, but not limited to: (1) The propensity of a domestic animal to run, buck, bite, shy, stumble, rear, fall, step on or behave in ways that may result in injury, harm or death to persons on or around them; (2) the unpredictability of a domestic animal's reaction to such things as sounds, sudden movement and unfamiliar objects, persons or other animals; (3) certain hazards such as surface and subsurface conditions; (4) collisions with other domestic animals or objects; and (5) the potential of a participant to act in a negligent manner that may contribute to injury to the participant or others, such as failing to maintain control over the animal or not acting within such participant's ability.

____________________________________________ __________________________
Signature of Participant Date

____________________________________________ ____________
Signature of Parent/Guardian Date

____________________________________________ __________________________
Signature of Program Personnel Date